

# HOW TO GET A DIVORCE

Matthew 19:3-9

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. "Men marry women with the hope they will *never change*. Women marry men with the hope they *will change*. Invariably they are *both disappointed*."
- B. A couple was being interviewed on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. "In all that time -- did you ever consider divorce?" they were asked. "Oh, no, not divorce," one said. "Murder sometimes, but never divorce." - Unknown
- C. "The average woman would rather have beauty than brains because she knows that the average man can see much better than he can think." - Ladies Home Journal.
- D. One man said: "My wife and I were happy for twenty years....and then we met."
- E. Rather than telling you how to *AVOID* a divorce tonight, I am going to tell you how to get a divorce.
- F. Not many people need help with this. There are far too many marriages ending in divorce.
- G. For the very best ways to get a divorce I recommend the following:

## I. HOW TO GET A DIVORCE:

### A. MARRY BEFORE YOU ARE *PREPARED*.

- 1. Some are *too young*.
- 2. Some are *too immature*.
- 3. Some are *not ready to leave and cleave*, Genesis 2:22-24.
- 4. Some have *UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS*. While marriage is a wonderful institution, instituted by God, things will not be perfect.

### B. MARRY FOR THE *WRONG REASON*.

- 1. Some are *infatuated* and mistake it for love.
- 2. Some are *in lust* rather than in love.
- 3. Some want to *get away from home*.
- 4. Some marry for *money*.

A woman was telling her friend, "It is I who made my husband a millionaire." "And what was he before you married him?" asked the friend. The woman replied "A billionaire."

### C. DON'T WASTE TIME *TALKING*

- 1. *Communication* is to marriage what blood is to the human body - life.
- 2. Men are not mind readers and women are not telepathic.
- 3. ILLUSTRATION: THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

The next week, the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight to Chicago. Not wanting to be the first to

break the silence (AND LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM..

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and that he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't awakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. *The paper said, "It is 5:00 AM. Wake up."*

Communication -- such a vital part of keeping marriages healthy! Show me a married couple having problems and I'll show you a couple that's having difficulty communicating. The greatest of problems can be solved with good communication. Even the smallest of problems can be insurmountable without it!

4. Most problems in marriage could be resolved by good communication.
5. However, Many have poor communication skills.
6. Have you seen the *CELL PHONE COMMERCIAL* where there are dropped calls?
7. You must use those three words every woman wants to hear: "You've lost weight!" You should also tell her that *you love her....*

#### D. BE FOOLISH WITH *MONEY*

1. Money is rated in the top three as to why couples get divorced. This one will really work to lead to a divorce.
2. Spend your money *like there is no tomorrow* - and there may not be for your marriage.
3. *Security* ranks high on a woman's list of needs.
4. You cannot spend more than you make very long.
5. Put God first in your budget and work the rest out. Then look forward to retiring and doing things together.

#### E. WITHHOLD *COMPLIMENTS*, ALWAYS *CRITICIZE*.

1. *No one will thrive on criticism*, neither will a relationship.  
ILLUSTRATION: Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. *He didn't have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn't have to hear about the way his mother cooked.*
2. Just one compliment will often make a whole day for the recipient
3. *One* compliment will not repair *one* criticism - the criticism will linger long after the compliment is gone.

#### F. CENTER YOUR LIFE AND YOUR MARRIAGE *AROUND THE KIDS*.

1. This allows *no time to nurture your marriage* relationship.
2. *Roses* and *marriages* require nurturing.
3. Children are "walking emergencies" and are very important in the home.
4. But you promised to love, honor, and cherish your spouse *FIRST* and to *allow no one to come between you*.

G. ACT AS THOUGH THE MARRIAGE IS *ALL ABOUT YOU*.

1. Be *selfish*, self centered. You deserve to be happy. You should have whatever you want.
2. This reminds me of *CHILDREN* playing - but it does not even work well there.
3. Marriage is about *giving* - not *getting*.  
"I bought my ex-wife a gift for her birthday, but she didn't use it so I'm not going to get her anything this year." "What did you get her?" " *A cemetery plot!*"

H. YOU DON'T WANT A DIVORCE? THEN YOU BETTER TRY TO ACT DIFFERENTLY!

## II. HOW TO PREVENT DIVORCE.

A. *PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE*

1. That is why *Premarital Counseling* is so important.
2. Make sure that you are prepared for all the things marriage will bring to your life.

B. MAKE SURE YOU ARE MARRYING FOR THE *RIGHT REASONS*.

1. Only when two people love one another with the right kind of love and have the right to marry - should they consider getting married.
2. Even then it may be that some obstacle will prevent a happy marriage.

C. LEARN HOW TO *COMMUNICATE WELL*

1. If this is a problem, seek out someone who can help you improve your skills.
2. Read a book on communication in marriage.
3. Just the effort will reap great benefits.
4. "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."  
(Proverbs 16:24)

D. LEARN HOW TO *HANDLE MONEY*

1. This is no small task.
2. "A fool and his money are soon parted."
3. Parents, that is why we need to teach and model proper money management in our homes.
4. HOW? Begin with *budgeting*, and go from there.
5. There are some good tools out there: Dave Ramsey's material, "No Sweat, No Debt," Others are out there also.
6. However you do it, learn how to handle money.

E. EXPRESS *COMPLIMENTS* OFTEN

1. You will be amazed at what a few sincere compliments will do for your relationship
2. You have to be willing to notice in order to compliment.
3. Everyone needs seven "atta-boys" a day.

E. LOVE YOUR CHILDREN, BUT ALSO FOCUS ON YOUR MATE.

1. Never neglect your role in the lives of your children.
2. But don't neglect your marriage.

G. PRACTICE AGAPE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

1. Agape love will look out for the other person.
2. We have a divine example of how we are to love. Ephesians 5:25.
3. Concentrate on your mates needs and do all you can to fill those needs.
4. The November 1993 issue of *Good Housekeeping Magazine* ran a contest offering a second honeymoon to the winning entry. The conditions of the contest were to write the *Secret Success of Your Happy Marriage* in 50 words or less. The winning entry was submitted by Dillion Bayes who preaches for the Talladega Church of Christ in Talladega, AL. I know that all of our marriages would be richer if we learn the lessons that Dillon and his wife, Patti, have practiced in their marriage. Here is the winning entry.

"We gave... when we wanted to receive."

'We served... when we wanted to feast."

'We shared... when we wanted to keep."

'We listened...when we wanted to talk

'We submitted... when we wanted to reign."

'We forgave... when we wanted to remember."

'We stayed...when we wanted to leave."

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Divorce is an epidemic in this country - it is even effecting the church.
- B. God hates divorce, *Malachi 2:16*.
- C. The future consequences are serious if your divorce:
  1. God's law of MDR, *Matthew 19:9*.
  2. Children can be adversely affected. Did you know that children from a divorced family are more likely to get divorced themselves?
- D. We ought to be doing all we can to *PREVENT* divorce.

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