

Practical Bible Principles For Living



Divorce — A New Opportunity Or Hope Gone Sour?

By J.L. Caldwell,
Pastor, New
Jerusalem Baptist
Cathedral

The divorce epidemic that our communities are experiencing, has been given much bad press and blown out of proportion relative to other undesirable human experiences. Such bad press has been fostered by well-meaning religious institutions and other concerned agencies and individuals in our community. Divorce is a fact of life and will be with us for some time to come. Instead of attacking the evil of divorce, efforts should be made on the part of our caring community to educate all concerned in an effort to heal the hurt and pain, support and encourage and eliminate the social stigma of those who are forced into or choose the legal act of divorce. There is a need to minister to those who have experienced divorce as well as the single parent.

Divorce can serve as a means of relief from stress, anxiety, physical, verbal and psychological abuses. Divorce can also serve as a means of removing the source of dysfunction in a dysfunctioning family. Divorce hurts, but only for as long as one will allow it to hurt. Divorce is like experiencing a death and can result in a grieving process that may last from 2 to 5 years, depending upon how intent the spouses are in healing themselves from this negative experience.

Some men and women discover that divorce allows them to fully blossom into the person that they always wanted to be (self esteem). Anger sometimes results from the fact that the divorcee realizes that it was their marriage that kept them enslaved and without the personal freedom to grow. Added stress

comes about when there are young and growing children involved and much emotional energy is used in an effort to hide the hurt and pain when a divorce may be pending or anticipated.

The Bible has no record of defining divorce as a sin. Yet, some insecure people who allow themselves to feel threatened, seem to rate divorce as the "Number one" sin in the church and society. Adultery is the sin, not divorce. All sins can be forgiven. The exception is rejecting Christ as your personal Savior (blasphemy), the only sin that God will not forgive (Matthew 12:31).

When we read Matthew 5:32; 19:3-11, Mark 10:4-12 and Luke 16:18, we can see very clearly that Jesus dealt with the act of adultery as the sin and not divorce itself. Divorce can come about as the result of other unresolved issues as opposed to the act of adultery only (i.e., non-commitment, irresponsibility, sickness, being physically and emotionally incompatible, physical and abandonment and financial matters). Any issue that keeps the husband and wife from emotionally and spiritually bonding together can result in divorce.

There are husbands and wives, who for all spiritual and practical purposes are already divorced, but they are still living together in the same household "for the children's sake;" "for economic convenience;" to "keep down the social embarrassment;" to keep the other spouse from getting it all "out of being lonely and in debt;" "jealousy — to keep the outside third party from stepping in on what

belongs to me;" and the plain fact that they are scared and filled with "rightful anxiety about separating. The only thing left in the above cases is to start the legal proceedings, for the real separation has already taken place. The above living together divorce situation often leads to outside marital affairs as the hurt spouse attempts to maintain a sense of self-worth and value. Of course, this is not the way to achieve self esteem for oneself, in spite of the fact that such affairs feel good and create a powerful sense of excitement, which is usually missing in the hurting marriage.

It is no doubt that GOD hates divorce (Matthew 19:7-8), just like we may hate to undergo serious surgery, but we realize that the surgery may be necessary in order to save our lives. Divorce is like surgery, sometimes you benefit and sometimes you don't, depending upon the condition of the patient beforehand.

Neither God nor Jesus ever commanded divorce in any instance, including adultery. Divorce is a man-made legal action and has nothing to do with God (read Mark 10:2-12). God allows certain behaviors from man

because of man's self-will which is often contrary to God's Ethical Code of Conduct. God will never violate man's free will. Therefore, man (he/she) must be willing to take the full responsibility for every decision he/she makes that is outside the will of God's Code of Conduct and Principles for Living (Ten Commandments). God gives man the option of divorce or "hang on in there." God prefers forgiving the other spouse and makes another effort to rebuild the marital relationship (read Hosea 3:1-3).

(Continued On Page 8)

Operation Breakthrough Board To Meet

The Operation Breakthrough Board of Directors will hold its annual Board meeting Thursday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Resource Room of the Whitted School Building, 1515 1/2 Street. The public is invited to attend.

88TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

The Russell Church Family will celebrate its 88th Church Anniversary on Sunday, November 18, 1990. Dr. Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Dean of the Phillips School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia will be our guest speaker for the 10:45 worship service.

The theme for this year: "Building Russell on the Rock has made a Difference: In the Church, Family, and Community." We welcome one and all to participate in this glorious celebration.

Russell Memorial C.M.E. Church
703 South Alston Avenue
Durham, N. C.
Rev. Timothy W. Price, Sr., Pastor

CARD OF THANKS

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John L. Caldwell, Pastor

"A Church Family That Loves And Grows In Christ"

At The Corner of Old Oxford Highway And Danube Lane (Duke Lane)
Phone: 471-9051

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1990
Come and Worship God With Us!

9:30 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—Worship Service
Children's Church School

Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. (2nd & 4th Sundays)
Topic: God Heals Dysfunctional Families

Joseph's AME Church

111 Fayetteville St. Durham, N.C.

W.W. Easley, Jr., Minister

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990

10:00 A.M.—Worship Service
10:30 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—Regular Worship

Each Wednesday
Prayer Service—Noon
Church—Wednesday—6:00 P.M.

MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

404 Dowd Street Durham, N.C.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM Morning Worship
9:30 AM Church School
11:00 AM Morning Worship

Transportation is provided to all services. Call 688-6052, 682-7160 or 688-6474.

Rev. Leroy E. Davis, Pastor
Rev. Jackson C. Truitt, Asst. Pastor

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

1400 South Alston Avenue
Durham, North Carolina 27707
(next to Chidley Hall)

Father Bruce Bavinger, S.J.,
Pastor

MASSES FOR SUNDAY

on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
and
on Sunday at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m.

For more information
call 682-4852

Progressive Holiness Church, Inc.

An Apostolic Church

Bishop H.L. Brown, Pastor

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School
11:30 a.m. — Morning Service
6:30 p.m. — Mid-Week Service (Wednesday)
8:00 p.m. — Evangelistic Service (Sunday)
8:00 p.m. — Missionary Service (Tuesday)
8:00 p.m. — Bible Teaching (Thursday)
7:30 p.m. — Youth For Christ (Friday)

If you would like to attend our services and need transportation, please call.

1203 Holloway Street
Durham
688-3309

White Rock Baptist Church

3400 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707
(919) 688-8136

LORENZO A. LYNCH, PASTOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990

10:00 A.M. Church School Worship Assembly
11:00 A.M. Worship
"On Water That Doesn't Dry:"
11:30 A.M. (919) 688-8136

The Pastor

LADY USHERS
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Refreshments and fellowship in the church hall after the 10:55 a.m. worship. Transportation furnished to worship, school, etc. Call 788-8137. Sunday School provided for the children during the 10:00 a.m. worship.

Mount Calvary United Church of Christ

1715 Athens Avenue
Durham, North Carolina
27707 Tel: 688-5066
"On The Move For God"

J. Cecil Cheek, B.Th., M. Div., Pastor

"Mt. Calvary Church Family Cordially invites You to Worship With Us."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990
Prayer Service 7:00 P.M.

The Franklin Center and Scholarship Committee Sponsor a breakfast at the church between 8-9 a.m. each 4th Sunday of the month.

Bus Service for Church Sunday School and Morning Worship Services.

Union Baptist Church

The Church of the people,
by the people, for the people
and for God.

904 North Roxboro Street
Durham, N.C.
688-1304

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990

9:30 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship Service
Sermon

7:30 P.M. Prayer Meeting
(Wednesday)
Bus Transportation Available

St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church

531 South Roxboro Street
Durham, N.C. 27701
Reverend Howard E. Haggler, pastor

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1990



St. Mark is Celebrating
100 Years of Service
"The Church That Cares"
You Are Invited
CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:55 A.M.
Sunday School Teachers
Meeting Wednesday, 7 P.M.
Prayer Service Wednesday, 8 P.M.
Transportation is available. For
information call: 688-2092 or 683-2032