

## FOREWORD

As a Christian, I never thought I would experience divorce, but I did. My spouse chose to leave after ten years of marriage and I spent seven years as a single adult before remarrying. My wife Joanne has a very similar background. We feel very privileged to serve together in this ministry to single, divorced and separated adults at Calvary Chapel. Most everyone agrees that divorce is not God's answer to marital conflict. It is among the most devastating experiences in life, and it usually causes more problems than it solves... But if someone is determined to end, or bring about the end of a marriage, we know there is little anyone can do to stop them. In just under 100 concise pages, using God's Word and my own experiences, I'll try to bring a voice of comfort, education and encouragement to a very difficult subject. The purpose of this book is **not** to chastise you for your past mistakes. The goal is to help you walk through the process of divorce and singleness, encouraging you at every turn to get a grip on who you are in Christ, so you can be equipped to make quality decisions for your future. We know this book will help you gain some new insights into what has happened to you. And it will also help you gain some knowledge in how to deal with it successfully. We're convinced the helpful charts and illustrations in this book will create a resource you can use and refer to often in the time you choose to invest in your personal recovery from your traumatic life-changing event. Mostly, we hope you'll find in this book... Some anticipation; some healing; and even a little excitement for the future as you... "Work through the Crisis" on your way to getting settled into your new life... In His Grace: Jeff and Joanne

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## CHAPTER ONE

### Understanding divorce

Divorce is a devastating event. It has changed you. There are parts of you that will never be the same as they were before your divorce, but with a lot of time, prayer, learning and exploration, you will see and experience God's rebuilding process in your life. We have worked with hundreds of people over the course of many years and we have yet to see God fail to bring healing to those who will be faithful... Not even once. That being said; there are two things that must be said up front:

1. Your divorce is **not** the unforgivable sin.
2. A failed marriage does not make **you** a failure.

In a nutshell, every divorce has, at its root cause, two simple things, immaturity and selfishness. Both of these traits lie mostly in the heart of your former spouse, I am sure, but we can't do anything about them, so we will concentrate on you. In this book, we will discuss constructive and biblical ways to open up and look at your life and your future; so the destructive, life wasting pattern of divorce doesn't repeat itself for you, like it does for so many others. If you are not a Christian; if you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ; some of the words we use may not make a lot of sense to you. We hope you are curious enough to continue reading. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have and to refer you to other resources that are available to you, as you access our website:

[www.gracefordivorce.org](http://www.gracefordivorce.org) and click "Contact us".

### A Note to Women:

Women, you must be extremely careful in the area of love, because, once you have given your heart away and decided you are in love with a man; that man will usually remain in your heart and life for a long, long time. Women are usually not capable of abruptly stopping an emotional commitment just because a relationship ends or becomes impossible to sustain anymore. If you've had a bad experience with a selfish, immature man who has taken advantage of your emotional availability; protect your heart from further damage, but please don't allow yourself to be permanently hardened by these difficult experiences.

If these difficult experiences in your past have made you hard and emotionally unavailable, please don't stay that way.

Hardness is not an attractive trait in a Godly woman.

And please don't take your emotional unavailability into another marriage. Take all the time you need to heal.

Ladies, I believe you've had all the failure you'll ever need.

### A Note to Men:

Men, I did not write this to create conflict. I truly believe there is a big difference in the way men and women give their hearts in love. If we disagree, I am genuinely sorry.

I believe that true "Godly" love in a man is built upon strong confidence; and your background and divorce(s) have possibly not done you any favors in this area.

Neediness is not an attractive trait in a Godly man.

You might need to take some time to grow in grace, confidence and integrity. Please take all the time you need to allow the Lord to rebuild you before you get involved with your sisters in Christ.

Neither of you needs any more failure, trust me.