

4 Things You Can Do to Stay Out of Divorce Court

(If you want it bad enough, you can overcome anything together)
(SERIES: Accept No Mediocre Marriage; 10 of 10)
by Dr. David Foster

Did you know?

"In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. . . . However, each one of you also **must love his wife as** he loves himself, and the **wife must respect** her husband." (Eph 5:28-33 (NIV))

A man needs respect & honor.

A woman needs attention & affirmation.

Breaking Faith in Marriage

The marriage covenant is broken by adultery.

"Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.'" (Mat 19)

The marriage covenant is broken by abandonment.

". . . if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace." (1 Cor 7)

The marriage covenant is broken by abuse.

How to Stay Out of Divorce Court

First, you need desire.

"Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, **because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.** Has not *the LORD* made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and **do not break faith with the wife of your youth.** "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, . . ." (Mal 2)

Second, you need time.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9 NIV)

Third, you need knowledge.

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matt 15:14 KJV)

"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." (Pro 21:5 NLT)

Lastly, you need help.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb 10:25)

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Prov 27:17)