

Family Legacy Institute

Tools For Families Building Godly Legacies

Dating After Divorce

A Presentation of “Second Chapter” Divorce Recovery Ministry
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As if divorce isn’t bad enough, dating after divorce can be worse, and going through second or third divorces can be even more demeaning than going through the first one. By the time we’ve been married for a few years, the pool of emotionally healthy, mature, stable people available for and able to sustain marriage shrinks to a much smaller number than it was when we first married. Many of those who on the surface look most appealing and most available, are in fact accidents waiting to happen.

In the wounded phase following divorce it can be extremely problematic to trust one’s own judgment in measuring the character and maturity of a person on a date. And once one “falls in love” with someone else, objectivity often leaves the planet. So here are a few thoughts aimed at helping you avoid making the sort of mistake that will do further damage to yourself and your children if you have any.

There’s an old saying: *If you have to swallow a frog, don’t look at it too long. And if you have to swallow a number of frogs, take the biggest one first.* What you’re about to read may seem like swallowing the biggest, ugliest frog you’ve ever seen, but if you can digest this information, the many potential complications and heartaches of re-attaching after divorce will be a whole lot easier to handle later on.

Rather than thinking of short-term solutions right now, ponder investing in your happy longer range future. Here are seven things to ponder when dating after divorce.



1. Don’t date for a year or two after your divorce.

- a. Recognize the fact that you’re wounded and you need time to heal.
- b. You most likely will not select the same sort of person after you’ve *healed*, as you will select while you’re wounded.
- c. Hungry shoppers are dangerous. Don’t date until you’re not hungry.
- d. Two wounded ducks can’t join together to form one soaring eagle.
- e. If you marry a wounded duck, then when one of you heals, the other is going to “lose their job” and the relationship is going to change dramatically.

- f. Divorce rates for second marriages are worse than for first marriages ~ ask yourself, “Do I want to go through this again?”
- g. The sooner you “connect” after your divorce, the greater likelihood that the relationship will fail. *First year relationships seldom last.*
- h. If you see anyone who looks either like a knight in shining armor, or a goddess, run!! Come back to them in a year and they’ll almost certainly look a lot more mortal ~ perhaps even unattractive.
- i. If any dating partner attempts to come rapidly into your life at this time, perhaps even urging you to connect deeply and intimately with them, *do not connect with them!!* Speed of connection is a huge red flag ~ they’re