

Counseling Situations Family & Work Issues

Read through all the situations below. Pick one and write out how you would respond to the situation and counsel those involved. Include in your answer what sin may be involved; relevant Bible verses that would expose that sin and encourage them to righteousness; the questions you might ask to uncover what might be going on in their Emotional; Volitional; Rational and Personal circles; and advise you would give them on how to handle the situation they are facing.

1) In talking with a young couple at church after the holidays, they express their frustration at trying to please the extended family, and they ask you for some advice. Since the families live close enough geographically, they try to see both sets of parents and extended family on the same day, but it does not seem to be working very well since someone will get upset they have left early and someone else in the other family will be upset they arrived so late. They would like some direction on what godly options they might have as the next holiday is approaching.

2) In talking with a group of young married men in your church, the topic of the activities of their wives comes up and nearly all of them express great frustration that though the specifics vary all carry the same theme of apparent laziness or inability to complete even basic tasks of housekeeping. In further questioning you discover that none of the men expect a perfect home and all of them are very active to varying degrees in the normal household chores such as cleaning, cooking, laundry, shopping, childcare, etc. The responsibilities of the wives varies ranging from one wife that works full time, one that works part time, two that home-school, and one that does not work or have children. How can you help them overcome their frustration and find Biblical solutions to the problems they face at home.

3) A woman comes to you for counsel on how to deal with her husband. Both claim to be Christians. They are at church more often than not, and her more than him. They have been married for five years and have one two year old daughter. She is frustrated that her husband cannot seem to keep a job very long and tends toward laziness. She has ended up working full time in order to give financial stability to the home. Her parents watch the child while she works. Her husband is currently unemployed again and is only making half-hearted efforts to find work. The house is usually a mess when she gets home. She is frustrated that he is using the credit card to eat out while she is at work and purchase what she terms as “toys” to entertain himself. These turn out to be video games, sports equipment and fees and some unexplained store items. She does not believe he is having an affair, but wonders because his time usage is often unaccounted, the credit card charges and his lack of interest in her. She is being advised by friends at work that she should divorce the bum, and she is beginning to consider it. How can you help her deal with her frustrations and find Biblical solutions to the problems she is facing at home.

4) You invite a young family that is new to the church over for dinner. In talking with them you find out that he has been a Christian since he was young and she became a Christian a year before they married. They had a six month courtship and have now been married eight years. In the course of your time together, you are starting to become agitated with their six year old boy who has little self control and doing things you do not allow your own children to do. Neither parent seems to notice. The mother is constantly up following their three year old daughter around, and when she is not, the little girl is interrupting her. You are thankful their year old baby is asleep,

but in the course of the conversation you find out the mom is usually up most of the night with her, which explains the haggard look she has. At this point the father expresses some of his frustration about how difficult parenting has been and that they are very fearful of the teen years because they are told they should expect them to rebel. He then asks you what your thoughts are about parenting. Where will you start? What will you say?

5) You get a call from a crying woman that you have known for some years. She has just discovered that her 14 year old daughter has been using drugs and has been sexually active with her boy-friend and is now pregnant. The daughter says she loves the boy. The mother wants you to come over to talk with her daughter and boyfriend. How will you handle this situation?

6) A Christian friend expresses his frustration about work. He claims to be faithful and hardworking being diligent to always be at work on time, never extend breaks or lunch, and always doing a good job as proven by the positive yearly reviews. However, he cannot seem to advance with the company and people he sees showing up late and often doing personal things on company time are advanced. He is wondering if it is worthwhile trying to be an exemplary worker anymore and that perhaps he should lower his work ethic to match what the rest of the employees do. How will you advise him?

7) A man in your church comes over to talk with you about a possible job opportunity that may open up in another state. It will pay a lot more and would be a good career move, but his wife is concerned about the city where they would have to live since it is well known for its liberal politics and hedonistic lifestyle. What questions will you ask him to help him clarify his thinking so that he can make a good decision about whether to pursue the opportunity or not?

Link to sermons on Marriage & Family

https://www.gracebibleny.org/category/sermons/family_marriage_children

Links to sermons on work

https://www.gracebibleny.org/labor_leisure_revised

<https://www.gracebibleny.org/submission-in-the-workplace-1-peter-2-18-23>

https://www.gracebibleny.org/servants_amp_masters_colossians_32241

<https://www.gracebibleny.org/employers-and-employees>

https://www.gracebibleny.org/proverbs_economics