

Counseling Class
Marriage & Human Sexuality 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) You have become friends with a young married couple in the church. As your friendship has developed, the wife periodically asks you practical questions about marriage and housekeeping. One day she comes to you in tears and confides that she is very frustrated with him claiming that he does not love her, does not understand her, does not talk with her and instead just goes to sleep, and is harsh when he does talk. She continues pointing out that he is not leading the family as he should since having devotions and praying together is sporadic at best, and at church he leaves her to go talk with his friends. She misses her friends from her previous church and would like for them to find a different church where they develop new friends. She says she is ready to move back home to her parents. How will you advise her?

2) A young man in your church you have known since he was a young boy met a lovely young lady a couple of years earlier. They dated for a year and then married. He stops to see you one day asking advice about how to handle his wife. He is perplexed and frustrated and is wondering what he got himself into. According to his description things go well, then his wife suddenly becomes very irritable and accuses him of all sorts of things. He admits there is some truth in what she says about being sarcastic at times, somewhat thoughtless, and not as complimentary as he should be for all that she does for him. He would like to take her out more like they did when they were dating, but the expense of living on their own makes that very difficult. He also says he does get frustrated with her because she so often wants to talk late into the night and he has to be at work at 6 am. He misses hanging out with his friends. How will you advise him?

3) A couple that has been married for ten years has been coming to you for counseling. The presenting problems are usually the same issues or just variations of the same theme. She claims he does not understand her and that if would recognize how terrible her childhood was he would be more sensitive to her needs. She claims her father was abusive to her mother and that the men in her church enabled it because the pastor always told her mother to submit to him. Adding to the complexity of the situation, she has several physical issues, but either refuses to go seek conventional medical help, or ignores the Doctor's advise if she does go. She is self treating with information she has gained from the internet. Central in her complaint is that he will not lead her. You have her meet with older married women with good marriages for additional counsel, and though she listens to their advice, she never seems to be capable of following it. The man usually has to be prodded to say anything. He works two jobs to makes ends meet and when he comes home he does household chores. He is very afraid she will get sick again. He grew up in a home with a dominant and overbearing mother. He admits that though most of the time he is calm, there are occasions when he gets very angry and explodes. If he can get any time for himself, he likes video games. What strategy will you follow to help them?

4) You are called by the husband of a woman you know well from church. He comes with her occasionally and you have done some things with them as a couple. In a desperate voice he tells you

that his wife is packing her bags and preparing to leave him. He wants you to come over and talk her into staying. He admits that he has been unfaithful and he does, on occasion, drink too much and beat her. Now he realizes how much he loves her and needs her. What will you say to him? How would you deal with both of them? She professes to be a Christian.

5a) A spouse comes to you upset that they just found out their marriage partner has been having an affair and they do not know what to do. The marriage partner has admitted the wrong, asks for forgiveness and claims to want to change. What are the Biblical options? What would be the godly response? How will you advise?

5b) Follow-up to 5a above. The spouse comes to you again very upset that in a final confrontation, the marriage partner choose to continue the extramarital affair and has left. What advice will you give this spouse about Biblical options? What strategy will you develop to help this spouse deal with the reality of separation and possibility of divorce?

6) A woman in your church asks you to talk with her husband because he seems disinterested in the relationship. He stays late at work, speaks little when home and does not approach her even for marital intimacy. You talk with him and find out that he resents her nagging and belittling of him and that he would rather stay at work or watch media than to be around her. Upon further questioning you find that he has been losing weight and sleeps well, but has a hard time getting up in the morning. What counsel would you give him? What will you tell his wife?

7) A woman in your church comes to you wanting advice on how to respond to her husband. They have been married for 15 years and generally have a good relationship including marital intimacy. He has lately been pressuring her for anal sex. She does not know where he got such an idea, and though she wants to please him, she has been able to put him off so far. It is starting to put tension in their relationship. How will you advise her? What additional actions might you take?

8a) A man in his early twenties comes to you to confess that he is sexually attracted to other men. He has already been involved in one homosexual relationship. He does not think it is right and wants to change. How will you advise him? How will you direct him for the help he needs?

8b) A woman in her early twenties comes to you to confess that she is sexually attracted to other women. She has already been involved in one lesbian relationship. She does not think it is right and wants to change. How will you advise her? How will you direct her for the help she needs?

9) A couple comes to you distraught because their 14 year old daughter who attends the local Jr. High School wants to be a boy. She has been changing into boy's clothes at school and is asking at school to be called by a boy's name and uses the pronouns, he /him. The couple has seen a professional counselor and been told that they can either have a live son or a dead daughter because she will commit suicide if she is not actively helped to transition. There is also a veiled threat of child protective services getting involved if they do not cooperate with the school authorities.

10). A couple comes to you for counseling. Both have recently been saved and they have a dilemma they need you to help them solve. They have been married for 3 years. The woman was a man that had a sex change operation. They are not sure what they should do. How will you advise?