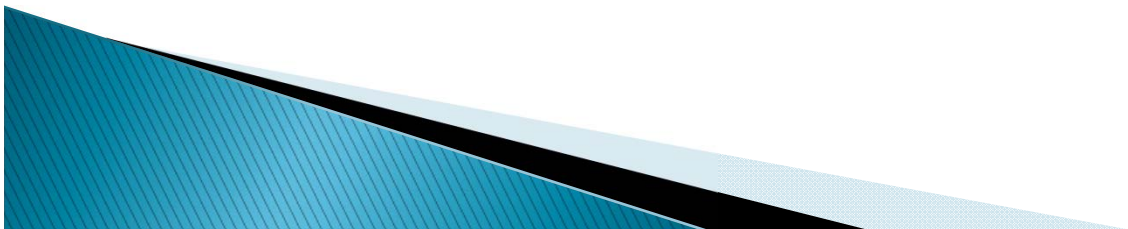


DIVORCE

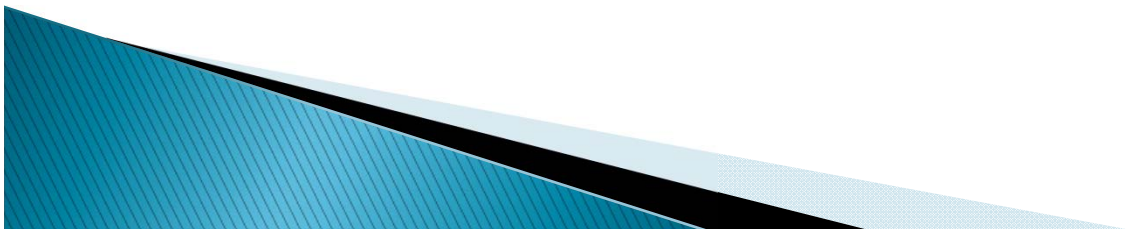
- ▶ Marriage in the Bible.
- ▶ Statistics.
- ▶ Reasons for divorce.
- ▶ Effects.
- ▶ What can we do?



Marriage in the Bible



- ▶ Genesis 2:18–22
- ▶ “18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will **make him a helper comparable to him.**” 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man”



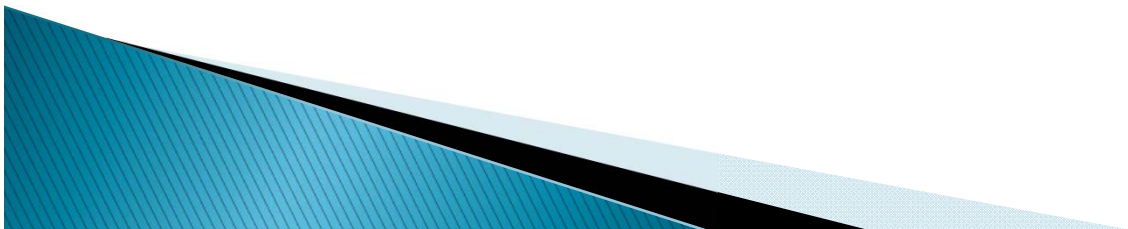
Marriage...

- ▶ **Genesis 1:27–28** (So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then **God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**
Matthew 19:6 “So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”



Ephesians 5:21–33

- ▶ 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. 22 **Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 **So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.** 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 **Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**



Malachi 2:13–16

- ▶ ¹³ And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive *it* with goodwill from your hands. ¹⁴ Yet

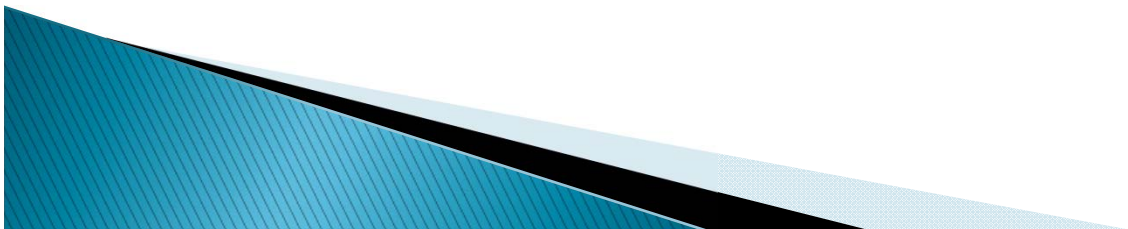
you say, **“For what reason?” Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ But did He not make *them* one, Having a remnant of the Spirit?**

And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. **¹⁶ “ For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts.**



Divorce : definition

- ▶ The action or an instance of legally dissolving a marriage



When is divorce allowed in church ?

- ▶ Under 2 conditions:
- ▶ 1. Adultery
- ▶ 2. One partner leaves the faith.

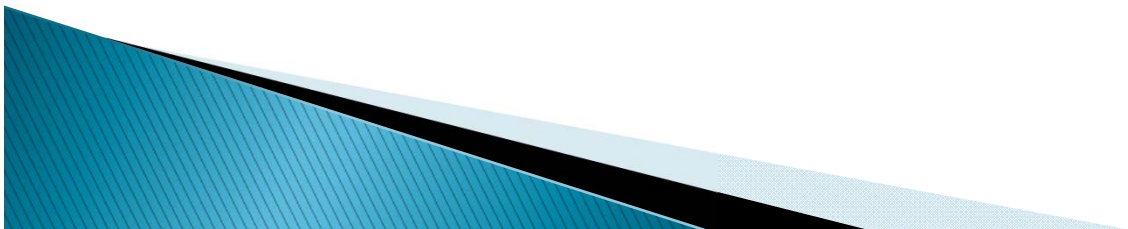


1. Adultery

- ▶ Matthew 19:8–9 He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”


2. Change of faith

- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.



Statistics,

- ▶ 1. For couples marrying today, the lifetime probability of divorce or separation remains between 40 and 50 %
- ▶ 2. This percentage is significantly lower for those who marry after age 21, graduate college and are religiously committed.
- ▶ 3. More than one million children a year experience their parents' divorce.
- ▶ 4. A recent survey reported that the divorce rate among Christians is now the same as or higher than in the broader culture

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{s_{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}} \quad \dots \quad \sqrt{\frac{(n_1 - 1)S_{X_1}^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_{X_2}^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}}$$




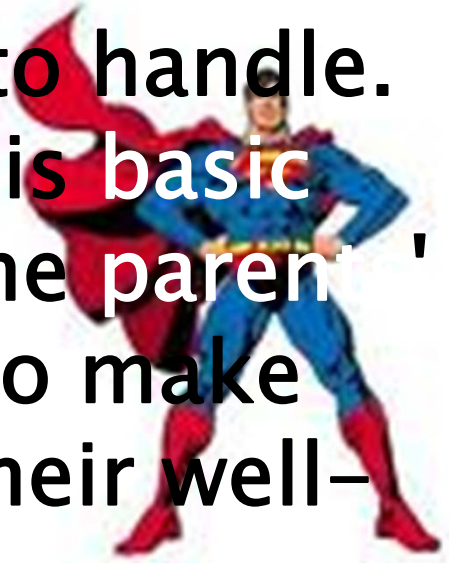
Statistics

- ▶ 5. **50%** of children of divorce show signs of psychological trauma. Boys becomes aggressive and girls are depressed. Both have higher potential for drug use.



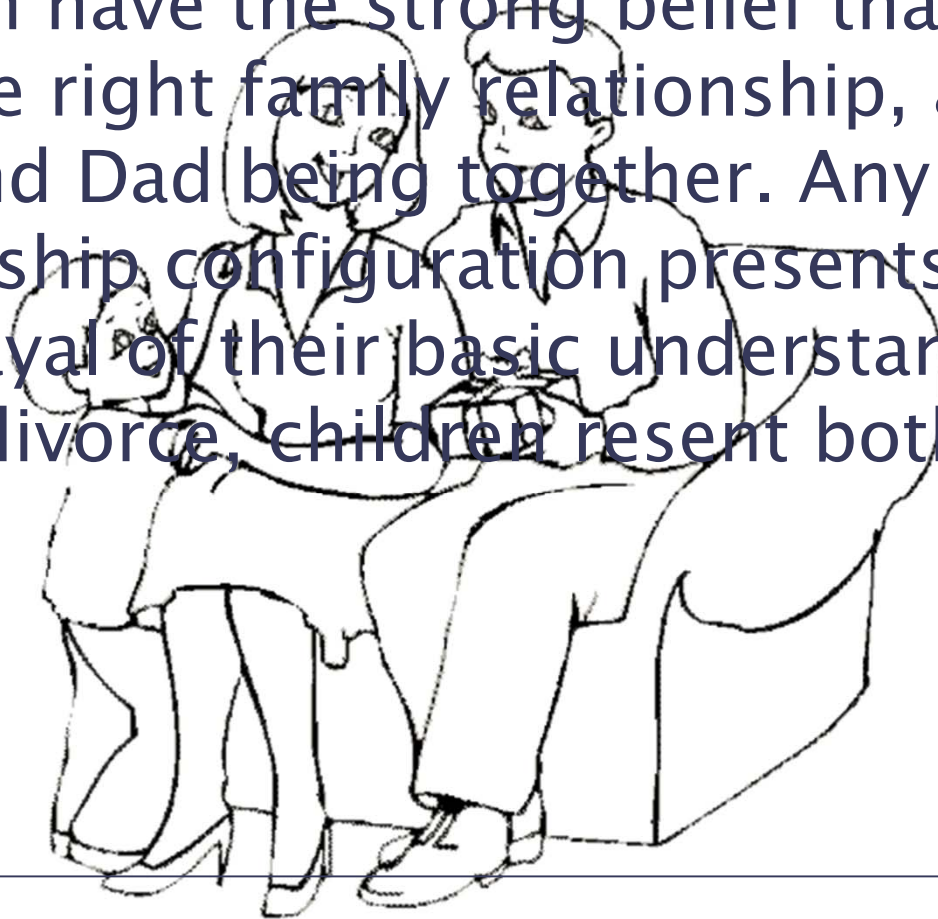
Why does divorce affect children?

- ▶ Children have the attitude that their parents should be able to work through and solve any issue. Parents, are perceived by the children as very competent people with supernatural abilities to meet the needs of the children. No problem should be too great for their parents to handle. For a child, divorce shatters this basic safety and belief concerning the parent's abilities to care for them and to make decisions that truly consider their well-being.



Why does divorce affect children?

- ▶ Children have the strong belief that there is only one right family relationship, and that is Mom and Dad being together. Any other relationship configuration presents a conflict or betrayal of their basic understanding of life. In divorce, children resent both parent.



Most common reasons

Communication

\$\$\$

Cheating

Wrong
expectations

Commitment



Other Reasons ...

Addictions

Sex

Mid-life
crisis

Little
things

Society



Effects of Divorce

- ▶ 1. Life expectancies for divorced men and women are significantly lower than for married people (who have the longest life expectancies).
- ▶ 2. A recent study found that those who were unhappy but stayed married were more likely to be happy five years later than those who divorced.
- ▶ 3. The health consequences of divorce are so severe that a Yale researcher concluded that "being divorced and a nonsmoker is slightly less dangerous than smoking a pack a day and staying married." applies for children too.





- ▶ 4. After a diagnosis of cancer, married people are most likely to recover, while the divorced are least likely to recover, indicating that the emotional trauma of divorce has a long term impact on the physical health of the body.
- ▶ 5. Men and women both suffer a decline in mental health following divorce, but researchers have found that women are more greatly affected. Some of the mental health indicators impacted by divorce include depression, hostility, self-acceptance, personal growth and positive relations with others.



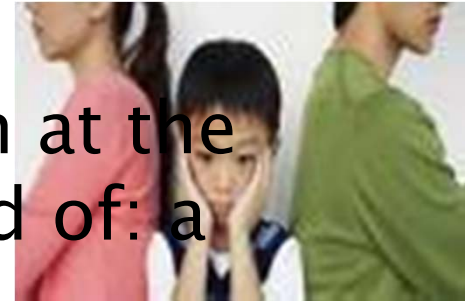
Relationships,

- ▶ 6. Divorced parents also suffer in their relationships with their children.
- ▶ 7. Nearly two-thirds of young adults from disrupted families had poor relationships with their fathers.
- ▶ 8. many of these young people are especially vulnerable to influences outside the family, such as from friends or other peers, adult authority figures and the media



Effects on children

- ▶ 9. The pain experienced by children at the beginning of a divorce is composed of: a sense of vulnerability as the family disintegrates, a grief reaction to the loss of the intact family (many children do not realize their parents' marriage is troubled), loss of the non-custodial parent, a feeling of intense anger as the disruption of the family, and strong feelings of powerlessness.



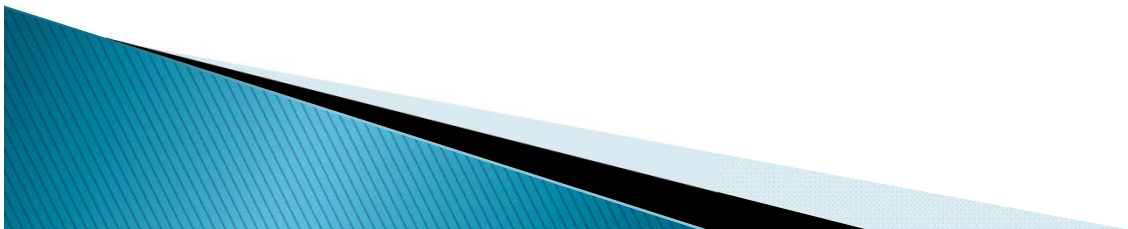
Effect by age


- ▶ · Preschool (ages 3–5): These children are likely to exhibit a regression of the most recent developmental milestone achieved. Additionally, sleep disturbances and an exacerbated fear of separation from the parent are common. There is usually a great deal of yearning for the non-custodial parent.
- ▶ · Early latency (ages 6½–8): These children will often openly grieve for the departed parent. There is a noted preoccupation with fantasies that distinguishes the reactions of this age group. Children have replacement fantasies, or fantasies that their parents will happily reunite in the not-so-distant future. Children in this developmental stage have an especially difficult time with the concept of the permanence of the divorce.



Effects by age..

- ▶ • Late latency (ages 8–11): Anger and a feeling of powerlessness are the predominate emotional response in this age group. Like the other developmental stages, these children experience a grief reaction to the loss of their previously intact family. There is a greater tendency to label a 'good' parent and a 'bad' parent and these children are very susceptible to attempting to take care of a parent at the expense of their own needs.



- ▶ Adolescence (ages 12–18): Adolescents are prone to responding to their parent's divorce with acute depression, suicidal ideation, and sometimes violent acting out episodes. These children tend to focus on the moral issues surrounding divorce and will often judge their parents' decisions and actions. Many adolescents become anxious and fearful about their own future love and marital relationships. However, this age group has the capability to perceive integrity in the post-divorce relationship of their parents and to show compassion for their parents without neglecting their own needs.
- 

What can I do ?


- ▶ Assure them that divorce is not their fault, they are loved and they did nothing to break up the marriage
- ▶ You can also..



1. Drawing

Ask specific questions about the drawing.

Encourage them to explain what he or she has drawn and why. Be positive and supportive.

- ▶ **Things to draw pictures of:**
 - ▶ What does divorce look like? How does divorce make you feel?
 - ▶ Draw pictures of various feelings, such as anger, sadness or loneliness.
 - ▶ Draw a picture of your family, including anyone you feel is part of your family. Write each person's name by his or her picture.
 - ▶ Draw a picture of the homes you live in. If God grants you one wish related to your family, what would you wish for? Draw a picture of your wish.
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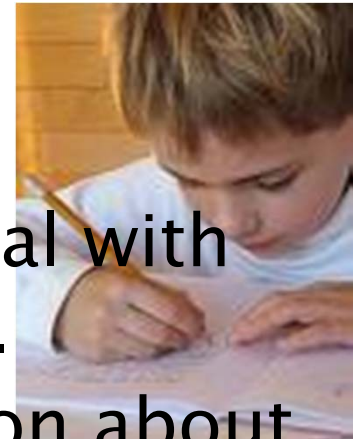
2. Conversation

- ▶ Children have many questions, fears and worries.
- ▶ ???????
- ▶ How has your life changed since the divorce?
- ▶ Why do you think people get married?
- ▶ Why do you think people get divorced?
- ▶ What is a happy family like?
- ▶ Who do you talk with about the divorce?
- ▶ What good has come from the divorce?
- ▶ What do you worry about?
- ▶ What do you think your life will be like in five years?
- ▶ What good qualities does your dad have? Your mom?
- ▶ If you could change anything about your life, what would you make different?



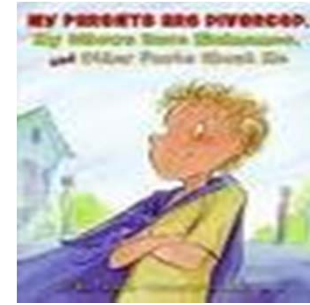
3. Writing

- ▶ Writing letters is a constructive way to deal with confusing feelings and to blow off steam.
- ▶ Writing information card. Write information about one parent on one side of a large index card, and put information about child's other parent on the other side.
- ▶ Many children write and illustrate stories. Suggest that he write a story about divorce.
- ▶ Encourage him to be as creative as possible and to draw pictures that help illustrate the story. If the child is willing, have him share his story with you. Be sure to be positive and supportive of his work.



4. Activities

- ▶ Reading stories about divorce.
- ▶ Making a personal time line.
- ▶ Play games, or role play.
- ▶ Physical activities.
- ▶ Going out, ball game.



5. Making a time capsule.

- ▶ Things in the capsule that represent his life: stories, drawings, photographs, and other special treasures and reminders.

Time capsule questions

- ▶ Who are your friends?
- ▶ Who is part of your family now?
- ▶ Who will be part of your family in the future?
- ▶ Where will you be living in one year? Five years?
- ▶ What kinds of things do you like to do?
- ▶ What would you like to learn how to do in the future?
- ▶ What do you want to be when you grow up?



