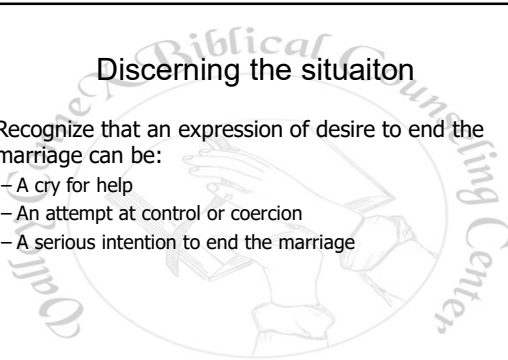




**When My Spouse Wants to
End Our Marriage.**

2



Discerning the situation

- Recognize that an expression of desire to end the marriage can be:
 - A cry for help
 - An attempt at control or coercion
 - A serious intention to end the marriage

3



A believer married to an unbeliever.

- A follower of Christ is commanded not to enter into such a relationship. 2 Corinthians 6:14-15
- There has been and will be cases where one spouse will come to faith in Christ after he or she is married. In such cases:
 - The one who is a follower of Christ is not to end the marriage. 1 Corinthians 7:12-14
 - If the unbelieving spouse decides to end the marriage the believing spouse is no longer bound to the marriage. 1 Corinthians 7:15-16

4

Some major factors resulting in a spouse wishing to end a marriage.

- Unrealized expectations (disappointment)
 - Idealized view of the person you married
 - Idealized view of marriage
 - An unhealthy self-centered focus
- Advice or examples of solutions to challenges in the marriage that run contrary to Scripture.

5

Some major factors resulting in a spouse wishing to end a marriage.

- Egregious sinful behavior.
 - Adultery
 - Persistent use of pornography
 - Physical violence
 - Rage
 - Deception
 - Intensive, consistent berating and demeaning behavior.

6

Deceived by myths about marriage.

- Myth One: I married the wrong person.
- Myth Two: The goal of marriage is to make me happy.
- Myth Three: Fulfillment is found in the person I marry.
- Myth Four: A healthy marriage will be free of conflict.
- Myth Five: Headship equals dictatorship
- Myth Six: Submission equals subservience
- Myth Seven: Growth and strength of the marriage should happen automatically.

7

Deceived by myths about marriage.

- Myth Eight: I need to end my marriage so I can better serve God as a single person.
- Myth Nine: Love is something one falls in and out of.

8

A biblical response

- Allow God to cleanse from your heart all that He reveals as a result of these events. (Mark 7:20-23)
- Keep your focus on your relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Don't be panicked by the compulsion to save your marriage. (Matthew 16:25)
 - Don't be preoccupied with trying not to offend your spouse or trying to please him or her. Obedience to God will lead you to engage your spouse appropriately. (Luke 4:8)

9

A biblical response

- Respond to your spouse as instructed by the Word of God as empowered by the Spirit of God regardless of his or her reaction. (Ephesians 4:25-32)
- Never waver on God's standard for marriage. (Matthew 19:4-6)
- Understand what you can control and what you cannot control. Exercise influence over what you can control and trust God with what is out of your control. (Matthew 6:25-34)

10