

## “Things to Consider Before Saying ‘I Quit’ 2

In her book, **Second Chances: Men, Women and Children A Decade After Divorce**, Judith Wallerstein writes, “Divorce is deceptive. Legally it is a simple event, but psychologically it is a chain — sometimes a never-ending chain — of events, relocations and radically shifting relationships strung through time.”

### 1. The Economic Impact of Divorce.

- Legal costs of an uncontested divorce in Ontario = \$1845.  
Contested = \$18,706; a longer court case = \$40,000
- A woman’s median income drops > 30% in the year after divorce;
- Family debt is higher, net worth is lower, and government assistance is needed in lone-parent families, especially women after divorce.

### 2. The Damaged Testimony of Divorce.

- The Bible makes it clear that Christians are to live so as not to make others stumble by what we eat, drink, say or do.

### 3. The Lower View of God’s Ability.

- We’re saying that God can’t fix our marriages.

### 4. Many Divorces Don’t Allow for Remarriage.

Biblical Eligibility for Remarriage:

- (1) Adultery
- (2) Abandonment

### 5. Divorce Can Increase the Tendency for a Pattern of Failure.

If you can’t succeed in life’s most primary and significant institution, you often don’t succeed in the lesser areas of your life either.

### 6. Divorce Sets a Precedent for Other Divorces in the Family.

- Q. “What makes someone accept divorce and remarriage?”  
A. 89% — “The divorce and remarriage of a family member.”

### 7. The Health Cost of Divorce.

- The death rate for divorced males (35 to 65 years old) is 130% higher than married men.

### 8. The Cost on a New Marriage. Ghosts of previous marriages.

- Alimony costs will drain your finances
- Comparison to the last mate
- We bring our own issues into the new marriage

### 9. The Negative Affect of Divorce Upon the Children.

**In the U.S. every 24 hours...**

- 3000 children see their parents divorced;
- 1629 children are put into adult jails;
- 3228 children run away from home;
- 1512 children drop out of school;
- 7742 teens become sexually active.

A. Divorce shatters stability in the minds of children.

B. Divorce forces children to take sides.

C. Divorce creates a distrust in some children of parents.

D. Divorce creates suspicion with children.

E. Divorce creates bitterness and animosity against one or both parents.

F. Divorce creates a rootlessness for children.

## Guidelines for Children of Divorced Parents

1. Don't blame yourself for your parents' divorce.
2. Realize that divorce is wrong, but it is not unredeemable.
3. Refuse to be an informer for either of your parents.
4. Accept your parents' choices of other mates if remarriage occurs.
5. Honour your parents... period.

## The Ten Commandments for Making a Marriage

1. Make commitment, not feelings, the foundation of my marriage.
2. Learn to draw a very large circle of love.

He drew a circle that shut me out,  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,  
But love and I had the wit to win,  
We drew a circle that took him in.

3. Continually say positive things to my spouse.

*"Do not let unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*  
- Ephesians 4:29

4. Never go to bed at night angry with each other.
5. Forgive my spouse.
6. Visualize what our lives can be together.
7. Consider what God wants in this situation, not what you want.
8. Humble myself before my spouse.
9. Do not give up.
10. Pray together regularly.

## A Prayer for Commitment to Marriage

I am standing for the healing of my marriage! I won't give up, give in, give out or give over until that healing takes place. I made a vow, I said the words, I gave the pledge, I gave a ring, I took a ring, I gave myself, I trusted God, and said the words, and meant the words... in sickness and health, in sorrow and in joy, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in good times and in bad, so I'm standing now, and won't sit down, let down, slow down, calm down, fall down, look down, or be down till the breakdown is torn down!

I refuse to put my eyes on outward circumstances, or listen to prophets of doom, or buy into what's trendy, worldly, popular, convenient, easy, quick, thrifty, or advantageous... nor will I settle for a cheap imitation of God's real thing, nor will I seek to lower God's standard, twist God's will, rewrite God's Word, violate God's covenant, or accept what God hates, namely divorce (Malachi 2:16).

In a world of filth, I will stay pure, surrounded by lies, I will speak the truth, where hopelessness abounds, I will hope in God, where revenge is easier, I will bless instead of curse, and where the odds are stacked against me, I'll trust in God's faithfulness.

I'm a stander, and I won't acquiesce, compromise, quarrel or quit... I have made the choice, set my face, entered the race, believed the Word, and trusted God for all the outcome.

I will allow neither the reaction of my spouse, nor the urging of my friends, nor the advice of my loved ones, nor the economic hardship, nor the prompting of the devil to make me let up, slow up, blow up, or give up until my marriage is healed up.

Amen.

-Before You Throw In the Towel, by Bob Moorehead,

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2. Learn to draw a very large circle of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Continually say \_\_\_\_\_ things to my spouse.
4. Never go to bed at night \_\_\_\_\_ with each other.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ my spouse.
6. Visualize what our lives can be together.
7. Consider what \_\_\_\_\_ wants in this situation, not what you want.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ myself before my spouse.
9. Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ together regularly.