



Living Well

Marriage Problems & Solutions 1



Ed Edwards
President

Donna Edwards
Executive Director

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Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.org
Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com
Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com
Wisdom Community School - www.wisdomcommunityschool.com

Problems

Marriage is when a man and woman become one; the trouble is when they try to decide which one. Anonymous

We have worked in the marriage field for over 20 years. We have been married for over 40 years. **We have learned that all of us have problems!**

Problems in marriage started with the first couple and continue to this day. Many younger people believe that **marriage isn't even relevant any more.**
Why get married?

Pew research found that **39% of Americans think that marriage has become obsolete.**

Has the concept of marriage passed its

usefulness? Is marriage counseling appropriate in our disposable culture? Are people willing or capable to do the work to make marriage last?

We could survey any married couple who is reading this page and ask them **if they have had problems.** We would get a **100% positive response.**

We have had our share of conflicts and differences in the last 40+ years. We still have disagreements. We still get frustrated with each other sometimes. **And we are marriage counselors!**

How are we still together?
We tell couples everyday that we don't let our differences come between us. We are not going to give up and we are going to move forward.

We could ask every couple how they overcame the problems and we would get lots of different answers - with the common phrase, **"we worked through it."**

I am not sure if it's **selfishness, laziness, immaturity, or a lack of hope** - but for many couples today, **their choose to get out of a marriage rather than do the work to stay together.**

I often wonder why we let our emotions rule our thoughts about marriage and what we do; we don't do that in other parts of our lives. We go to work **whether we feel like it or not.** We are respectful and polite to friends, **more than to our spouse.** We do what we need to do, **even if we don't feel like it.**

Common reasons for divorce....



I have known many happy marriages, but never a compatible one. The whole aim of marriage is to fight through and survive the instant when incompatibility becomes unquestionable. G.K. Chesterton

On the reverse side:

Solutions

Answers

PO Box 720828
Oklahoma City OK 73172
www.livingwellokc.org
Phone: 405.792.2586
E-mail: info@livingwellokc.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.livingwellokc.org
www.livingwellokc.blogspot.com
www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com

Seeking Solutions

Success in marriage is much more than finding the right person; it is a matter of being the right person. Anonymous

One of my favorite questions to ask people is "Where do you go when you need help with your marriage problems?"

When we were young marrieds, hmmm 40 years ago, **we didn't have that many options.** Most people probably talked to their friends or family. We knew that our friends and family didn't know any more than we did.

My tendency is to find a book - books are my answer to every situation - good or bad. But at that

time, good books on marriage were not apparent to me.

Unfortunately, as a newly married couple, **we were not in church.** We were both Christians, but didn't see the Church or the Bible as **an answer to the puzzle of compatibility in marriage.**

But we were both very committed to making our marriage the best that we could. We were like many young couples; we thought love and common interests were enough. "We should know how to be married." **Divorce was never an option, neither was being isolated from each other.**

As much as we enjoyed the same lifestyle and had the same goals, we didn't really understand each other. We wanted to make each other happy, but we didn't really understand what that meant.

Today, couples have too many places to go when they are seeking solutions. So many competing voices claim authority on the subject. *Is the advice of Oprah (who is not married) valid? Or is Dr. Phil the expert? What about an internet search? Maybe, I should ask my buddy at work. Or my sister, she seems happier than I do. My friends think I could find someone to treat me better.*

Where do I find real answers?



Real Answers

Marriage is not a human invention, it is the creation of God; it did not originate in the mind of man, but in the mind of God.

We have spent the last 35 years seeking God and searching His Word for solutions. **We have found real answers to every marital issue!**

God's answers transcend time, culture, gender, race, IQ, and income. **Most of all, He cares about us and our marriages, even more than we do!**

Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Over the next few months, we are going to share real answers to the most common marriage problems.

For those answers to make a difference in my marriage:

- **First,** I will recognize that **I need help and want a change.** I will be **honest with myself about my part.**
- **Second,** that change has to **start in my own heart,** because I can't change another person.

- **Third,** I seek **God** through His Word and through prayer for His perspective and His solutions.
- **Fourth,** I will be **patient with the process.** I didn't get to this place overnight, I won't form new beliefs and new habits overnight.
- **Fifth,** I won't give up or lose hope!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:7)