

UNCOUPLING

CHAPTER 12

STAGES OF DIVORCE

- Early stage—wedding but no true marriage; absence on bonding
- Mid-Stage—Neglect
- Late Stage—growing apart; empty nest; loss of bonding

PROBABILITY OF DIVORCE

- Incompatibility of gender roles
- Gender differences
- Unreasonable demands on gender roles
- Time and energy demands
- Boredom with marriage
- Changes in function, e.g. kids
- Lack of emotional fulfillment***
- Economic independence

PRE-MARITAL FACTORS

- Parental divorce
- Cohabitation
- Early marriage
- Strong attachment to the idea of marriage
- Multiple sexual relations before marriage
- Premarital childbearing

POST-MARITAL FACTORS

- Spousal behavior
- Inability to control anger
- Sexual incompatibility
- Poor marital quality
- Addictions

SOCIETAL FACTORS

- **Wife Employed Outside the Home**
- **Lack of Cultural Support**
- **Fewer Moral And Religious Sanctions**

Wife Employed Outside the Home

- economic independence
- loss of time together
- centrifugal forces (changing functions)

Lack of Cultural Support

- inability of men to change
- strong economic pull on families
- the rise of individualism

Fewer Moral And Religious Sanctions

- tolerance for divorce
- less stigma for divorce
- lower social costs

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

- Mental illness
- Accepting negative influences from in-laws
- Religious differences
- Financial problems
- Belief in Destructive Feminist Ideologies
- Addiction to Drugs, Alcohol
- Extra-marital involvement
- Abuse of Authority

INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

- Use of threats
- Constant going out with the boys
- Lack of communication
- Feeling unloved
- Inability for needs to be met
- Feeling put down
- Growing apart

Reasons People Give

- Lack of commitment (73%)
- Too much arguing (56%)
- Infidelity (55%)
- Marrying too early (46%)
- Unrealistic (45%)
- Lack of equality (44%)
- Lack of preparation (41%)
- Abuse (29%)

Post-Divorce Reflections

- 31% of men wished they had worked harder
- 13% of women wished they had worked harder
- 74% of men wished wives had worked harder
- 65% of women wished husbands worked harder
- 33%--try to reconcile

Annulment

- marital dissolution achieved by proving that no valid marriage ever existed from a legal perspective;
- or, after civil divorce, a religious decree that declares a marriage invalid for theological reasons

Roman Catholic Church's Annulment Criteria

“grave lack of discretion of judgment”—that a person of faith has made a human mistake

- Impotence
- Insanity
- Bigamy
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Kinship

Why commitment is so important?

Having a long-term view of marriage that helps people not to get overwhelmed by problems and challenges.

Help keep focus on the valued prize—a healthy, stable marriage

Two types of commitment

- Constraint Commitment
- Dedication Commitment

Constraint Commitment

- Social Pressure
- Fear about the future
- For the sake of the kids

Dedication Commitment

- Desire to be together with spouse
- A sense of “we-ness”
- Prioritizing relationship and spouse
- Willingness to sacrifice for the spouse
- A decision to give up other choices

Alimony

- monetary payments from one ex-spouse to the other for maintenance of her/his economic needs.

Prenuptial Agreement

- allows the couple to negotiate ahead of time the settlement of property, alimony, or other financial matters in the event of death or divorce.

Sole Custody

- following divorce, one parent cares for child(ren) on a daily basis and assumes all decision-making and other responsibilities.

Split Custody

- following divorce, two or more children are divided between parents with each parent taking sole responsibility for the child(ren) in her/his care.
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Joint Legal Custody

- following divorce, both parents legally share in decision-making and other responsibilities.

Joint Physical Custody

- both parents share in decision-making and other responsibilities for child(ren); child(ren) live alternately with each parent on an equitable basis.

Question

- What steps should be taken to lessen the trauma of divorce for children?