

## MSTP > # 2 Marriage => Again With Kids

Marriage Second Time Plus . Org => A new Blog:

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### How to Deal With Spouse's Previous Marriage.

This also Works With How to Deal With Dating With One's Previous Relationship

Your spouse's previous marriage can be hard to stomach, especially if their **ex** is on **bad** terms with both of you. The **ex** is part of your spouse's past and will probably be part of your life if one or both have children. You can deal with your spouse's previous marriage situation by examining your feelings, Okay, write all of them out This works in you trying to move forward, and learning how to approach most of any difficulties.

**Examine** your ambivalent or uneasy feelings, so, write them out in detail. If you are insecure about yourself or your attachment to your spouse, the problem with the **ex** may really be an issue about your own insecurities. Reflect on the real why you feel uneasy about your spouse's **ex** and figure out the root of each of the problems on those problems. Then figure out the right way to handle that.

- For **example**, you may be worried that your spouse still holds a flame for their **ex**, or that their **ex**-still has a chance. If so, look at each situation more realistically so that you can, maybe forgive each one to let go of these feelings.
- Understand that relationships with an **ex** in the picture are often complex, complicated, especially if there are children from the previous relationship. This is especially **true** if there are disagreements concerning the upbringing of the children.
- Complicated does **not** necessarily mean unhappy, however. Some people make the mistake of thinking "**true** love" means **no** complications, but this is an unfortunate myth. You can be happy with a person with complex and even difficult relationships with others, but it will take patience and real understanding.

- Depending on the situation, you may have to decide on whether or **not** you can manage such a personal relationship. Even if you think a person is great, you may decide to end the relationship because you **cannot** personally deal with the past drama of the person's personal life.

List them all out, then. Decide if you have [trust issues](#). (< = [you may click here for more on trust issues](#).)

Your feelings about your spouse's **ex** may be related to your personal trust issues. Remind yourself that your spouse married you, and they **wouldn't** have done that if they still wanted to be with their **ex**. Really - Trust your partner. If there are issues of trust, now is the time to sort them out. **Don't** put this off until next week.

- You may have had a **bad** experience in the past in which an **ex** did or said something to you that hurt you. Tell yourself, here, "This is **not** the same situation. This person is **not** the same person."
- You may be influenced by someone else's loss, such a parent, a TV personality or a celebrity. Keep reminding yourself that other people's experiences are **not** your own.

Analyze any **jealous** feelings that you're experiencing. If you find yourself getting uncomfortable when your spouse interacts with their **ex** or talks about their **ex**, then you may be harboring **jealousy**. If you realize that you're having **jealous** feelings, try to **remember** that your spouse had a previous life that was **not** connected to you.

- Address the insecurities you have about your relationship with your spouse. When you feel confident in your relationship, then feelings of **jealousy** will go away.

[Talk to your spouse](#) about their **ex**. You should have a conversation with your spouse about their **ex**. You should talk about the **ex's** role in your spouse's and children's life, and then discuss the spouse's relationship with the **ex**. You should also be real honest about your discomfort and feelings. **Don't** put this off until next week.

- This conversation can help both of you find a good way to approach the **ex**-situation.
- Establish boundaries to minimize your interaction with the **ex** by filtering all communication through your spouse.
- If you have an **ex** too, this is a good time to discuss your spouse's feelings about your **ex**.

Accept the situation. You **cannot** change the fact that your spouse has an **ex**-partner. Even if you're in a situation where the **ex** is being uncooperative, accept that there's nothing you can do. Just try to ignore them and stay pleasant whenever you're with them.

The best way to combat **immaturity** is by ignoring it. If they **don't** get a reaction out of you, then they are likely to give up.

Avoid dwelling on the past. It's likely that your spouse wants to move past their **not** so good choices they have made, so dwelling for long on the past relationship will never help.

If you nag about the **ex**, it might become an unhealthy stumbling block. Leave the past behind you. Focus on forming a more **positively**-oriented future belonging to both of you.

- Focus on making your time together meaningful and good, so that your **positive** memories start to crowd out the **ex**-memories.

Learn to **be happy**. Focus on the present relationship and **your marriage**. Be grateful that you and your spouse found each other. Be glad that you are both happy. **Don't** think of yourself as the "second wife" or the "third husband". You are now simply your spouse's husband or wife, and they are yours. It's as simple as that.

- Keep it simple and sweet and you'll keep your marriage a happy and enduring one.
- **Remember**, it took your spouse's entire life's worth of experiences to bring you two together. Be grateful for every single experience in their past because it all led up to you two being together.
- To strengthen your marriage, or present relationship, set aside time to go on some relationship talking over dates (**this is different than a normal date**) and spend quality one-on-one out on the table talk time together.

Let your spouse be the primary parent. Often, it is difficult for children to accept a new adult telling them what to do. If your spouse has **children from their previous marriage**, allow your spouse to set up the rules, expectations, and consequences while you reinforce them consistently. When problems arise, involve your spouse and present a united front to the children. Over time, and as the children get used to the consistency between you and your spouse, your spouse will **no** longer need to be the "primary parent."

Allow time to develop a relationship with the new children. Treat your spouse's kids with love and respect, even if they **don't** treat you back this way. However, **don't** try to act like the biological parent. They will develop a relationship with you if given time and space. Let the children set the pace.

- **Remember** that the children may be loyal to the **ex** and feel betrayed by the new marriage, well at first. **Don't** force the children to choose, try for them to have both, and let them work through their feelings.
- Keep in mind that children view marital breakups differently than adults. Invite the children to talk about their feelings and do **not** be offended by what they say.

- If the children are old enough, let them know that you are **not** there to replace their biological parent. For **example**, If you're their stepmom, try saying something like, "I'm **not** a replacement for your mom, and I never will be. I just want to be there for you as a second mom or dad or a really just as your good friend."

Try to make things work. If everyone involved wants to try to get along, make an effort to be cooperative. Realize that your spouse's former partner is a human being. If they are making an effort to treat you with respect, you should do the same.

Avoid resenting your spouse for having to pay child support. You should understand that when you share your life with your spouse, you accept all of their ton of bring along baggage as well. Try to think of the child support as a bill that one of you acquired, but both of you today accept and pay together, like a credit card.

- If you think that the **ex** is greedy or getting more than they deserve, be very careful about how you broach the subject with your spouse. It may be better to speak indirectly about the costs and let your spouse reach their own conclusions.

If needed talk to a [marriage counselor](#). If you **can't stop** obsessing about your spouse's **ex**, it's time to speak to someone who can [counsel you](#) about your obsessive thoughts.

- You may want to go to counseling alone, or you may want to go with your spouse so you can work through the issues related to the **ex**. Or maybe a bit later, for both.

Involve a family or church therapist. If the relationships you have with the children are weak, or if you and your spouse are **not** able to present a united front, consider involving a family therapist to help with relationships between everyone in the family. This is especially helpful when there are multiple children in the family who have different reactions and behavior patterns in response to a new "parent."

Have an issue and you want other people's idea on, put you issue on <http://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/> and let others post their ideas back to you and us.

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Join up as a volunteer with a non-profit program or two.

Need a few **positive** friends? Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, maybe get some exercise, and involve yourself in a **positive** project that can lift your **spirit**. It also comes without a cost (**or very little**) to you and can provide a lot of entertainment and a fulfilling day when you're in the right mindset.

"I've come to spend more and more of my time [volunteering](#), serving on various committees and people helping groups in the community.

“I am on a few local area towns and Church committees. It is hands-down the best thing I have ever done,” One person told us. Be a volunteer with your local **Lions Club** or other local Non - Profit Org. and you will feel much better about yourself. Be only a volunteer – for a time - if later you wish, you may later to join this local **Lions Club**, it is later and it is up to you.

You’ll be meeting other people who share your interests, which gives you an easy opener when striking up a conversation. Meet many new people and also maybe meet the next Him or the next Her for YOUR life. This Web Site is sponsored by a Non - Profit **Lions Club**.

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**Note:** Yes. Both single people, people dating, even people getting married the first time and married people have reviewed (**Well Pre – viewed** {**Looked over**}) this many “PDFs” and its parts so far. As a summary of the parts and up-coming part drafts; most people are telling us that this information is also needed and wanted for them, yes, those married people too and many people found this as new information as they **didn’t** even know about this stuff.

**Subscription:** One may have a Subscription as over age 18 Adult open MSTP PDFs part for only a small fee of \$3 for each month. If you like these ideas and tips – and may download any **PDF** and please tell a few others.

Marriage Second Time Plus . **Org => A new Blog:**

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Also: may like to visit: [www.Tri-CountyRegion.US](http://www.Tri-CountyRegion.US)

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More Second Marriage Baggage

**HOW FIRST MARRIAGES CAN AFFECT SECOND MARRIAGE**

Having recently returned from SAA's annual conference, I've thought about Elizabeth Einstein's address where she demonstrated the way "baggage" from the first marriage carries over to a second marriage, etc.

This also has been of interest to scholars, many of whom have tried to shed light on the effects of prior experience by trying to figure out why second marriages have about the same chances of ending in **divorce** as first marriages. One explanation has been to suggest that re-marries are more willing to end a marriage. What these studies fail to do is to help us understand what it is about the way people interact in marriage that may prompt them to consider **divorce** as an option. I believe some of the recent work by John Gottman, a psychologist at the University of Washington, offers additional insight into the processes that lead to **divorce**, whether it's in a first or second marriage. And it is his body of work that will be described here in a 'reader's digest version.'" His work spans two decades and includes information from over 2,000 couples.

Gottman has identified two patterns of interaction that occur over time in a relationship and move a couple toward terminating the marriage. He has found that couples whose communication is characterized by **negativity** are more likely to **divorce**. But he cautions that **not all negativity** is equally destructive. He talks about four behaviors that form the **negativity** pattern. This pattern begins with criticism and complaining (**a more common starting place for wives**) and leads to defensiveness. The partner who receives these defensive reactions likely responds with contempt (e.g., **righteous indignation**), and contempt leads to stonewalling (**a more common behavior in husbands**) that includes withdrawal behaviors, such as leaving the situation.

However, the **negativity** pattern alone **doesn't** tell the whole story. Gottman says that the **negativity** cascade leads to an isolation pattern consisting of flooding, cognitive distortions, and recasting of the marital history. Flooding is where a spouse or both spouses are overwhelmed by the intensity of their partner's responses, and they **can't** seem to accurately anticipate what the response may be. They see their relationship problems as severe and believe that together they **can't** work them out. They begin to live more parallel lives. As this continues, the beliefs partners hold about one another begin to change.

Commonly, behaviors that were once "excused," laughed about, or understood as stemming from the situation, are now believed to be part of the individual him/herself.

For **example**, burping after a certain meal may have been OK initially; the couple may have even joked or laughed about it.

Over time, however, it becomes less OK and more a sign of inconsiderate behavior, since the offended spouse has mentioned how much it bothers him/her.

As a result, partners become hypervigilant to these behaviors and increasingly resentful when they show up. Once such behaviors are believed to be part of the individual and his/her personality, they are perceived as more difficult to change, as if "that's the way he/she is." These cognitive distortions lead to looking at the marriage through a more **negative** lens.

Many of the good things about the shared past are forgotten and replaced with **negative** images and feeling about those images.

Gottman also has examined the physiological changes that occur when couples are distressed, and this distress is part of both patterns of **negativity** and isolation. These studies show that cognitive distortion is more common when physiological stress is induced. A friend of mine who is a certified biofeedback specialist explained this to me. She said that the body responds to stressful situations by physiological change such as increased heart rate and decreased circulation (**cold hands**). Typically, with these changes less oxygen goes to the brain which inhibits normal cognitive processes. So, when we're distressed, we're less likely to hear things accurately or to think clearly and logically.

You're probably wondering what all this has to do with **divorce** among re-marrieds. My thoughts are this. If these are behaviors, we learned in a first marriage and failed to identify them then (**or now**) and worked to change them or our response to them, then we are more likely to take them into a new relationship. Because of our past marital interaction and the thinking/beliefs we developed, we are likely to be more hypervigilant to similar behaviors in new partners that reflect or remind us of our prior experiences. When new spouses show any signs of these behaviors, our hyper-vigilance may translate into **questioning** the new relationship and increase our willingness to get out of a situation we see as unchangeable. After all, we tried to change this unsuccessfully the first time. Children can complicate this because they also have memories and may reinforce our perceptions whether they are accurate or **not**.

What I like about Gottman, however, is his hopefulness about couples' being able to inhibit the patterns of **negativity** by learning and relearning three behaviors.

(By the way, he argues that most interventions with individuals and couples try to teach them too many skills, in too short a time. Then in a **distressed** situations, they are unable to call up the new skills, but revert to what they would typically do).

What he recommends is learning three skills:

1. **Couple or individual soothing behavior**. ... will decrease the chances of cognitive distortion and increase the chances that what is said and done will be perceived more accurately. He calls this couple biofeedback, and it includes learning ways to calm oneself and one's partner.
2. **Nondefensively listening** ... emphasizes that effective listeners paraphrase both the content of what was said and the feelings they heard underlying what was said.
3. **Validation** ... refers to the giving of consistent and meaningful **positive** feedback to one's partner, so he or she feels valued and cared about.

While these may **not** be easy skills to learn initially, there certainly are fewer to **remember** and practice than we commonly see in prevention / intervention experiences. If the insights derived from Gottman's work prove to apply to all marriages, **not** just first marriages he's studied, then we have greater understanding of the marital interaction that occurs in more complicated families as well.

\* Kay Pasley, Ed. D. is Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and currently serves as the Chair of the Research Committee for SAA. This article was published in the quarterly STEPFAMILIES, Fall 1995.

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### Challenges of Being the Second Wife

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Relationships come and go, and that's to be expected. What's **not** typically expected is to be the second or next wife. You **didn't** grow up thinking, "I **can't** wait until I meet a **divorced** man!" Somehow, you probably have always pictured someone who has never been married.



It **doesn't** mean that it **can't** be wonderful. It **doesn't** mean that it **won't** last. It just means that being a second or the next wife comes with a lot of challenges along the way. Here are 8 to watch out for:

#### 4. **Negative stigma**

“Oh, this is your second wife.” There is just something you feel from people when they realize you are the second wife; like you are the consolation prize, only second place.

For some reason, people are far less accepting of a second wife. It's like when you are a kid, and you have had the same best friend since you were a baby; then all of a sudden in high school you have a new best friend. But by then, **no** one can picture you without that first friend. It's a hard stigma to run away from.

#### 5. The statistics are stacked against you

Depending on the source, **divorce** rates are pretty scary. A typical statistic out there now says that 50 percent of first marriages end in **divorce**, and 67 percent of second marriages end in **divorce**. Why is it higher the second time around? Could be many factors, but one could be that since a person in the marriage has already gone through **divorce**, the option seems available and not as scary. Obviously, it **doesn't** mean your marriage will end, just that it is more likely to than a first.

#### 3. First marriage baggage

If the person in the second marriage who was married before **didn't** have children, then chances are they never have to even talk to their **ex** again. But that **doesn't** mean that they **aren't** a little wounded. Relationships are hard, and if things go wrong, we get hurt. That's life. We may also learn that if we **don't** want to get hurt again, to put up a wall, or other such adjustments. That kind of baggage can be detrimental to a second marriage.

#### 4. Being a stepparent

Being a parent is hard enough; **being a stepparent** is out of this world hard. Some children may **not** be very accepting of a new mother or father figure, and so instilling values or upholding rules may prove difficult. This can make for a challenging home life from day to day. Even if children are more or less accepting, the **ex** - more than likely **won't** be ok with the new person in their child's life. Even extended family like grand-parents, and aunts and uncles, etc., may **not** ever see you as an actual “parent” of the other person's biological child.

#### 5. A second or more marriage gets serious quick

Many first marriages start out with two young, giddy people, unfettered by the realities of life. The world is their oyster. They dream big.

Every possibility seems available to them. But over the years, as we get in our 30s and 40s, we mature and realize that life just happens, **no** matter if you plan for other things. Second plus marriages are like that. They are like the mature version of you getting married again. You are a little older now, and you learned some harsh realities. So, second plus marriages tend to have less of the guidelines and more of the serious daily life attached.

## 6. Financial issues

A married couple that stays together can rack up plenty of debt; a marriage that ends? That tends to bring with it even more. There is [splitting the assets](#), each person taking on whatever debt there is, plus paying both attorney fees, etc.

**Divorce** can be an expensive proposition. Then there is the hardship of making a living by yourself as a single person. All of that financial mess can translate into a financially difficult second marriage.

## 7. Nontraditional holidays

When your friends talk about [Christmas and having the whole family there together](#) — you're over there thinking, "The **ex** has the kids for Christmas..." Bummer. There are many things about a **divorced** family that can be nontraditional, especially holidays.

It can be challenging when you expect those normally happen times of the year to be a certain way, but then they **aren't** so much.

## 8. Relationship issues we all face

While a [second marriage can be successful](#), it's still a relationship composed of two imperfect people. It is still bound to have some of the same relationship issues that we all face from time to time. It can be a challenge if wounds from old relationships **aren't** quite **healed**.

### Second Marriages: Baggage or Experience?

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It was never my intention to marry someone who had been previously married. I **don't** know that I never really thought about a second plus marriage situation.

I guess I just always assumed that I would fall in love with someone who had never been married. Sometimes you just **don't** know what the plan is for you until it happens.

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If YOU like or YOU got some help or YOU know of someone this part will help from the part above. Copy it and send it to someone.

If YOU have any other information on this subject above send the **MSTP PART** Doc to:

[extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org/](mailto:extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org)

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The Truth About... Marriage, **Divorce** and Remarriage - <http://video.wvbs.org>

With more than half of marriages ending in **divorce**, to say that a study of the subject is needed is an understatement. Most people **don't** know what God has to say about **divorce**, and many **don't** care. In this study, Don Blackwell delves into a crucial topic that is affecting the very fabric of our society.

If you are considering **divorce** or you know someone who is, please **don't** go any further until you watch this video. Be sure that you understand what God has to say on this subject of eternal consequence.

If you would like to ask a **question** about the material presented in this video, please submit your **questions** to us through the following form: <https://video.wvbs.org/contact/video/...>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sY502EGPyHc> 34 min

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It was **not** scary for me to marry a man 12 years older than I am. It was terrifying that the man had been married before and had a son.

In retrospect, I can honestly say that my husband's prior marriage was a blessing to me; **not** a **curse**. I **don't** recommend **divorce** for anyone, and I'm blessed that I never had to go through one.

I'm also blessed that my husband is a very wise man — wise enough to learn from his broken first marriage. I became a recipient of his lessons learned.

**Divorce** causes scars, though, and those scars take a long time to **heal**. As the second wife, I learned to be part of that **healing** process.

When someone you love is hurting, it is only natural to want to help **stop** the hurt. As I learned to salve my husband's wounds, I developed two-character traits that were lacking in my personality: empathy and patience.

We had been married about ten years when we had a silly argument over something I **don't** even **remember**. I was being a total brat because I was exhausted and being tired makes me cranky. He should have put me in my place, but instead let me walk all over him — which in turn made me angry. I blurted out, "Why **don't** you ever stand up for yourself when you know you are right?!" The answer hit me in the stomach like a lead balloon.

"Because I'm afraid you'll leave me." We talked for a long time that night.

We talked until I was 100 percent certain that he knew **no** matter how angry I ever got with him, I was in this for the long haul.

The experience of a failed marriage made a good man an even better man. He could have repeated mistakes with me. He could have been bitter and sullen. He could have blamed all his problems on his first wife. He **didn't** do any of that.

Instead, he analyzed what went wrong in his first marriage, took responsibility for his part of it, and tried **not** to repeat the mistakes that he made. Those attempts to make our marriage better than his first marriage made me love him all the more. It made me try harder — which, in turn, made me a better woman.

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Yes, there is always baggage. I've known a lot of **divorced** people in my lifetime, and it seems to me (**from a totally uneducated layman's point of view**) that the biggest baggage is usually the **self-esteem** issues. **Divorced** people usually take the failure of the first marriage as a direct hit to their **self-esteem**. They consider themselves failures, and there always seems to be a long line of people inside and outside of the family ready to get on the band wagon and kick them while they are down. It would behoove us all to **remember** that **divorce** is always a two-way street.

When friends of ours have **divorced**, it has sometimes been a temptation to take sides. We always remind ourselves that we **don't** see what goes on behind closed doors.

Those outside the marriage never get the full story — **not** because our friends **lie** to us, but because they are so emotionally wrapped up in it that they **can't** give both sides of the story.

If they were able to see their spouse's point of view, they **wouldn't** be getting a **divorce** in the first place. In light of that, I hope I am never the outsider who places blame.

I hope I'm **not** ever the person to kick someone while they are down. I **don't** ever want to be the one to strike a blow to someone else's self-esteem.

If you are **divorced** and wondering if you could ever consider marrying again, this is the advice I would give you. Look within yourself and discover the real you. Look within your failed marriage, as if you were an invisible person in the home.

See both sides of the marriage. Discover what went wrong from both partners' perspectives. Accept responsibility for your half of the baggage and forgive the other person's baggage. When you've done that, you'll be ready to move on. Once you've moved on, **don't** dwell on past mistakes, but **don't** repeat them either. Make a better person of yourself.

If you are a person who is considering marrying someone who has been through a **divorce**, or if you have already married someone who has been married before, this is my advice for you. **Don't** hold your marriage hostage by **not** being willing to accept the fact that your spouse has a past. Be totally prepared for those **self-esteem** issues that will almost always surface. Be the salve for those **self-esteem** issues; **not** the irritant.

I found this quote on social media a while back and saved it because I thought it was so appropriate for second marriages. "A **true** relationship is having someone who accepts your past, supports your present, loves you, and encourages your future!" — Author Unknown.

### "We Brought Baggage Into This Marriage" Means What?

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### “We Brought Baggage Into This Marriage” Means What?



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I have occasion to minister to couples who are into their second (or more) marriage and there is a typical common assessment of the difficulties they are encountering.

The phrase, “we’ve each got baggage” or some facsimile thereof is a common refrain and here is what I hear when they say that:

“We brought **demons** into this marriage”.

Yep, that’s right, I translate the word “baggage” into “**demons**” and begin to try to give them some insight, once I’ve heard their stories, into what is REALLY going on?

Are you saying that there are **demons** everywhere and we’re to blame them for everything?

**No. Can’t** people be damaged or wounded in previous relationships and bring those tattered emotions, **wrong** thinking and hurtful memories into the new relationship?

Of course, they can and those need to be addressed.

What I am talking about are those behaviors, or “issues” (as they are sometimes **euphemistically called**) that have been part of people’s lives for a long time and typically predate



or post-date relationship histories. Rational thinking, repeated counsel, prayer and so on have limited lasting result and there is often a confused silence when they are asked what's really behind the emotions that manifest.

I met with a couple recently who had been married only three years (**they were in their fifties**) and anger and **fear** were prevalent in their interactions with one another. The **demonic** realm was working overtime to ensure that each spoke out things that would push buttons in the other person and their marriage was being tormented by events that happened in their past, many years before they met one another.

In the man's case, the source of his anger, and the open doors for the strongholds that were in him, was the abuse he suffered as a child at the hands of a cruel father.

When it comes to **spiritual warfare**, the battlefield truly is the mind. When a person is delivered from **tormenting spirits** they are in a much better position to win more of those battles, take thoughts captive and respond in a way that does **not** feed depression, anger, fear, addictions or lusts into life situations.

How about you? Tired of going around the same mountain and fighting the same battles? Have you thought about going through deliverance? What do you have to lose... except maybe some of that baggage you've been toting around!

### In-Laws, Second Marriages, and That Baggage

I believe all clichés are generally **true**. How else could something become a cliché in the first place? **Not** surprisingly, then, all the clichés about second marriages are mostly **true**. Indeed, comedy careers have been built around jokes about a second set of in-laws, second husbands or wives, and blended families. For good reason: in-law jokes, and family relationship humor can be hysterical – sometimes.

In a second or more marriage, couples want to believe that they've learned something from the first one or two and they're going to take all that hard - earned experience and apply it, making the second marriage work beautifully.

Hmmm, is that why there's a higher incidence of **divorce** in second marriages and an even higher **divorce** rate in third and fourth marriages? It is **sad**, but **true**.

We live in California, while my new in-laws are in Vancouver, Canada. This means getting together, thus far, at most twice a year.

The opportunities to get to know one another are crammed into these short trips where we're all on our best behavior. Granted, it's **not** as natural as the encounters we could have if we lived in the same city, but we're all trying our best. My in-laws have had to adjust to **not** only a new husband for their only daughter, but her two new stepsons.

They've been absolutely terrific under these unusual and new circumstances. As we stay in my new in-law's home, this just adds to the awkwardness of this new family dynamic.

My first marriage failed for many reasons and, **truly**, I **can't** blame my former in-laws. I can try, but it **wouldn't** be honest. With my first in-laws, I started off on the wrong foot and continued to chew it up till nothing but hanging toenails were left. My biggest and earliest mistake occurred just before we got married. I offered an opinion about the wedding gift my soon to be in-laws were giving us.

As I was a showbiz veteran and they offered to get us a camcorder, I foolishly decided to weigh in on the good and **bad** features available, suggesting I'd go as far as to pay the difference to get a higher end one than they were initially considering. Well, that was obviously a **bad** move and, evidently, commenting at all was poor taste in their eyes, from which I was never forgiven.

This time around, I'm determined to handle things better. After all, my wife has to deal with just as much, actually more baggage, concerning me. She's taken on the role of step - mom to my two boys, having **not** been a parent before. As we have my boys full-time, that is **no** easy task, especially when she met my older one as he was entering teen – dome world.

It's **not** easy under any circumstances, but my wife also has a large family. So large that they have a book about the family, just on my mother-in-law's side, self-published that lays out the genealogy – in Chinese! I did mention my wife is Chinese, **didn't** I, while I'm Caucasian? I **can't** even begin to **remember** all the names of family members, **not** due to any ethnic linguistics, but simply due to my poor memory. They've been extraordinarily gracious to me and my boys, but the strain of **remembering** who is - who is beyond my present mental capacity, and its diminishing limits.

I actually think it's going quite well. We've spent Christmas there and celebrated in various family mixes. It was fun, we brought presents for almost everyone, and my boys loved hanging with the other kids and doing the whole morning presents thing late on Christmas Eve. Our religious differences **didn't** interfere at all, as we were all able to embrace this holiday with our new step - family. My wife has similarly embraced our Jewish heritage.

The **truth** is we actually all like each other.

It's just new; we **don't** see each other often enough, and I want to make a good impression in spite of my natural instincts to be provocative. I'm on my best behavior but I still make the occasional slip like complain to my new mother-in-law (**about her daughter**) thinking, like a complete fool, that she might be on my side, as I'm obviously so "right." Thankfully, she misunderstood and thought I was talking about one of my kids. I wisely kept my mouth shut at that point. Whew.

I know I've got great new in-laws. I've learned to be a better son-in-law by listening to my wife, accepting her advice regarding her family, praise their daughter incessantly (**which is easy**), and make sure my boys treat them with the respect they're due. I actually think it's working. We're even talking about a family trip to Europe. That is **not bad**, for the second time around.

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### Turn Your Marriage Around in 2 Days with Michele Weiner-Davis

**Mar 19, 2018 =>** For the last 15 years I've limited my private practice to 2-day intensive sessions with couples who fly in to Boulder, CO. from all over the world to work with me. This video is about what we do. About Michele Weiner-Davis, MSW is an internationally renowned relationship expert, best-selling author, marriage therapist, and professional speaker who specializes in helping people change their lives and improve important relationships.

Among the first in her field to courageously speak out about the pitfalls of unnecessary **divorce**, Michele has been active in spearheading the now popular movement urging couples to make their marriages work and keep their families together. She is the author of eight books including her best-selling books, **DIVORCE BUSTING: A Step-by-Step Approach to Making Your Marriage Loving Again (Simon & Schuster)**, and **THE SEX-STARVED MARRIAGE: A Couple's Guide to Boosting Their Marriage Libido (Simon & Schuster)**. Michele is the Director of The **Divorce Busting®** Center with offices in Boulder, Colorado and Woodstock, Illinois.

In addition to her private practice, Michele is a highly acclaimed and sought-after speaker, known for her life-transforming, energetic and entertaining keynote addresses and seminars for both lay and professional audiences including Fortune 500 companies, universities, religious organizations, the military, professional organizations, and community agencies. She consistently ranks among top presenters at national conferences. Her extremely busy website, [www.divorcebusting.com](http://www.divorcebusting.com) attracts thousands of visitors each day. Michele's work is highly regarded in professional circles. She was the recipient of The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's prestigious Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Marriage and Therapy Award and Smart Marriages' Impact Award.

Her work has been featured in major newspapers such as the New York Times, USA TODAY, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, and magazines such as Time, Redbook, Ladies Home Journal, Essence, Cosmopolitan, Glamour, Woman's Day, Men's Health, New Woman, and McCall's. She has made countless media appearances on shows such as Oprah, 48 Hours, 20/20, The Today Show, CBS This Morning, CBS Evening News, CNN, BBC, PBS and Bill O'Reilly. Michele's Keeping Love Alive program aired on PBS stations nationwide. She completed a reality based show for the BBC about helping couples save their marriages. Her TEDx TALK: THE **SEX-STARVED MARRIAGE** has been viewed more than 3.5 million times!

Michele maintains that her **true** expertise in helping couples have great relationships is derived from first-hand experience. She and her husband met at Grinnell College and have been married for more than forty years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzPxM1sMA2w> 6 1/2 min

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**James 5:14 => New Living Translation (NLT) =>** Are any of you **sick**? You should call for the elders of the Church to come and pray over you, anointing you with (**blessed olive**) oil in the name of the Lord.

**Mark 6:13 => New Living Translation (NLT) =>** And they cast out many **demons** and **healed** many **sick** people, anointing them with blessed olive oil.

Have you => **Blessed Any Oil?** => Have you **stopped** and blessed any olive oil or any kind of cooking oil and placed this blessed oil on your door post, each side and at the top, windows and on your loved ones? How about around your farm? American's!!! Prepare NOW!!! Things are about to get **ugly** really quick, like soon.

**May 2, 2015 => GOD** is building an end time **spiritual** Army so powerful that **satan** and **his demons** will be forced back to **hell**, for 1000 years.

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**THAT END TIME ARMY IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST !!!!!!!**

Use a small container and “Pray” over a small amount of olive oil as a blessing oil and you can use that.

**Anoint Your Home:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpVEptRaPcA> – 5 min

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**Bring It On - Line: Anointing With Oil**

**Apr 21, 2015 => I don't** understand way back in Old Testament times men like Joseph and Jacob had more than one wife and today that would be considered adultery. And. Okay. Is anointing with oil required for **healing** in some cases and **not** others?

Someone told me it: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRfyVV0E\\_80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRfyVV0E_80) 7 min

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## Healing through anointing oil

**May 11, 2012 =>** Filipe's testimony on his **healing** after using the anointing oil. Receive your free bottle of anointing oil on May 13th.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NiD9fPBOKQ> 5 min

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## TEEN-2-TEEN: MARCH 2019 OVERCOMING REJECTION BY MICHAELA REINERTSON

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**Rejection.** It's a hard word that **no** one likes to mention in everyday conversation. It's something we all strive to forget, to pretend it **doesn't** exist. We think that if we focus on other issues or things, it'll magically disappear. We create this mindset that if we **don't** think about it, it never happened.

But it did.

My biological father rejected me as a child. He broke apart my family, and then said he loved me. He ignored me through my growing up years, and then tried to win my affections with gifts.

He was never there for me, and so I'll always have that piece missing from my life. I thought pretending it never happened would make it go away.



Michaela Reinterson

But that was a **lie** I was believing for the sake of **not** having to deal with it, so I **wouldn't** have to forgive him. It **wasn't** healthy.

To put it bluntly, rejection hurts. The hole we get from the pain of someone dismissing us is something that taints our worldview, and our view of ourselves.

But the freedom that comes with knowing you are loved beyond measure by someone who will never abandon you is life - changing.

God loves you. He will never randomly decide one day that you **aren't** worth HIS time and throw you away. HE will never say HE **doesn't** want you. HE went through the very same thing you're dealing with right now. HE, too, was rejected by the people.

HIS heart ached for them to come and know HIM, but HE **couldn't** force them. Their rejection was their choice. But HE knows what you're feeling, and HE understands. HE's wrapping his arms around you, saying "I love you! I will always love you! You **don't** understand, I can help you! This pit you're trapped in, I can carry you out of! I love you, and I want to help you! Just let me, please."

Restoration from rejection is possible, but until you believe that you are loved by an amazing, unchanging God, there will always be that hole. If you get anything out of this article, I hope that it's this: You are loved.

Michaela Reinertson, 16, is a junior at Williston High School, where she is involved in women's choir and the drama team. She is passionate about music, worship arts, reading, writing, sharing her struggles to benefit others, and anything creative. She is very active in her Church.

Michaela is the daughter of Ted and Tracee Reinertson, who are members of the Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative. [www.ndliving.com](http://www.ndliving.com)

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Are You Dating or Married to the **Wrong** Person ([This Is So Powerful](#))

**Oct 16, 2018 =>** Are You Dating or Married to the Wrong Person ([This Is So Powerful](#))

Speaker: Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr - <http://fbcglenarden.org>

Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/kbehram>

Link to Original full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTXUn...>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rg79E16iVm4> **15 min**

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**Divorce** Busting and Strategies for Relationship Success with Michele Weiner Davis

**Interview:** What do you do when you feel like your relationship is going in the wrong direction?

How do you find new things to try when you feel like you've tried everything?

And what's possible for you when you're going it alone - perhaps when your partner already has one foot (or both feet) out the door?

On today's episode, we are chatting with Michele Weiner Davis, author of the bestselling books **Divorce** Busting, The **Sex**-Starved Marriage, and The **Divorce** Remedy. Her solution-focused therapy has helped thousands of couples come back from the brink of separation and **divorce** to a place of lasting, thriving love. You **can't** figure this stuff out by meditating on the top of a mountain. We are **not** necessarily born with the skills required to have healthy and happy relationships.

Instead, we learn by watching our adult caregivers, and for many of us, this means that we did **not** have great role models or teachers. That said, it is possible to learn these skills, including how to navigate conflict with grace and compassion, how to show tenderness, how to communicate needs lovingly, etc. We learn how to actively love within the context of our relationships - and our relationships are always giving us teaching opportunities. In order to grow from these lessons, it is critical that we pay attention to our roles, patterns, and habits in the relationship. More often than **not**, one's relationship patterns will follow them into any subsequent relationship.

This may explain why first marriages end 42% of the time, but the rates of **divorce** for 2nd and 3rd marriages are much - much higher. So, be willing to get into the weeds and to learn everything you can about how to have a good, healthy, and loving relationship now!

It takes one to tango: Do you feel like you are taking on your relationship alone?

That your partner **isn't** as interested or willing to ask the hard **questions**?

One big assumption in relationships is that change has to take two people. The **truth** is that when one person makes changes in a relationship, their partner will change in response. You **CAN** affect change singlehandedly in a relationship as long as you are willing to take the first steps! You have nothing to lose (**and everything to gain**) by taking the initiative and trying a new approach to making changes in your relationship - tip the first domino and watch how you can be a catalyst for big shifts.

**STEPS:** These steps are for anyone who wants to turn their relationship around (**or simply to feel better**):

**Step 1)** Start with a beginner's mind: Many people have loads of misconceptions about marriage in general, and long - held stories about their own. Often these assumptions and fictions are limiting and debilitating, creating an invisible context that silently stifles the relationship and gets in the way of what is needed to make things better.

Get curious and bring awareness to the beliefs you hold about the concept of marriage/partnership and check in with the stories you may have created about what is possible in your own.

**Step 2) Know what you want:** Many people spend a lot of energy and time cause hunting - meaning they focus on places in their relationship that are **no** longer working. Try to look concretely at what is working and forward to where you want to be. By identifying specific steps necessary to achieve what you would rather have, you can begin to set goals. These goals should be action - oriented, measurable, and doable.

**Step 3) Ask for what you want:** Once you know your goals, you will be more prepared to lovingly communicate your desire for change to your partner in a way that will likely bring you both closer to what you want, and away from the shame/blame cycle. Asking for change when you have taken the time and energy to identify your own responsibility as well as specific steps forward will mean that your partner will hear a request for change rather than a complaint. Complaints lead to defensiveness and your partner is much less likely to be curious, open, or willing to comply. Be intentional about your timing - trying to have a heart to heart while in the midst of dishes, kids, and chaos is **not** the time.

Find quietude, and preface the conversation with conciliatory and loving statements, such as “I know you **don**’t mean to do this, and I **haven**’t been open enough with you about how this has affected me, however I would love to talk about...”. From here, be specific!

Ask for what you want and help paint a path forward with concrete action steps.

**Step 4) Stop** going down cheese-less tunnels. Where in your relationship do you find yourself getting stuck over and over?

Are you saying and doing the same thing repeatedly?

Is there one place your partner really digs in their heels?

Bring curiosity to stuck places as these are likely the result of consistent yet ineffective attempts to intervene and fix. Look inward and ask yourself what patterns you may be repeating that have **not** yet worked. The want to fix can be...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiRwCv50HQ4> 1 Hour 29 min

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Champion Ventriloquist Of The World Darci Lynne on AGT ([All Performances Talent](#)) | Kids Got Talent



**Mar 18, 2019 => Watch Ventriloquist Darci Lynne's journey from her 1st performance on America's Got Talent 2017 to The Champions 2019.**

**Check out her amazing performances and her golden buzzer moment. What did you think of her auditions?? Let us know in the comments below... Subscribe to Kids Talent Global:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMI6...>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxzeqvoCR9s> **32 min**

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**If YOU like or YOU got some help in this part or YOU know of someone this part will help from the part above. Buy it at books below and then send the information to someone.**

**If YOU have any other information on this subject above send the **MSTP PART** Doc to:**

[extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org/](mailto:extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org)

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**A new Blog: <https://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/>**

**Also: may like to visit: [www.Tri-CountyRegion.US](http://www.Tri-CountyRegion.US)**

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**May E-Mail: [LehrLionsClub@bektel.com](mailto:LehrLionsClub@bektel.com)**

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**Marriage Again With Kids**

**More is to be added in this place - later**

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**Adults Only.... Problematic Marriage with kids?**

My husband and I both have issues that we are having a lot of problems getting over from the past. We have tried to let it go, we have talked about it, and it's okay until something similar happens and it all gets brought up again.

Recently, we both have been having dreams about each other cheating. With trust already being an issue, how do we overcome the struggle and keep moving the way we were intended to?

**Update:** I am **not** particularly upset about the dreams. This just, to me, adds frustration. He states he has never cheated, but I think he did, and I have never cheated on him.

I feel that he is **not** honest with me because we talk, and he swears to one thing and later he changes his story saying that now he is being completely honest.

**Best Answer:** Honestly the only way to be able to overcome this is to spend more time together, **not** sitting around the house or just eating dinner as a family.

Call a baby sitter since you have kids, and you **NEED** a date night **no** less than **ONCE** a week. This is important for your relationship. And then you also **NEED** one day that is **STRICTLY** family day. **No** friends over, **no** one goes off to do other things, just family!

We call it "forced family fun"! You also need to make sure that almost every single dinner is spent with the whole family at the kitchen table, and make sure that everyone is talking and included in the conversation. Keep it light. **NO** talking about serious work or relationship between you and your husband in front of the kids. If in a few months nothing is changing, then you need some marriage counseling. If you are only staying together because of the kids, then work out a way to pretend everything is okay in front of them, and then have serious talk behind closed doors. Agree to disagree and **don't** fight in front of them. Wait until they are out ta the house and get **divorced**. If you want the marriage to work, then give it everything you have to work it out.

**Next:** Resolving trust issues takes time. Getting over infidelities is a hard thing to do. Completely open and honest communication is the only way to go. Over time - always being open and honest about everything and keeping your word, every time, will help you both. Once you know you can count on each other to be honest, the other problems from the past will drift away. The dreams your both having probably come from insecurities that you both have. You can get past this; your marriage can be a wonderful thing.

There is a book called "The Love Dare". This made such a difference in my marriage - I **can't** even explain it other than to say it went from very near **divorce** - to how it was when we were first together. I **can't** get enough of her and she of me. You can have it all back again. It only takes forty days of your life - forty days to take away years of pain. It worked for us. It can work for you - take heart.

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**Next:** So, you guys cheated on each other in the past and both dreamed about it recently and now have more trust issues? Well in my opinion, just talk about it and be honest. If you want it to work with your husband, we have to talk and share your feelings.

**Next:** I do **not** always suggest this to married couples but if you are serious about making your relationship better and overcoming obstacles it's **not** easy and wiping a slate clean is **DEFINITELY NOT EASY!** Try marriage counseling.

Compromise that both of you have tried and failed at making this work yourselves and maybe a third party will help sort things out! It **can't** hurt if you love each other making it work will take work! Hope this helps. Good luck!

**Next:** Your marriage is in jeopardy over dreaming?

If you are dreaming of your partner cheating then you have insecurities that you must confront. If you **don't** trust your partner, narrow the reasons why.

If you are still having problems after talking, maybe a marriage counselor would help.

**Next:** I do **not** unavoidably imagine you want to be a senior citizen to understand you may want to provide some good advice to the 16 year previous you.

I'd say to the 16 year previous me who had in basic terms all got to work and may shortly as a result of be entering the global of going out to pubs and golf equipment - do **not** drink too a lot and **don't** be the type of smartarse, yet in spite of you do **not** waste time - you may imagine you've continually yet you quite do **not**.

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Are You In Love Or Dating or Married The **Wrong** Person ? (This Is So Powerful)

The Person you marry is one of the most important decision of your life, make sure you make the correct decision.

Speaker: Voddie Baucham - Myles Munroe

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxZpgaVXBr4> 16 min

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**Note: Don't** take your young folk to Church?

Well then? How are they going to step across from their life from High School on over to College? Or even into their real life? They will now be without YOU!

You tell me you are a Christian family? But?

From age 11 years old up to age 16, when they get out away from you, out from under YOUR supervision, like let's say away out in cars, who will they look to for any guidance?

Other kids their own age? (They think kids their own age is smarter than older folks are.)

YOU tell me YOUR kids are going to end up in **Heaven**?

They make up to **Heaven**, why they **won't** even know any of the song's folks sing up there. However, will they make it past God's judgement? And stay in **heaven**?

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**March 21, 2019 =>** we are coming back from our trip to Branson, MO. **Stopped** at a "Loves" to eat and gas up just south of Kansas City. We ordered, got our table number and got our drinks and got to an open table. A young man about in his mid-twenties is waiting for his order. He is close to us and really keeping an eye on me. I think because of my two wooden crosses I have on.

An older man comes up to us. Pointing at my cap. "You were in the Air Force?"

"Yes. I'm Air Force retired and so is my wife – she also is Air Force retired. We have a US Vets free hand out Olive wooden crosses we give out to other Vets."

"I'm an Air Force retired Lt. Col."

I pull out four Olive wooden crosses from my pocket and put them on the table. "Take a minute and you pick one out."

I stand up. He puts his hands out like to shield himself from the power of those crosses. "Oh, **no**. I want nothing to do with that." And he walks off fast. And our order number is called out. Going to get our order a young man **stops** me.

"He almost ran away from you," The young man said to me.

The young lady comes up with a tray with our order and gets the table number and she left. “Yeah, he kind of did, **didn't** he?”

He looks to me, like he is maybe homeless. He says, “My dad was in the Air Force.”

“Okay. What about you?” I am thinking, ‘He was thrown out of the Army after a year.’

“I really was raised in the Church going family up to my age 16. We took in my cousin in when I was 11 and she was 11 ½ years old. She is to be now my sister. I was more interested in playing boy stuff than doing any Church praying. You know, doing my boy things than to do any Church stuff and things. My new sister and I were in the second bedroom, but we each had our own single bed. My non - Church friends call me and the other Church boys choir boys and a few other much **worse bad** names.

“Oh, I had both some boy and girl friends from our Church and also both some boy and girl friends that live close to us but they were **not** from our or any Church. My into our family as now my new sister I soon learned two big things.

“First that my age of 14 I learned, that if I told my mom that she **doesn't** love me, cause if she did love me, I would get me a new bike. Well, I got my new bike. And I find out that she and dad still loved me if I only got “C's” and a lot of “D's”.” (He is telling us while we ate our lunch.)

“The next big thing I learned was that my cousin sister was becoming a lot different than me. It was about age 14. She was getting breast. She let me feel them but only with her bra on. She got dark hair under her arms and on her private part. She pulled her pants over and showed me her private part side her leg hair. Her three living close by us girl friends were age 14 and age 15. I got to see their growing breast and a lot more. I had **sex** with those three – but **not** my new sister - three to four times a week for over the next two years. I soon **stopped** going to church and soon quit going to school.

“I got to hanging out with others my age and we had Friday school night games under the bleachers with beer and got a lot of young girls got drunk, we all were smoking a lot of pot and we had **sex** with all of them. I was selling pot and the cops got me and I spent a year and nine months in the local county jail. I got out on parole two months ago.

“I got me a new Church girl and I have been going to work every week day now for two months and she said she and I would get married next summer. We both got off work a half day today and she is to pick me up here soon.”

We visit more with him and I got out four Olive wooden crosses and had him pick one out. I held his hand and Blessed his pocket cross and him. We hear a car horn and he looked out, he says it is his girlfriend. I asked, “Are you having **sex** with her?”

“Oh **no**. She says **not** until we are married. She is a Church girl. She is God's daughter and I a becoming God's son.” We hug and he goes out to the car.

We both think he is really sincere and he has turned his, well is turning his life around.

I go out and gas up. Came back in and this lady comes over, “I am one of the managers here.

“That was the nicest things I have ever seen, with you talking with him and giving him a cross and praying for him. Most folks **won’t** even talk to him. Can I give you a good hug?”

“Right here in front of my wife?” She stepped up to me, I got a good hug. She hugged Bonnie too, we visit. We went on up the high way. We had just too many events for only a few pages.

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**OR => Fall in Love With Your Partner All Over Again**

We know your kids are demanding, but **don’t** let them **kill** the romance — especially this Valentine’s Day. These super busy moms and dads have found fun ways to feel like newlyweds.

**No** matter how hard you try to sustain the spark in your relationship, life seems to get in the way. There’s the responsibility of running the household, your job, and of course your children, who gobble up almost every ounce of your energy on a daily basis.

In my home, days can pass without my husband and me doing anything more intimate than brushing our teeth together. Side by side we stand, frothy spearmint goo dripping from our mouths. **Sexy**, right?

While everyone knows about date nights, they’re a lot easier to talk about than to actually do.

Still, there are lots of other ways to get closer to your spouse. Just ask these four couples, who have discovered how to revive the romance despite the many challenges of raising a family.

- RELATED: [What Kids Learn from Your Marriage](#)

Courtesy of Raidt's

“I learned the power of touch.”

Kate and Daniel Raidt – Married 6 years – Austin, Texas – Parents of Conley, 6, and Bodie, 3

**Kate:** Four or five times a week we make a point of snuggling on the couch after putting the kids to bed. We used to sit in separate chairs and read the paper. Then I read *The 5 Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman. It made me realize that Daniel feels love [through touch](#), so we needed to sit closer to each other.

**Daniel:** It's **true**. Back rubs, massages, and cuddling make me feel appreciated. Kate, on the other hand, responds more to affectionate and positive words. In the past, this created some tension between us because I **didn't** get the physical contact I need, and I tried to show Kate my love through touch instead of compliments, which are what she needs.

**Kate:** We were speaking different languages. So, one evening I sidled up to Daniel in his “man chair,” and his face lit up right away. It created this intimate moment where it was just the two of us.

Since then, I've noticed that he responds much better to [talking](#) about finances or work issues when I'm holding his hand or rubbing his back rather than sitting across the room.

**Daniel:** The fact that Kate took the time to understand me better makes us feel closer than ever. It's also inspired me to give her what she needs to feel cherished.

Now I'll say, “Thanks for cooking dinner, honey,” or “I'm proud of the hard work you've done this week.” Kate **doesn't** need gifts, but she likes to be recognized for what she contributes to our marriage, family, and kids.

“We connect through music.”

Shayla and Alan Perry – Married 8 years – Corning, New York – Parents of Chris, 13; Nathan, 8; Kyle, 5; and Alyssa, 3

**Shayla:** After the kids are asleep, we grab some beers, light [candles](#), and surf the music stations on TV. We'll dance and sing along to our favorites and reminisce about where we were and what we were doing when we first heard a song. It's a fun way to learn more about each other, and it also reminds us how much we share in common.

**Alan:** Sometimes they'll play a song that one of us **doesn't** like. Shayla **can't** stand the Retro Rock channel, but we'll keep it on as I try to explain why I like it. I love that she's willing to listen in order to understand me better.

**Shayla:** I find it amazing how much you can find out about a person from his taste in music.

**Alan:** One of my favorite songs is "Falls on Me," by Fuel. The chorus ("All you dream/Falls on me, it falls on me/And your beautiful sky/The light you bring/Falls on me, it falls on me") reminds me of my responsibilities as a husband and father. After we've finished our musical date, I feel closer to Shayla. The fact that we still enjoy being together gives me confidence in our marriage.

"We put our affection on paper."

Caren and Daniel Begun – Married 8 years – Jersey City, New Jersey – Parents of Sarah, 2

**Caren:** It started seven years ago when we were testing a new printer. Daniel printed "I love you" and then hid the paper for me to find. Since then, we've concealed this same "love note" in the house, in our car, and all across the country whenever we travel.

**Daniel:** I like surprising Caren, and it lets her know I'm thinking of her. We both have a lot of fun with it, though it's an escalating challenge to find unique places to stash the **note** that neither of us has thought of before.

**Caren:** I crack up when the hiding spot catches me off guard. One time Daniel taped the note to the inside of our toilet-seat cover (it was protected in a plastic baggy, thank goodness!). This simple, hilarious game has become a constant reminder of our mutual affection, which is a nice thing, since our life with a preschooler is so busy.

**Daniel:** My philosophy is you **can't** have love without laughter. I've been known to break into spontaneous dancing and make silly faces to amuse Caren. But the **note** is my greatest invention.

My favorite memory was the time I mailed it to our new home, addressed to her. That way, it was the first piece of mail she received. Caren knew exactly what it was before she opened it. She just looked at me and smiled. We **didn't** exchange a single word, but we both felt an instant, powerful connection.

"We go on alphabet-themed dates."

Heather and Spencer Sokol – Married 14 years – Westfield, Indiana – Parents of Stacia, 13; Brenia, 8; and Lorelai, 5

**Heather:** Each month we plan a date that's based on a different letter of the alphabet, an idea I got from the book *Alphabet Weekends: Love on the Road From A to Z*, by Elizabeth Noble.



For the letter C, we spent an afternoon at the local children’s museum by ourselves. This gave us the opportunity to explore the exhibits our kids **aren’t** crazy about, and it made us feel young again. We even rode the carousel together. For D, we spent “a day in downtown,” in Indianapolis. I know alphabet dating sounds a bit goofy, but it gives us an excuse and an incentive to be together.

**Spencer:** When Heather first brought up the idea, I was skeptical. But I knew we needed to try something because the only time we ever spent as a couple was related to housework or the kids. Still, I was worried we’d spend more time planning dates than being together.

**Heather:** We had been so out of sync that Spencer **didn’t** even share his concerns with me. But we dove in, desperate to try anything. Along the way, we’ve discovered that this [exercise](#) does involve planning, but in a good way. In between the dates, we plot out the next one as a couple. Even the elaborate plans – like G for “getaway,” when we drove to Chicago to see a musical comedy – have been satisfying to pull off as a team. It’s gratifying to come up with new ideas together, or even to revisit old ones. Next up is the letter M.

**Spencer:** The best part is getting to escape with Heather for a little while. Even if it’s just a hike down a trail or a quick bite at a local dive, being able to get away from our responsibilities as parents without feeling guilty has been critical. We’re now communicating better and laughing a lot more and dating again has made for a lot of special moments.

RELATED: [What Kids Learn from Your Marriage](#)

RELATED: [Staying Lovers While Raising Kids](#)

### Five Secrets of Still-Happy Couples

1. Praising their partner: Sixty-one percent of happy couples say their spouse makes them feel good about themselves, versus only 27 percent of moderately happy and unhappy couples.

2. Focusing on good **sex**, **not** lots of it: Three out of four happy couples are satisfied with their lovemaking, even if its frequency has diminished over time.

3. Keeping the faith: Among study couples who are happiest together, 96 percent of the wives and 92 percent of the husbands say the most crucial marriage expectation is this: “You should feel that your spouse would never hurt or deceive you.”

4. Continuing to learn about each other’s needs: Virtually all the contented couples in the study expressed that they know and understand their partner intimately – **not** just daily routines and personal preferences, but what **truly** makes each other feel special.

5. Sharing their secrets: Half of all the happy couples say they regularly reveal secrets or share their feelings with their partner. By Jennifer Matlack

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/relationships/staying-close/strong-marriage-after-kids/>

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#### 4 Apps You Need to Know about if you have a Teenager at Home

The teenage years.... as if parenting **wasn't** hard enough already. This is a crucial time for kids to learn about making good decisions and taking responsibility. It's **no** secret that they will rebel, make at least **bad** choices and have their **secrets**. As a parent, it's important to watch for any signs that may indicate self-harm, depression or isolation. Here are some apps to be aware:



*Zzzz*

**Vaulty** above. Vaulty is a password protected application that will store photos and videos. It's most appealing quality (**depends who you ask**) is that it will snap a photo of anyone who tries to access the "vault" with the **wrong** password.

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**Tinder above. Tinder is a popular dating app dating that allows users to “rate” profiles and locate via GPS tracking. It is too easy for adults and minors to find one another. The rating system opens the opportunity for cyber-bullying; a group of kids can target another kid and intentionally make his/her rating go down.**

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**Audio Manager.** This app has nothing to do with managing your teen’s music files or controlling the volume on their device. It’s one of the top apps for hiding other apps.

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**Calculator%.** This app is the same deal as Audio Manager however it is disguised as a calculator icon.

Safety and proper emotional development are what’s most important. We may **not** be the “cool parent,” but it’s important to keep a close eye and at least casually check-in. You **don’t** have to resort to going through their phones to get answers. A simple discussion and letting your teen know they can come to you with absolutely anything may help avoid them wanting to hide things.

However, if this is something you’ve encountered in the past, Sedgrid Lewis, [online safety expert](https://www.gendelmanlaw.com/blog-post/), says the best way to solve this situation is for parents to add their teen to their iCloud account. That way, whenever a new app is downloaded by the teen, it will automatically download to the parent’s phone as well.

<https://www.gendelmanlaw.com/blog-post/>

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## 10 Ways to Squeeze Romance into Every Day

How will you find time for romance when you barely have time to brush your teeth? Here are 10 sweet, unexpected, totally doable ideas for squeezing a little you're-so-hot-when-you-burp-the-baby intimacy into every day. Try them on your guy – and see how little things can make all the difference.

### 1.) E-Mail Exchange

After an insane morning of getting your kids and yourself out the door, you realize you **haven't** even said "hi" much less "I love you" to your spouse. When you get to work, take five minutes to send him an e-mail or text message wishing him luck in that meeting or telling him how cute he looks today. Sharing those little details can make you feel romantic in **no** time at all.

### 2.) 2-for-1 Bonus

You've still managed to find time to shower, right? So why **not** do a little romantic multitasking? Invite him in with you now and then – morning or night, as long as the kids are asleep – washing up while you catch up (**or whatever else...**). You'll step out feeling squeaky clean – and super **sexy**.

### 3.) Dinner a Deux

Pureed squash all over the walls **doesn't** exactly set the stage for romance. So feed the kids early, put them to bed, and then have a late after-dinner dinner just for two. Make it date-night special by lighting **candles** and popping open some champagne – even if you're only having tacos.

### 3.) Pencil Him In

Instead of dealing with the hassle of last-minute babysitter booking, put your favorite sitter on a regular schedule and have a standing date night with your man.

You'll figure out what to do later. Make the first Saturday of every month your night to get out of the house sans kiddies and **remember** that you're more than just Mommy and Daddy.

### 4.) Wake-Up Booty Call

Sometimes it's hard to find time for **sex**, even if you are in the mood (**sad but true**). So, schedule it in by setting the alarm a half hour earlier, and have a first-thing-in-the-morning quickie before the kids are up. Go to bed a half hour earlier that night to make up for lost sleep – and stay smiling all day long.

A Compliment a Day Makes the Romance Stay

When was the last time you told your husband how awesome he is? Put yourself on a compliment-a-day program to keep those lovin' feelings flowing.

### 7.) Play Hooky

You know those personal days you get? We **can't** think of anything more personal than reconnecting with the hubs.

Take one of those underused allotted days midweek while the kids are at daycare, school, or with a sitter. Go back to bed, watch TV in your PJs, see a movie, whatever... as long as you do it together.

### 8.) Lights Out

Make a point of retiring to the bedroom before you're really tired. This way you'll still have enough gas in the tank for a little nookie.

### 9.) Let's Do Lunch

Who says dates are just for nighttime? We say try a lunch rendezvous. Take an hour from your day to meet up and enjoy a mini-date, just the two of you. Bonus: If you're a working mama, you **don't** even need to hire a sitter.

### 10.) Ixnay on the Baby Talk

Your daughters still got that cough, and junior's **not** using his words – the subject of your kids could expand to fill every single second of conversation if you let it. Try taking at least a 15-minute break from kiddie talk every day to discuss your relationship, good memories, that naughty dream you had last night... anything so long as it's **not** about the kids.

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A new Blog: <https://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/>

Also: may like to visit: [www.Tri-CountyRegion.US](http://www.Tri-CountyRegion.US)

Also: may like to review books: KKKK

May E-Mail: [LehrLionsClub@bektel.com](mailto:LehrLionsClub@bektel.com)

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### 700 Club Interactive - => April 26, 2019

Sana was looking for love and acceptance in all the wrong places. See how she finally surrendered her life to God.

#### Tired of Pretending to be Fine.

Sana I **remember** her turbulent childhood and the shame that followed her for years. “We literally lived in a crack house.

#### Gasping for Breath, Then Help Came!

Isack was always active and played soccer, with a homemade ball, as often as he could. “I played the whole day,” said Isack. **24 min**

<http://www1.cbn.com/video/700clubinteractive/2019/04/26/700-club-interactive-april-26-2019?show=700club>

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#### Fifteen Things God **WON'T** Ask: - (Author Unknown)

1. God **won't** ask as to what kind of car you drove => but will ask how many people you drove who **didn't** have transportation.
2. God **won't** ask the square footage of your house => but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home
3. God **won't** ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet => but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.
4. God **won't** ask about your social status => but will ask what kind of class you displayed.
5. God **won't** ask how many material possessions you had => but will ask if they dictated your life.
6. God **won't** ask what your highest salary was => but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.



7. God **won't** ask how much overtime you worked => but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.
8. God **won't** ask how many promotions you **received** => but will ask how you promoted others.
9. God **won't** ask what your job title was => but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
10. God **won't** ask what you did to help yourself => but will ask what you did to help others.
11. God **won't** ask how many friends you **had** => but will ask how many people to whom you were a **true** friend.
12. God **won't** ask what you did to protect your rights => but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others.
13. God **won't** ask in what neighborhood you lived => but will ask how you treated your neighbors.
14. God **won't** ask about the color of your skin => but will ask about the content of your character.
15. God **won't** ask how many times your said deeds matched your words => but will ask how many times it **didn't**.

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### What is Your Child is Experiencing When You Remarry

Remarriage may have many **positive** aspects, although your child may be looking forward to very different things than you. There are also some difficulties that can arise as members of two families begin living under the same roof.

Here are some of the most common concerns for school age children:

#### Loss

- As their parent's date, develop serious relationships, and eventually decide to remarry, children may be reminded of their original family and of the life they once had with their mother and father. Now, however, with the prospect of this new marriage, they must confront the reality that their parents really are never going to reconcile and that they will never again have their original family back. This can be a source of great **sadness**.

- Children who have built a particularly close relationship with their own mother or father during a period of single parenthood must now learn to share that parent with a new spouse and perhaps with stepsiblings. It may help to have the children get together to get to know each other for an event or two.

- Some children may show signs of increased attachment to the parent who is getting married. For instance, a child might **not** want to leave a parent’s side in certain social situations or may express jealousy when the parent shows attention to the new spouse and his or her children. Your child might even verbalize some of her hurt and anger (“**I don’t think he’s the right guy for you, Mom**”).

- Some children wonder to themselves, “Where do I belong?” As they see their parent starting a new family, they may feel more like an outsider than part of the new family structure.

With time, however, most children adjust to their new family circumstances. As they get to know their stepparent and stepsiblings better, their level of acceptance will grow too.

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### Feelings

- Many children feel that if they like and show love towards their new stepparent, they will be disrespecting their other parent — the one whom this new stepparent, to some extent, is replacing in their home.

Some children may worry that if their parent remarries — thus bringing a new father/mother figure into the home — they will lose the love and attention of their other father or mother.

- Your child may feel awkward having to get used to two fathers or two mothers. Particularly in the beginning, allow him or her to view your new spouse in the most comfortable way — perhaps as a second father or sometimes just as

Mommy's husband. Say something like, "Your stepfather is different from your daddy, and **no** one will ever replace your own daddy."

- Expect your child to make some comparisons between his or her real parent and stepparent, in both **positive** and **negative** ways. He or she might blurt out statements like, "You're **not** as nice as my daddy." Comparisons are normal during this adjustment period.

Eventually, your child will **stop** making them. However, some children may have more problems and may need to get help from a [mental health professional](#).

- If possible, father and stepfather, or mother and stepmother, should make contact with each other to begin working toward being more at ease with talking about your child. This can begin with a phone call just to say hello and to share thoughts about the child. Both parties might decide to have lunch or some other informal meeting. Although these two adults may run into each other at special events, such as birthdays and graduations, these occasions may **not** be the best times to do much talking.

The more comfortable these two individuals become with each other, the more reassured the child will feel that he or she does **not** have to choose between the love of the parent and developing a relationship with the stepparent. It will show the child that the adults are pulling together on his or her behalf and all care and have his or her interests at heart.

- Do **not** expect your child to solve his or her loyalty struggles if you have **not** resolved most of your own issues with your ex-spouse. When remarriages occur, the issue of child custody often comes up again. For **example**, if a noncustodial father marries a woman with children, he may return to court, requesting that his own child now live with him ("I **have a wife at home now and I can take care of my child**"). In the midst of an ongoing custody battle, the children often find it harder to deal with their own loyalty struggles.

### New Rules

- As children move from a home with a single parent into one that now includes a stepparent and perhaps stepsiblings, they will probably have changes in the way their family functions. [Routines](#) will be changed and [new chores](#) may be in place.

- With more people in the home, privacy issues may become more important. It may be harder for children to find some space they can call their own.

- Everyone — including the children — need to participate in the sort – out and adapt to the way the house runs. Most family members adapt, but it may take some time.

### **Hopes**

- Almost all couples want their new marriages to work out well for everyone. Hopefully, having learned from past experiences, they can achieve their hopes.

- Within stepfamilies, it is unrealistic to hope that the children will immediately respect and love their new stepparents. In the real world, relationships develop more slowly. Children need time to really get to know and feel comfortable with a stepmother or stepfather.

- In general, good relationships develop quicker with younger children. School-age children, who are more set in their ways, may rightly feel that their established lifestyles are being disrupted by this new man or woman entering their life.

### **Additional Information & Resources:**

- [Some Advice for Stepparents](#)
- [Helping Children Adjust to a Move](#)
- [Traps \*\*Divorced\*\* or Separating Parents Should Avoid](#)
- [Helping Children and Families Deal With \*\*Divorce\*\* and Separation \(AAP Clinical Report\)](#)

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If YOU like or YOU got some help in this part or YOU know of someone this part will help from the part above. Copy it and send it to someone.

If YOU have any other information on this subject above send the **MSTP PART** Doc to:

[extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org/](mailto:extra@marriagesecondtimeplus.org/)

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### How Could **Divorce** Affect My Kids? – By Amy Desai, J.D.

Many years ago, the myth began to circulate that if parents are unhappy, the kids are unhappy, too. So, **divorce** could help both parent and child. “What’s good for mom or dad is good for the children,” it was assumed. But we now have an enormous amount of research on **divorce** and children, all pointing to the same stubborn **truth**: Kids suffer when moms and dads split up. (And **divorce doesn’t make mom and dad happier, either.**)

The reasons behind the troubling statistics and the always-present emotional trauma are simple but profound. As licensed counselor and therapist Steven Earll writes:

Children (**and adult children**) have the attitude that their parents should be able to work through and solve any issue. Parents, who have given the children life, 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 parents’ abilities to care for them and to make decisions that truly consider their well – being.

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 [**tend to**] resent both the custodial and absent parent.”<sup>1</sup>

### Research on Children and **Divorce**

While virtually every child suffers the lost relationship and lost security described above, for many, the emotional scars have additional, more visible consequences. More than 30 years of research continues to reveal the **negative effects of divorce on children.** Most of these measurable effects are calculated in increased risks.

In other words, while **divorce** does **not** mean these effects will definitely occur in your child, it does greatly increase the risks. The odds are simply against your kids if you **divorce**.

Research comparing children of **divorced** parents to children with married parents shows:

- Children from **divorced** homes suffer academically. They experience high levels of behavioral problems. Their grades suffer, and they are less likely to graduate from high school.

- Kids whose parents' **divorce** are substantially more likely to be incarcerated for committing a crime as a juvenile.<sup>3</sup>

- Because the custodial parent's income drops substantially after a **divorce**, children in **divorced** homes are almost five times more likely to live in poverty than are children with married parents.

- Teens from **divorced** homes are much more likely to engage in drug and alcohol use, as well as **sexual** intercourse than are those from intact families.<sup>5</sup>

Before you say, “**Not** my kid,” **remember** that the children and teens represented in these statistics are normal kids, probably **not** much different from yours. Their parents **didn't** think they would get involved in these things, either. Again, we're looking at increased risks.

A few more statistics to consider:

- Children from **divorced** homes experience **illness** more frequently and recover from **sickness** more slowly.<sup>6</sup> They are also more likely to suffer child abuse.<sup>7</sup>

- Children of **divorced** parents suffer more frequently from symptoms of psychological distress.<sup>8</sup> And the emotional scars of **divorce** last into adulthood.<sup>9</sup>

The scope of this last finding — children suffer emotionally from their parents' **divorce** — has been largely underestimated. Obviously, **not** every child of **divorce** commits crime or drops out of school. Some do well in school and even become high achievers. However, we now know that even these children experience deep and lasting emotional **trauma**.

For all children, their parents' **divorce** colors their view of the world and relationships for the rest of their lives.

### Wallerstein Study

Psychologist Judith Wallerstein followed a group of children of **divorce** from the 1970s into the 1990s. Interviewing them at 18 months and then 5, 10, 15 and 25 years after the **divorce**, she expected to find that they had bounced back. But what she found was dismaying: Even 25 years after the **divorce**, these children continued to experience substantial expectations of failure, **fear** of loss, **fear** of change and **fear** of conflict.<sup>10</sup> Twenty-five years!

The children in Wallerstein's study were especially challenged when they began to form their own romantic relationships.

As Wallerstein explains, "Contrary to what we have long thought, the major impact of **divorce** does **not** occur during childhood or adolescence.

"Rather, it rises in adulthood as serious romantic relationships move center stage . . . Anxiety leads many [**adult children of divorce**] into making **bad** choices in relationships, giving up hastily when problems arise, or avoiding relationships altogether."

Other researchers confirm Wallerstein's findings.<sup>12</sup> Specifically, compared to kids from intact homes, children who experienced their parents' **divorce** view premarital **sex** and cohabitation more favorably.<sup>13</sup>

(**This is disturbing news given that cohabiting couples have more breakups, greater risk of domestic violence<sup>14</sup> and are more likely to experience divorce.<sup>15</sup>**)

Behind each of these statistics is a life — a child, now an adult, still coping with the emotions brought on by the **divorce**.

As Wallerstein put it, "The kids [**in my study**] had a hard time **remembering** the pre-**divorce** family . . . but what they **remembered** about the post-**divorce** years was their sense that they had indeed been abandoned by both parents, that their nightmare [**of abandonment**] had come **true**."

<sup>16</sup> Parents tend to want to have their own needs met after a **divorce** – to find happiness again with someone new. But **not** only do the old problems often resurface for the adults, new problems are added for the children. As Wallerstein observed, "It's **not** that parents love their children less or worry less about them. It's that they are fully engaged in rebuilding their own lives — economically, socially and **sexually**. Parents' and children's needs are often out of sync for many years after the breakup."<sup>17</sup> Children again feel abandoned as parents pursue better relationships after the breakup."

Feelings of abandonment and confusion are only compounded when one or both parents find a new spouse.

A **second marriage** brings complications and new emotions for children — **not** to mention new stepsiblings, stepparents and step grandparents, who often are in competition for the parent’s attention. (And the adjustment can be even more difficult — because it is the adults who choose new families, **not** the children.)

Lilly expressed it this way: “My loss was magnified as my father remarried and adopted a new ‘family.’ Despite attempts on my part to keep in touch, we live in different cities, and his life now revolves around his new family with infrequent contact with me. This has only increased the feelings of abandonment and alienation from the **divorce**.”

And the high rate of second-marriage **divorces** can leave children reeling from yet another loss.

Full “recovery” is nearly impossible for children because of the dynamic nature of family life. While you and your **ex-spouse’s** lives may go on separately with relatively little thought, your children will think about their loss almost every day. And 25 years after the fact, they will certainly be influenced by it. Life itself will remind them of the loss at even the happiest moments. As Earll **explains**: “Children never get over **divorce**. It is a great loss that is in their lives forever. It is like a grief that is never over.

All special events, such as holidays, plays, sports, graduations, marriages, births of children, etc., bring up the loss created by **divorce** as well as the family relationship conflicts that result from the ‘extended family’ celebrating any event.”<sup>18</sup>

### **Not an Easy Out**

What parents see as a quick way out often results in emotional damage that the children will carry with them for 30 years or more. **Divorce** is **no** small thing to children.

It is the violent ripping apart of their parents, a loss of stability and often a complete shock. While we often think of children as resilient, going through such trauma is a lot to ask of our kids.

In light of the fact that most marriages heading for **divorce** can be salvaged and turned into great marriages, parents should take a long pause before choosing **divorce**. While it may seem like a solution to you, it’s **not** an easy out for you or your kids.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/marriage/divorce-and-infidelity/should-i-get-a-divorce/how-could-divorce-affect-my-kids>

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## There is Still Hope for Your Marriage

You may feel that there is **no** hope for your marriage and the hurt is too deep to restore the relationship and love that you once had. The **truth** is, your life and marriage can be better and stronger than it was before. In fact, thousands of marriages, situations as complex and painful as yours, have been transformed with the help of professionals who understand where you are right now and care deeply about you and your spouse's future. You can restore and rebuild your marriage through a personalized, faith-based, intimate program called, Hope Restored.

### HOPE AND A NEW BEGINNING

For couples in crisis, you can still put the pieces back together

Right now, your situation may feel like two people, too far apart, with too much damage done to save your marriage. But, before you and your spouse close the door forever, you owe it to yourselves and possibly your children to give saving your marriage another try. Take one more step and contact us now. You have everything to gain and so much to lose if you **don't**.

Every detail of our retreat center was designed with you and your marriage in mind, allowing you to escape from the daily distractions of life and focus on your most important relationships.

During your time with us, you will notice your pace slowing down, you will unwind, and reconnect with yourself, your spouse and with God. We look forward to serving you at one of our locations, a refuge for you and your marriage.

### What is a Marriage Intensive?

#### Intensive Marriage Counseling Programs

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**All the Hope Restored marriage counseling provided by the Focus on the Family Marriage Institute utilizes a format we call Intensives. These programs are all inclusive, extended periods of counseling over multiple days. This intensive approach allows our team of marriage counselors to work with you to get to the root of the problem.**

**Hope Restored Intensives include:**

- - 3-5 nights of lodging
- - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner each day
- - 20-32 Hours of Counseling over 3-5 days

**Is a Marriage Intensive Right for you?**

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**The Intensive program will be able to address your needs around a variety of topics including: communication, infidelity, intimacy and **sexual** issues, financial strains, blended families, children, and career conflicts. Most couples that attend an Intensive are experiencing a significant amount of marital distress. Many of these couples have already started the **divorce** process.**

**Even with this level of distress over 99% of the couples we served last year indicated their counselor adequately addressed their concerns. Please take a look at the following programs, we are confident we have a program that can meet your needs.**

### **Our programs**

#### **3-Day Intensive Counseling**

**The all-inclusive 3-day intensive provides an individual or a couple with a multiple day counseling experience with either one or two counselors.**

While all of our programs are tailored to a couple's specific needs, the individual intensive allows for more flexibility as you determine with the therapists the direction of each day's sessions.

**Program Details:**

- One married couple
- Approximately 20 hours of counseling
- 1 or 2 counselors
- 3 nights of lodging
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Follow up program and 2 sessions with a marriage coach
- \$4,250 per couple / 1 Counselor
- \$4,750 per couple / 2 Counselors

[Contact Us](#) - \*Missouri and Michigan locations only

**Most Popular**

**4-Day Intensive Counseling**

The all-inclusive 4-day intensive provides 32 hours of caring, attentive and focused attention of the Focus on the Family Marriage Institute counseling team with the benefit of a group counseling experience. This Hope Restored intensive has been our most popular program over the years and is one of the most powerful ways we have found to work with couples in a high degree of distress. While nearly everyone has initial concerns about the group format, couples rave about the experience. Additionally, independent research of Hope Restored programs indicate that men experience a greater increase in marital satisfaction after attending an intensive utilizing the group format than in other programs.

**Program Details:**

- Up to five married couples
- Approximately 32 hours of group counseling provided by two counselors

- 5 nights of lodging
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- A follow up resource with 2 complimentary phone coaching sessions
- Partial scholarships are available (**Branson and Greenville Location Only**)
- \$3,950 per couple
- \$4,023.50 per couple in Greenville, MI (**due to additional taxes in MI**)

[Contact Us](#)

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### 5-Day Intensive Counseling

The all-inclusive 5-day intensive provides the most focused care. In this program, you will receive counseling over a period of five days from a male / female therapy team. While all of our Hope Restored intensives are tailored to a couple’s specific needs, this longer format allows for much more flexibility as you determine with the therapists the direction of each day’s sessions.

#### Program Details:

- One married couple
- Approximately 32 hours of counseling provided by two counselors, one male and one female
  - 5 nights of lodging
  - Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
  - A follow up resource with 6 complimentary phone coaching sessions
  - \$8,950 per couple

[Contact Us](#) \*Missouri location only

<https://hoperestored.focusonthefamily.com/intensives/what-is-an-intensive>

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## WHY God Allows Many Marriages to FAIL

### Summary of **Divorce** and Remarriage Points **Not** Seen By Legalists

1. - **Not** all marriages are put together by God (**Joshua 23:12 - 13, Ezra Ch. 9:13 - 14, & 10:2 - 3, 10-13**)... **not** to mention “David and Bathsheba or Samson and Delilah”
2. - There are many unequally yoked marriages that God **Hates** even MORE than **divorce** (**Exodus 34:14, 16, Deuteronomy 7:3 - 4, Deuteronomy 13:6 - 10, 1 Kings 11:1 - 4**)
3. - Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**)
4. This means that God **STILL** commands us to separate from the disobedient and wicked... (**Psalms 1:1, 26:5, Psalms 101:4, 7 - 8, 119:113, 115, 118, Proverbs 13:20, 19:19, 22:10, 22:24 - 25, 23:9, Matthew 7:6, 10:34 - 38, 18:17, Mark 3:25, 8:22, 10:14, 12:30, Romans 1:32, Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11 - 12, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 17, Ephesians 5:3 - 7, 5:11 - 14, 2 Timothy 3:1 - 5, Tit 3:10 - 11, Hebrews 1:8 - 9, 1 Timothy 5:22, 2 John 1:11, Rev 18:4**)
5. - **NONE** of the above commands are abolished by the temporary institution called “marriage”
6. - Jesus’ teaching on **divorce** was specifically to a Jewish audience (**Just as each**) of HIS messages to the 7 churches in Revelation 2-3 were specific to each church in accordance to THEIR unique issues and **sins**, so too was HIS teaching in the Gospels on **divorce** specific to Jews who were in a **divorce** crisis, **divorcing** for any foolish reason, because their hearts were hard. (**Matthew 19:8**)
7. - Even still, Jesus did **not** fail to give this concession to those Jews who were quick to **divorce**, saying, “Except for Adultery” regarding remarriage in **Matthew 19:9**
8. - Jesus intentionally chose a woman who was **divorced** and remarried FIVE times to evangelize an entire town. Never once did he say to her, “God **Hates divorce** or you can never marry again, or you are going to **hell** because you remarried FIVE TIMES!” (**John 4:1-25**)
9. - The same word used in **1 Corinthians 7:39** to describe the widow who is **no** longer “bound”, and thus free to remarry is the exact same word used in the phrase “**no** longer bound” in **1 Corinthians 7:15**, to describe the new condition of the believing spouse who has been left by a believing spouse.
10. - The greater principle in the NEW Covenant than “physical **death**” which can separate a marriage, is “**spiritual death**”. Many people are indeed in marriages, living with **spiritually dead** people who have once and for all rejected Christ and that **death** is slowly spreading to the “living spouse”, which is EXACTLY why God placed all the commands listed above to SEPARATE Romans the disobedient... HE is trying to preserve a **Holy** uncontaminated remnant.

This **cannot** be done when a person is living with a “**dead** body” yoking their light to the darkness. Passages showing **Spiritual death** in Scripture: ([Matthew 8:22, 23:27](#), [John 5:24](#), [6:63](#), [John 12:40](#), [Romans 7:10](#), [8:2](#), [8:6](#), [Ephesians 2:1](#), [2:5](#), [Col 2:13](#), [Jam 1:15](#), [2:26](#), [1 Timothy 5:6](#), [Rev 3:1](#))

11. Anyone who has **doubts** about **divorce** or remarriage should **NOT** move forward in either, until you have heard clearly from the Lord and can move forward by faith. Anything **not** done in faith (with **doubt**) is **sin**. [Romans 14:23](#)

12. Only God, by HIS **Holy Spirit** can give Revelation on the deep things and matters of HIS heart on subjects like this. God reveals them to Babes but hides them from the clever, the proud, the legalistic and the “wise and learned”. [Matthew 11:25 - 26](#) [Luke 7:33 - 35](#) NIV [33] For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a **demon**.' [34] The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "**sinners**.'" ' [[[Michael Chriswell came and remarried after his first wife had an affair and then years later divorced him for serving God rather than money, and you say, 'Here is a lawbreaker and adulterer.'](#)]] [35] But, wisdom is proved right by all her children."

**UPDATE:** You may download my new book called, "God **Hates Divorce**, But HE **Hates** Many Marriages Even More", for FREE at [www.RelentlessHeart.com](http://www.RelentlessHeart.com) and click BOOKS tab.

Why does God allow so many marriages to end in **divorce**?

Why **didn't** God answer my prayers to restore my marriage?

He has some VERY GOOD reasons, but since today's Christians have been taught to idolize marriage and taught that marriage is the answer to all of society's problems, we are missing the GOOD reasons why God refuses to answer so many of our prayers for the restoration of our marriages.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvygKgnF0cs> 40 min

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If YOU like or YOU got some help in this part or YOU know of someone this part will help from the part above. Copy it and send it to someone.

If YOU have any other information on this subject above send the **MSTP PART** Doc to:

[extra@marriagessecondtimeplus.org/](mailto:extra@marriagessecondtimeplus.org/)

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## 6 Questions to Ask Yourself Before You Get Remarried

Like so many things in life, when it comes to marriage, we tend to act with our hearts first and minds second.

But when it comes to deciding whether you should get remarried, you **shouldn't** make a hasty decision for all sorts of reasons -- financial, emotional, or even circumstantial. "There are lots of things to consider before you decide to remarry," says Dr. Gary Stollman, a relationship expert in Beverly Hills and author of *He Says/She Says -- A Guide to Overcoming Misunderstandings Between Men and Women*. "As with so many life decisions, it's **not** one to be taken lightly." Dr. Stollman **recommends** asking yourself the following six **questions** to get answers that will paint a clearer picture for you.

"What's motivating my desire to get married?"

The only correct answer is that you're doing this because you **truly** love the person and you **can't** wait to spend the rest of your life with them. That may seem easy enough, but it's still a **valid question**. Why?

"Some people decide to remarry because they're tired of being single, they're the only ones left in their social circle that **aren't** married, or to please friends and family," admits Dr. Stollman. "It's only fair to the person you're with that you enter the marriage with the best of intentions."

"Have I given myself enough time?"

It's **not** a good idea to rush into any marriage, even when you're confident the feelings are real. Think about your last relationship and say out loud how long it's been since your last marriage or relationship ended. If the answer makes you cringe, there's a problem. "Sometimes people meet each other, and within three or four months, they say, 'Oh this person is the one for me,'" says Dr. Stollman. "In my experience, if you **don't** know a person at least a year, you **don't** know them very well. You just know their good side." But how long is long enough?

The answer is unique to every couple, but as a standard, Dr. Stollman recommends waiting at least six to eight months before you assume you know anything solid about the person you're dating -- even if you've known each other for many years before.

"Have we battled a storm together?"

Part of knowing all sides of the person you love is determining whether you've seen them at their best and worst. The beginning of a relationship tends to be the happiest, and there's a feeling that your relationship is almost invincible to sadness. But the **truth** is, everyone has tough times, and you deserve to be confident in how you'll overcome these moments together.



"When things get tough, they may **not** deal with that situation in a way you'd be comfortable with," says Stollman. It's better to know this before getting married so you can address your problem - solving issues.

"What's your relationship like with their ex or children?"

A new marriage is a fresh start, but the second time around, you may be blending two families together. This means taking into consideration how the other family members, like their children or **ex**, feel about you -- and how you feel about them. "You like to think that you're just marrying that person, but you're actually entering into a relationship with their loved ones too," says Dr. Stollman. "If they're still raising children with an **ex**, you'll have to interact with that person, whether your relationship is good or **bad**." Make sure that all the relationships you'll be bringing into your life will be healthy in the long run.

"Are our finances compatible?"

In this economic climate especially, it's a good idea to clearly define for yourself what your current financial situation is and how it'll fit with someone else's before you enter into a legal marriage that will financially bind you both. Are you in debt? Are they? Who makes more money?

Will one of you be able to support the other should one of you lose your job? If so, how will that affect your 401(k) or any other money you may be putting aside for your children or another loved one?

Dr. Stollman recommends you ask yourself all these **questions** almost immediately and then take the proper time to find the right answers before you proceed.

"Am I ready to be married again?"

Dr. Stollman cautions, "People sometimes think that they may be ready but are often still in love with their **ex**, dealing with commitment issues, or dealing with unhealthy emotions from a previous **divorce**," says Dr. Stollman, who recommends any person considering remarriage take an "introspective look" into why their first marriage failed and "even consider therapy" to make sure those old wounds have truly **healed**.

<https://www.theknot.com/content/6-questions-to-ask-yourself-before-you-get-married>

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## Dating a Woman With Kids? - You've Got to Read This!

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If you are [dating a woman with kids](#), you probably **aren't** doing it just for fun. You most likely really, really like the woman (**or love her**) and you are smart enough to realize that with her, comes her children. Same thing applies to a [woman dating a guy with kids](#), by the way.

**Remember** [the movie "Jerry Maguire?"](#) when Tom Cruise says to Cuba Gooding Jr., "Can I ask you a **question**? What do you know about the single mother?" and Cuba replies, "Single mothers **don't** date. They've been to the circus, know what I mean? You've got to have the talk."

I bring that up because that is a classic case where a [single guy](#) began dating a woman with a child, and had so much to learn and go through.

Same is the case with Scott Trick, **Divorced** Guy Grinning's guest blogger. Scott was a single guy dating a woman with kids, ended up marrying her and says he **couldn't** be happier. But, he'll be the first to tell you, it **wasn't** always a piece of cake.

Here is Scott's guest post that gives us a glance at the transition from single guy to married guy with step kids, and all the wonderful things that can happen if you are open-minded, have insight into what the kids are going through, and just give it time.

### Step Parenting – From Frustration to Love by Scott Trick

Almost a year ago I went from being single to married with two step kids. **Divorce** affects children tremendously. These affects can be the cause of frustration. But if you keep in mind what the kids went through, you will have a better understanding and be a great step parent.

#### Frustration

One of the frustrations a step parent can experience is the fact that the step child does **not** know how to act in public with his or her new step parent. For **example**, when at home everyone gets along and does activities together, but in public the child may ignore the step parent and keep a distance. The reason is because being in public is a less frequent occurrence when compared to being at home in private. As with anything new, practice is needed or in this case just feeling comfortable with this new situation. After time, the child will feel more and more comfortable and frustration will lessen.

#### Fun and Excitement

The definition of fun and excitement itself will change, especially if the new step parent does **not** have kids. If the kids are in sports, you will now get to follow some new sports teams. This can be more fun and exciting than watching a professional team. When at home there will be some new activities that you will enjoy with the kids. For **example**, tetherball, a game you never thought you would play, you might be playing it every night. Fun and excitement will change from grown up fun to kid fun.

#### Love and Happiness

It does take a little time for the kids to gain your trust as a step parent, but if you treat the kids with respect, they **WILL** eventually fall in love with you. You will also fall in love with the kids because of all the time you spend with them, and all the energy you put into being a great step parent.

I read years ago that love equals happiness. If you are loved by many, you will be happy.

If you are loved by many more, you will be much happier. I was lucky enough to find **not** only a great wife, but also two amazing and loving children that make me the happiest husband and step parent in the entire universe.

Scott seems really - really happy, which I love to hear, because that means that the kids are probably really happy too. And his wife, Jenny!

Scott and Jenny had such a passion for helping others through the **divorce** process, that they started their website, Smart **Divorce** Network. Check it out! [SmartDivorceNetwork.com](http://SmartDivorceNetwork.com)

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The statistics prove what we already know is **true**:

Girls and women in North America (**mostly in the US**) have a lot of pressure when it comes to the ideal body, and it's affecting their **self-image**. The statistics prove what we already know is **true**:

- Ninety-one percent of young women that were surveyed on a college campus [reported dieting to lose weight](#) at some point.

- Of that 91%, at least 22% admitted to dieting often.

Women and girls feel more pressure to attain a physical ideal, although boys and men also struggle with body image. Most will eventually resort to dieting, some will develop an **eating disorder**, and nearly all feel pressure from the media and peers to pursue an ideal weight or body type.

Most often, the ideal that women have is impossible to achieve, because the slim figures portrayed by the media is within the reach of [only 5% of women](#).

When I was 21-years-old I learned that I was pregnant with my first child. I **remember** clearly when my ultrasound technician delivered the news that would change my life: "You're having a girl."

Less than two - years later we welcomed our second girl, and suddenly my husband was very out numbered.

Bringing home my second daughter from the hospital, it suddenly hit me what a great privilege and challenge it would be raising two daughters in our current culture. It's the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but girls are increasingly **sexualized** by the media, and pressure through social media and digital technology is increasing the intensity of bullying and low self - esteem.

I **didn't** want to bring my daughters into a home where their physical appearance would be scrutinized, where calories would be carefully counted (**every time**) or food delicately weighed. I want my home to be a safe **haven** for my girls to come as they are and be who they want to be.

I want my girls to have a healthy love for themselves; a life-long love affair. Still, I know the statistics, and it makes me wonder how I'll ever pull this off.

According to statistics a young girl's **self-esteem** peaks at nine, which means my four-year-old's self-love should statistically peak in only five years. I'm **not** cool with that.

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### **DEATH BY MARRIAGE: What God Hates MORE Than Divorce**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaEfKhmriI4> 39 min

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Jorge May 21, 2016 [Reply](#)

I've met this extraordinary, smart and beautiful woman that has two girls (**8 and 10**) from a previous marriage. They got **divorced** two years ago, same as I did. We have had a chance to socialize a few times but have **not** dated yet. In conversations she pointed out that her daughters are her top priority and she's **not** looking for a new relationship. Yet, we are developing a very open minded friendship. I really like her a lot and she's receptive. Should I pursue a relationship? I know I have to respect her space, her daughters, but how can I avoid getting in the friend zone indefinitely? I know patience would be worthwhile as she is the most amazing woman I have ever met. Thank you!

Tom Kline July 16, 2016 [Reply](#)

You would be VERY wise to heed the comment about "her" priorities. Women who make their kids their top priority are **not** good dating material. Why? The children learn that the world revolves around them.... **not** seeing a healthy, **positive** relationship where a man and woman are the center and the children are to be loved but **not** the "center" of the world. Think about it: Those same kids are going to grow up and want to be #1 with their new love interest. Imagine if they get married and have children and either spouse is # 2, 3, or **worse**? That's what leads to **divorce** city all day long.

Keep the nucleus of the family between the parents and the children learn what a health relationship is.... balanced with respect and love for the children at all times. She also said, "I'm **NOT** looking for a new relationship which could mean 1.

She's **not** over her OLD relationship or 2. She will never be over it and wants the benefits of a boyfriend with **no** strings attached. Think about it....

Tom Kline July 16, 2016 [Reply](#)

As for this article written by Scott Trick.... It's very short and I dare say shallow in it's points. Try dealing with these points: The **Ex** is a **bad** influence on the children, The **ex** - cheated which meant the relationship ended with severe strain on the children and spouse who was betrayed, sharing children is NEVER a fun thing.... think so?

Ask any **divorced** couple how many times the "**No** I thought YOU were going to take them this weekend and YOU were supposed to pick them up" argument occurs. It's hard enough bringing up children when two parents are on the same team. Now you have 2 parents who **don't** live together and 2 Step – Parents / BF / GF all putting their input in to "what's right". All it takes is for one of them to be a **bad** influence and you have trouble. Throw in child support problems, possible jealousy issues with any of them, and any of the children have psych issues from the **divorce** itself and it's a big nut to crack. Article is superficial....

Lucas Ojeda September 01, 2016[Reply](#)

So.... I'm 31, and I'm dating a woman who just turned 39 and has 2 kids (**4 and 6**). I've never been great around kids, they annoy me a lot, though I always thought I wanted kids, it's **not** my time. She's great, but I'm really unsure about this situation... She says she totally loves me, but I **don't** feel the same. Of course, I've told her.

Lakebodom September 22, 2016 [Reply](#)

Jackie Pilossoph, I need your guidance desperately. I am a 30 year old Indian man in love with a woman who is currently undergoing **divorce**. She has a child just 1 years old from her current marriage. Her so called husband has already married another woman and that is the reason for the **divorce**. He abuses her constantly and the marriage was also by force and deceit.

My issue is that my parents and relatives are averse to the idea of me marrying an already married woman and that too with a kid! She is 8 years younger to me (**at least that's a positive**). I like her from the first day I saw her. She looks beautiful, speaks endearingly and is very practical and straightforward.

She is quite open and has admitted everything about her first marriage.

Now I am facing resistance from parents about my love for her. They think its a taboo. Social stigma is also attached to women who have **divorced**. How can I convince my conservative Indian parents? Should I further verify if the woman is indeed worthy of taking a risk? Please help.

Jackie Pilossoph September 27, 2016 [Reply](#)

Make the decision based on what is in your heart. She sounds wonderful. It's very hard for old school parents to accept new things, but they are going to have to get over it and let their son be happy. I will pray for you that things work out!

<https://www.divorcedguygrinning.com/dating-woman-kids-youve-got-read/>

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The End for right now – **doing more research on this subject.**

??????? **KKKK** **Jhgfdtrewwed**



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Join up with a volunteer non - profit program.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, get some exercise, and involve yourself in a **positive** project that can lift your **spirit**.

It also comes without a cost (**or very little**) to you and can provide a lot of entertainment and a fulfilling day when you're in the right mindset.

I've come to spend more and more of my time **volunteering**, serving on various committees and people helping groups in the community.

I am on a few local area towns and Church committees. It is hands-down the best thing I have ever done.

Be a volunteer with your local **Lions Club** or other Non - Profit Org. and you will feel much better about yourself. Be only a volunteer – for a time - if later you wish, you may later to join this local **Lions Club** it is later and it is up to you. You'll be meeting other people who share your interests, which gives you an easy opener when striking up a conversation. Meet many new people and also maybe meet the next Him or the next Her for YOUR life. This Web Site is sponsored by a **Lions Club**.

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Marriage Again With Kids **KKKK. Jhgfdtrewwed.** More is to added here.

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If you like these ideas and tips – please tell a few others.

**Note:** Yes. Both single people, people dating and married people have reviewed (**Well Pre – viewed**) this “BLOG” and its parts so far. As a summary of the parts and up-coming part drafts; most people are telling us that this information is also needed and wanted for them, yes, those married people too and many people found this as new information as they **didn't** even know about this stuff.

**Subscription:** One may have a Subscription as over age 18 Adult (**including the open part**) or the open Blog part for only a small fee of \$3 for each month. If you like these ideas and tips – please tell a few others.

Marriage Second Time Plus . **Org => A new Web Site:**

A new Web Site: <http://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/>

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**KKKK**

**May use this somewhere?**

**TTTT**

[www.ndliving.com](http://www.ndliving.com)

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**KAYAKING NORTH DAKOTA WATERS**

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## KAYAKING NORTH DAKOTA WATERS



**COURTESY PHOTO => Paddle On hosts instructor-led yoga and fitness classes on the water with paddle boards at Harmon Lake, Mandan.**

**Kayak rentals await by Debi Nelson**

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As a canoeist, I’ve viewed North Dakota’s spectacular shorelines, sunrises, sunsets and amazing waterfowl from a canoe. Last spring, I started thinking about quieter travel on the lake with a kayak – hearing only the noise of my paddle breaking the water and my breathing and **not** the noise of another person in the canoe. However, I also knew there was a big drawback to the idea of paddling a kayak.

I would be the only one providing the power needed for movement. To be honest, I am **not** an active paddler in our canoe, and I am never the “back person” who determines the direction!

Another drawback of a new kayak was the cost. However, after helping a friend by photographing a family reunion, I found a gently used 8-foot kayak and paddle leaning next to our cabin. Now I was out of excuses! I did some research on kayaks by watching many YouTube videos and talking to people who kayak.

For my first time, I chose a day with **no** wind. With some apprehension and adult supervision, I took the kayak down to the lakeshore. I tied a rope to the front of the kayak and gave my husband the other end, in case I **couldn't** make it back on my own.

I carefully stepped into the kayak from shore. With a gentle push, I became buoyant! In the kayak, I sat lower in the water than a canoe.

I liked this, and the kayak seemed more stable than the canoe, to me. I chose **not** to bring my camera or phone in case I tipped. However, there was room for those items on the bottom of the kayak or in the small compartment in the back.

My goal for the first adventure was just to maneuver backward and forward and become comfortable as the sole person paddling and maneuvering. It was difficult to look around as I focused on the single, long paddle I held crosswise. I dipped the right blade in the water, then pulled back, keeping my hands and the paddle level. Then I dipped the left blade in the water. It looked a lot more fluid in the videos or when other people kayak! I tended to zigzag instead of moving straight ahead.

Once I became more comfortable, I was OK with having my husband let go of the rope, so I could paddle further into the bay. The geese, loons, ducks and turtles allowed me to get closer. Many times, I **stopped** paddling and just let the kayak drift. Even with minimal wind, the kayak slowly turned 180 degrees, giving me a panoramic view. Eventually, I was able to relax, look up at the clouds lazily floating by and focus on details of the shoreline. The quiet solitude was exhilarating, except when a little spider crawled onto my hand. It was tricky to shake it loose while hanging onto the paddle and **not** tip!

Kayaking is another great way to relax and enjoy the beautiful North Dakota lakes and rivers. There are several kayaking groups around the state and I plan to join my friends kayaking this summer and expand my horizons!

Debi Nelson is an author, freelance writer, and a member of North Central Electric Cooperative, Bottineau.

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**TEEN-2-TEEN: JANUARY 2019**

By Amelie Johnson

Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” **No** matter how young you are, you can make a difference in someone’s life by what you give, whether it’s time, money or gifts.

Community involvement is important as we are able to help others with the blessings we have.

A few years ago, after noticing that many students suffered from lack of adequate clothing, a boy my age started a clothing drive to distribute clothing to the public schools in

Bismarck. This boy, now a teenager, is making a huge difference in the lives of students, living proof that young people can impact the lives of those around them.



Amelie Johnson

Another way to help is by donating money to the public schools. Many public schools feed students who **cannot** afford food, but the school system incurs expenses because of the students’ debts. Holding a bake sale or other fundraiser and donating the money to reduce the debt to the school system is an enormous help and will impact the lives of those students for the better.

Annually, my youth group serves children who are cared for by Charles Hall Youth Services in Bismarck, which is an organization that cares for children who do **not** have a safe home in which to live. We create cozy tie blankets for the children, and even though we do **not** know the names of these children, we know that having a warm, soft blanket is a comfort to them.

These are only a few of the many ways you can be involved in your community. You can collect food for food pantries, serve at a soup kitchen, volunteer at a nursing home, or serve at your local church. Additionally, you can help others in simple but meaningful ways by babysitting free of charge for a family in need, baking treats for neighbors, assisting neighbors with yard work or giving a friendly smile.

Teenagers who desire to make a difference can accomplish amazing things; I have seen it happen.

Being involved in your community could impact someone's life in great ways, even if it's something as simple as raking their leaves.

Amelie Johnson, 15, is a home-educated freshman involved in Classical Conversations and youth group. She enjoys reading, writing, singing and spending time with friends and family. Amelie is the daughter of Ethan and Heidi Johnson, who are members of Capital Electric Cooperative.

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### TEEN-2-TEEN: APRIL 2019

#### ME, START MY OWN BUSINESS?

by Sylvie Winje

Seventeen-year-old Fred DeLuca started a small sandwich business, hoping to defray the cost of college. Happily, his business was successful, and he raised more than enough money for his education. Just like DeLuca, teens should consider starting their own business to earn money, learn responsibility and grow communication skills.

First, you can earn and learn how to manage your money. My sister, Emma, and I started a business playing piano at nursing homes and have earned more than \$2,000 so far! Doing so helped me associate the **true** value of a dollar with the amount of work required.

When earning your own money, you are suddenly much more careful in how you spend it. Perhaps the money you earn can be invested back into your business or saved for the future!



Sylvie Winje

Secondly, starting your own business helps you to become more responsible.

For **example**, Thomas Edison started his own business as a teenager, printing and selling newspapers to people who rode the train. When Emma and I perform at nursing homes, we must be on time, look presentable, talk to adults, have a plan, and most importantly, provide a good performance!

Finally, you will grow your communication skills. Creating a business requires you to speak with customers, suppliers and others. You also learn to write clear emails and manage logistics. As a young person, it forces you to have a certain level of maturity. To be honest, it is **not** easy to communicate with adults, even if they are 95 years old!

I have learned so much through our nursing home business about communication, and you can, too.

You might be wondering how to get started. Begin by making a list of your interests (**music, art, technology, nannying, being outdoors**), talk to your parents about business ideas that surround those interests, and then learn more about the process. **Remember** Fred DeLuca?

That successful business he started was Subway! Now he makes billions of dollars per year and it all began when he was just 17 years old. That could be you, but you must get started first!

Sylvie Winje is a sophomore homeschooled student. Sylvie is the daughter of Paul and Audrey Winje, who are members of Cass County Electric Cooperative.

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### The Money's in the Honey

When Todd Whitney wanted to grow his Honey Farm, he looked to the Rural Electric and Telecom Development Center sponsored by the state's local electric and telephone cooperatives. Learn how they worked together to help Todd's dream come **true**!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=99&v=joyXQIg7ThY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=99&v=joyXQIg7ThY) **2 min**

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**Note:** Yes. Both single people, people dating and married people have review (**Well Pre – viewed**) this “Web Site” and its parts so far. As a summary of the parts and up-coming part drafts;

most people are telling us that this information is also needed and wanted for them, those married people too and many people found this as new information as they **didn't** even know about this stuff.

**Subscription:** Then one may have a Subscription as over age 18 Adult (**including the open part**) or the open Web Site part for only a small fee of \$3 for each month. If you like these ideas and its Parts – please tell a few others.

**Marriage Second Time Plus => A new Web Site.**

A new Blog: <http://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/>

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A new Web Site: <https://marriagesecondtimeplus.org/>

Also: may like to visit: [www.Tri-CountyRegion.US](http://www.Tri-CountyRegion.US)

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This sponsoring Lions Club does **NOT** endorse all information contained this **PDF # 2** part.

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