

**Hope
&
Help**



For A Troubled Marriage

Help Wanted

- “My marriage is in trouble”
- “This is not the marriage I dreamed of”
- “We have irreconcilable differences”

*When “for better”
Becomes “for worse”*



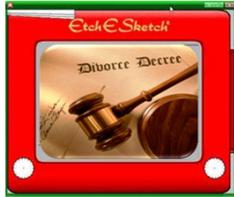
Hope Needed

- “Can I ever have my dream come true?”
- “Can ‘for better’ replace ‘for worse’ ?
- “Is it still possible to save our marriage?”



Worldly Counsel

- Life Happens
- We all make mistakes:
Etch-A-Sketch
- You are just incompatible
- Irreconcilable differences
- Cut your losses
- Invoke the “Lemon Law”
- Trade in for a new & improved model



God’s Counsel

Listen To Words of Wisdom

- *Psalm 33:11 The **counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.***
- *Psalm 55:14 We took **sweet counsel** together, And walked to the **house of God** in the throng.*
- *Psalm 73:24 You will guide me with **Your counsel**, And afterward receive me to **glory.*** ←

God’s Counsel

- “Remember your vows!”
Ecclesiastes 5:2-5

Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. ... When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed – Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

“I take this woman (man) to be my lawfully wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or worse, in sickness and health, until death do us part. So help me God”



4 Seasons of Marriage

For Some

- Season of Romance (The Ideal)
- Season of Reality (The Ordeal)
- Season of Regret (The New Deal)
- Season of Renewal (The Sweet Deal)



Hope & Help God's Countenance

- **Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5**
Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him
For the help of His countenance.



Numbers 6
 24 The LORD bless you and keep you;
 25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
 26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

H-O-P-E

- **Mark 9:14-29 A Hopeful Father**
"But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."
"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."
"Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

God's Power



H-O-P-E

• **From Hopeless**

Acts 27:20 Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, **all hope** that we would be saved was finally given up.

• **To Hopeful**

Acts 27:22-25 "And now I urge you to **take heart**, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship."

H-O-P-E

• **Mark 10:17-31 A Hopeful Sinner**

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ... "Who then can be saved?"

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

God's Power



H-O-P-E

• **Mark 14:31-36 A Hopeful Savior**

35 He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.

36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

God's Power



H-O-P-E

- A Hopeful Marriage
- SIN – The Cause
Not Hopeless (Sin has a remedy)
- GOD’S CLINIC
To those who come in faith
100% Successful Healing



H-E-L-P

A Biblical 4-Step Plan

1. Go To The Heart Of The Problem
2. Change Attitude Toward Myself
3. Change Attitude Toward My Mate
4. Love Life As A Gift From God



H-E-L-P

1. Go To The Heart Of The Problem

Jam 4:1-10

- v. 1-3 The Source of Conflict
(selfishness)
- v. 4-6 The Seriousness of Compromise
(friendship with God or the world)
- v. 7-10 The Steps of Correction
(submit to God, resist the devil)



H-E-L-P

2. Change Attitude Toward Myself

James 1:19-25

v. 19-20 *Be Slow to wrath*

v. 21-22 *Be a Doer, not a hearer*

v. 23-25 *Be a Mirror Looker & Changer*

v. 26-27 *Be Truly Religious*

(get busy, get outside yourself)



H-E-L-P

3. Change Attitude Toward My Mate

Matthew 5:43-48 *Love...
bless...
do good...
pray*



Matthew 7:12 *"Whatever you
want men to do to you, do also
to them."*



H-E-L-P

*5 Things I Loved About Him / Her
That Led To Marriage*

1. Great family
2. King & Kingdom first
3. Compassionate heart
4. Very Smart & Very Pretty
5. Home-maker / cook

H-E-L-P

4. Love Life As A Gift From God

1 Peter 3:8-12 "He who would love life..."

Matthew 5:3-12 "Blessed (happy) are the..."

Philipp. 4:4-9 "Rejoice in the Lord... Rejoice!"



H-E-L-P

Psalm 121 A Song of Ascent

*1 I will lift up my eyes to the hills –
From whence comes my help?*

*2 My help comes from the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth.*



Hope & Help

HOPE:
"With God All Things Are Possible"

HELP:
*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path" (Psa 119:105)*

God's Power & Plan
