



## MARRIED, MEDIOCRE, OR MATURE MARRIAGE?

By Brett Hickey

The devil is tearing up the home. In the U. S., there are 2.4 million marriages and 1.2 million divorces every year. About 40% of all first marriages end in divorce. Certain they merely chose the wrong man or woman the first time, those who divorce set out again to find Mr. or Mrs. Right. Unfortunately, “60 to 67 percent of second marriages fail, and 70 to 73 percent of third marriages.”<sup>1</sup> Clearly, the solution was not to find a better pick. Ordinarily, both husband and wife have plenty of work to do on themselves to have a successful marriage. Others, because of their commitment to God, children, and church, will likely never divorce, but the quality of these relationships is a marred reflection of the standard set by Christ and the church (Ephesians 5).

Why settle for a mediocre marriage? Halting, crippled, cold, joyless marriages handicap us in the expression of our greatest joint responsibility -- “bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Family counselors Gary and Marie Izzo say the greatest gift you can give to the wholesome development of your children is a loving, healthy relationship with your spouse. That should be motivation enough to work on our marriages.

The greatest marriage counseling question I have ever heard: “What percentage of your marriage difficulties can be laid upon your spouse?” I like this question because our speech and behavior tend to communicate that most – if not all! – of the

# Newsletter

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blame should be laid upon our spouse. This question can expose the extent of my compliance to God’s command in Philippians 2:3, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.” It is easier to deceive ourselves here unless we pause for careful reflection. If we fail to esteem our spouse above ourselves – one of the easiest faults to fall prey to -- our marriage becomes vulnerable.

So, if I were to say that Louise is responsible for 80% of the difficulties in our marriage it would be out in the open that I think I’m only 20% of the problem. That assessment would absolutely be wrong in our case. I’d say I’m accountable for about 70% of the challenges we face. There is greater shared responsibility in most marriages.

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## August TV Broadcast Schedule

**8/6**

Sermon #1105

Calvinism (part 1)

**8/13**

Sermon #1106

Calvinism (part 2)

**8/20**

Sermon #1107

Calvinism (part 3)

**8/27**

Sermon #1108

A Father's Love

Next, even if I did attribute 80% of the issues to Louise, by taking personal responsibility for some of the marital adversity, I acknowledge a truth I may have tried to avoid: I need to act on my 20% and make changes to transform our marriage into a better reflection of Christ and the church. You see, it doesn't matter what my spouse does or fails to do, I must do what's right and correct what I've done wrong to uphold my obligation to God and family. When marriages are failing, it is likely that neither spouse is doing all they can and should be doing. Instead, each focuses on the failures of the other. That's a dead end road.

Don't follow the flesh; don't follow the crowd; follow Jesus; more fully reflect Christ and the church in your marriage!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.divorcesource.com/ds/main/u-s-divorce-rates-and-statistics-1037.shtml>

## Upcoming Gospel Meetings

**September 1-3**

**Texas Labor Day Meeting**

Grapevine Convention Center  
1209 South Main Street, Grapevine, TX

7:30 pm (1st)

6:00 pm (2nd)

6:00 pm (3rd)

**NOTE:** Lord's Day morning services will be conducted at all area congregations.

<http://TexasLaborDayMeeting.org>



Audio / video library, transcripts and other information can be found at:  
**[www.LetTheBibleSpeak.com](http://www.LetTheBibleSpeak.com)**



Check out Let the Bible Speak on Facebook. Post questions and interact with Brett Hickey and others at:  
**[www.facebook.com/LBSunityseeker](http://www.facebook.com/LBSunityseeker)**



Watch videos of our program at:  
**[www.youtube.com/LetTheBibleSpeak](http://www.youtube.com/LetTheBibleSpeak)**

We support Brett Hickey's message, and the truths taught in the Bible for all mankind. We assist bringing this TV program to the north Texas area, and are glad you have watched the program! We would like you to visit any of our worship services!

### **Allen**

**East Allen CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1008 E. Exchange Parkway  
Allen, TX

### **Arlington**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST on Green Oaks**  
4601 S. W. Green Oaks Blvd.  
Arlington, TX

### **Bridgeport**

**East Mound CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Highway 2123, 1.5 miles south of town  
Bridgeport, TX

### **Canton**

**Phalba CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Hwy 198 between Maybank & Canton  
at Hwy 316 intersection  
Phalba, TX

### **Cleburne**

**South Walnut CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
306 South Walnut Street  
Cleburne, TX

### **Dallas**

**Dallas CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
122 Carol Lane  
Red Oak, TX

### **Dallas (Spanish speaking services)**

**Dallas CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2802 Walton Walker Boulevard  
Dallas, TX

### **Duncanville**

**Duncanville CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1615 Stratford Lane  
Duncanville, TX

### **Fort Worth**

**Fossil Creek CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
3517 North Beach Street  
Fort Worth, TX

### **Frisco**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST in Frisco**  
9201 North County Road  
Frisco, TX

### **Grapevine**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST in Grapevine**  
713 North Lucas Drive  
Grapevine, TX

### **Lewisville**

**Denton county CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1305 S. Business State Highway 121,  
Suite 105  
Lewisville, TX

### **Mineral Wells**

**Mineral Wells CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
300 Southeast 15th Street  
Mineral Wells, TX

### **Paris**

**Paris CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
35 13th Street S.E.  
Paris, TX

### **Rockwall**

**Northview CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
NE corner of I-30 Frontage & Industrial  
Blvd  
Rockwall, TX

### **Weatherford**

**Bankhead Drive CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2610 East Bankhead Drive  
Weatherford, TX