

# Grace Connections Newsletter

"... ministering grace & hope to the hearers." Eph. 4:29

Summer 2003

## "HELP ME . . . GET MY WIFE BACK!"

Recent studies report that 25-30% of marriages that end in divorce are initiated by the wife (Family Research Council, June 2000, Vol. 11 No. 9).

It seems that when wives get fed up, they are really finished, even if the husband is willing to try again. When husbands get fed up, they are more likely to give the marriage another chance if the wife is willing.

Counselors see this quite often where the wife has been dissatisfied for 5, 10, 15 years or more and has pressed on, trying to stay, in the face of unmet needs, lack of intimacy, stresses at work, home & children, lack of support, abuse, affairs, money problems, and so forth - - - and feels she can't go on this way another day.

Even when her husband says "let's try again", she feels "I don't trust him to follow through, I've heard this before, more of my life will be wasted if I keep on". Frequently she is unwilling to try again.

Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, author of the Divorce Culture reports that for many years after divorce, the husband grieves and suffers more emotionally than the wife, especially if the wife initiated the split.

She further notes study after study that shows the devastating effects on the children of divorce; regardless of their age, children usually suffer. Several factors studied by researchers show that children of divorce as a whole do worse academically, are vulnerable to substance abuse, premarital sex, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and abortions, are more prone to delinquency, and are less equipped to enter marriage themselves.

While marriage is a 50/50 responsibility, husbands do well to pay attention to dissatisfaction of their wives, as many women will not provide another chance for the union, once their breaking point is reached.

I recommend a book called Every Man's Marriage by Arterburn & Stoker for husbands; the perspective presented in this work will help men to win over their wives, regain their integrity as a man, and create brand new marriages. And by all means husbands, avail yourselves to counseling, even if you must at first go alone.



*Diana Karpavage, LCPC*