

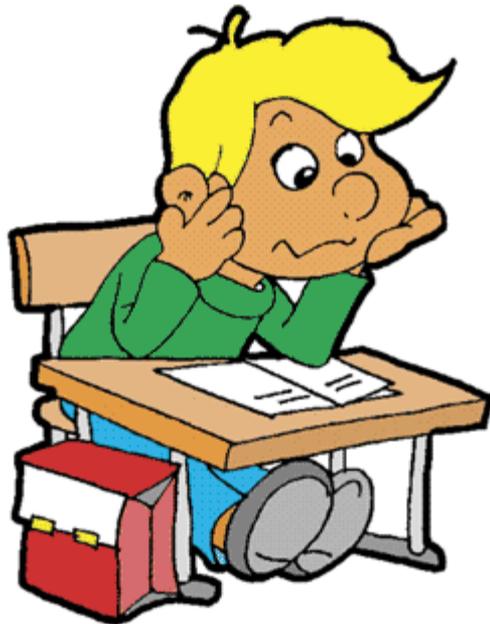
# Suffering in the world-Divorce

Life Journey starts with two  
people wanting to spend  
the rest of their lives  
together  
as one.





- When problems start, no one notices the effect on the other younger people involved in the battle.



What do you think is the church's opinion regarding divorce?

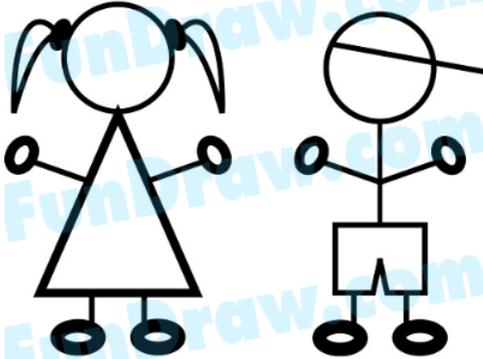


# The coptic church and divorce



- The coptic church does not permit divorce.
- in case of adultery as one spouse has already broken the eternal bond of matrimony. If the married couple depart and get divorced in court, the church allows the other partner a second chance in marriage to raise a family.
- the only second situation is granting permission for marriage In case of premarital deception in regards of a severe mental illness that has not been disclosed to the partner before marriage. A similar situation would probably apply in case of illness like HIV.

# The Bible's message regarding divorce



- ***“But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Mark 10:6-9).***

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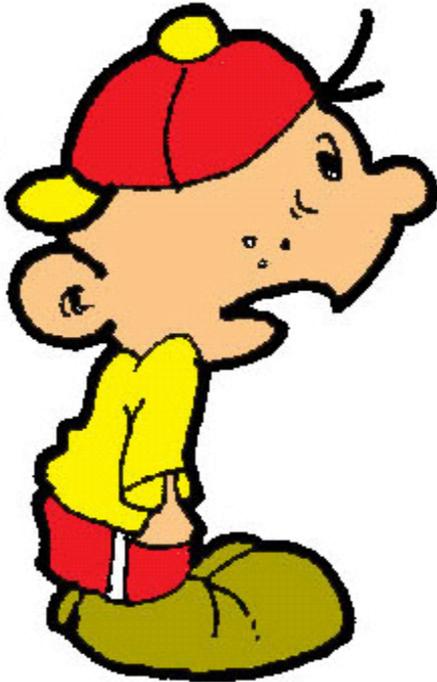
- **Why -in your opinion- the church takes this stand against divorce?**
- **Is the church right in taking a stand against divorce?**



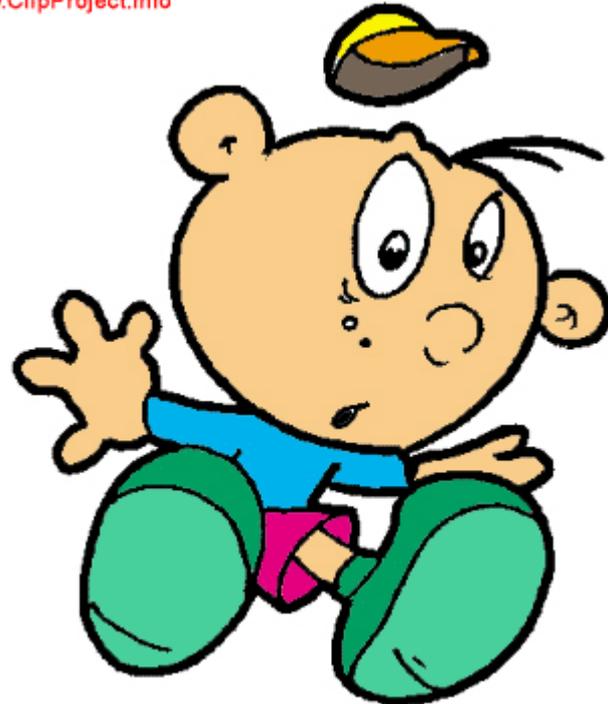
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- **What is the effect of divorce on the divorced couple?**
- **What is the effect of divorce on children?**

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# Answer

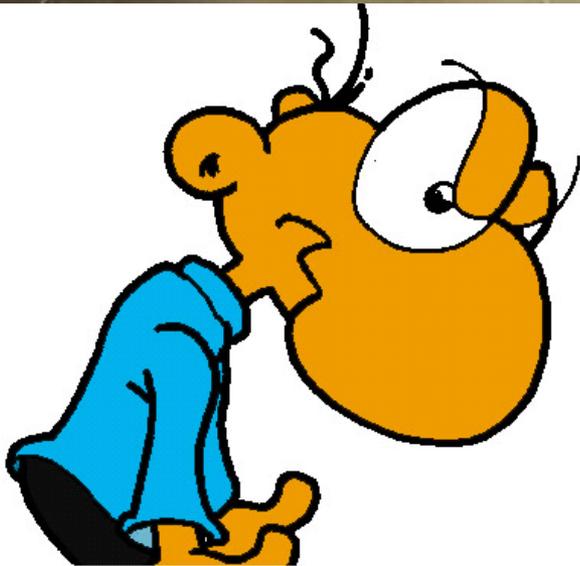
- Pre-divorce changes in the family often negatively influence the psychological states of parents; parental stress, anxiety, and depression, in turn, inhibit effective parenting.



# Research on divorce



- problems in parent-child relationships as early as eight to twelve years prior to parental divorce. Other studies observe that, before parental divorce



# Research



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- children and adolescents suffer due to high levels of marital discord, ineffective and inconsistent parenting, diminished parental wellbeing, and reduced parent-child affection

# Effects of divorce



- The alterations in family functioning that occur during a pre-divorce process lead to children witnessing their parents fighting, parents' emotional and psychological states deteriorating, and diminishing levels of parental warmth, affection, and supervision.



# Effects of divorce



Substantial research evidence shows that, on average, children who have experienced parental divorce score somewhat lower than children in first-marriage families on measures of social development, emotional well-being, self-concept, academic performance, educational attainment, and physical health (Amato 2000; Furstenberg and Kiernan 2001).



# Effects of Divorce on adults



- Life expectancies for divorced men and women are significantly lower than for married people .
- Those who were unhappy but stay married were more likely to be happy five years later than those who divorced.
- The health consequences of divorce are so severe that a Yale researcher concluded that “being divorced and a non smoker is [only] slightly less dangerous than smoking a pack a day and staying married.”<sup>5</sup>
- After a diagnosis of cancer, married people are most likely to recover, while the divorced are least likely to recover, indicating that the emotional trauma of divorce has a long-term impact on the physical health of the body.
- Men and women both suffer a decline in mental health following divorce.

# Effects of divorce on children



- **Fear of Change.**
- **Fear of Being Abandoned.**
- **Losing Attachment.**

# Effects of divorce on children



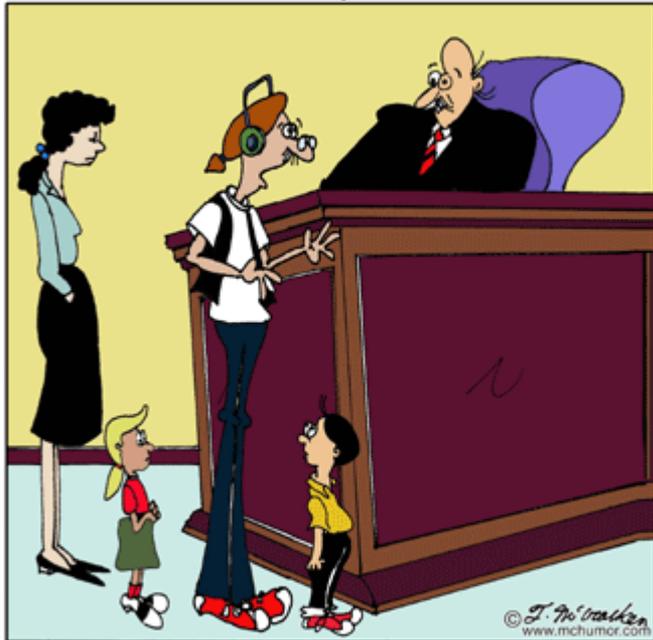
- **Coping with Parental Tension. Trying to Bring Parents Back Together.**
- **Aggression and Defiance.**
- **Depression and Withdrawal.**

# Effects of divorce on children



- Children from divorced homes experience illness more frequently and recover from sickness more slowly.
- They are also more likely to suffer child abuse.
- Children of divorced parents suffer more frequently from symptoms of psychological distress.
- The emotional scars of divorce last into adulthood.

MCHUMOR.COM by T. McCracken



"Access to the kids?

No. I want access to the computer equipment."

- children suffer emotionally from their parents' divorce — have been largely underestimated. Obviously, not every child of divorce commits crime or drops out of school. Some do well in school and even become high achievers. However, even these children experience deep and lasting emotional trauma. For all children, their parents' divorce colours their view of the world and relationships for the rest of their lives.

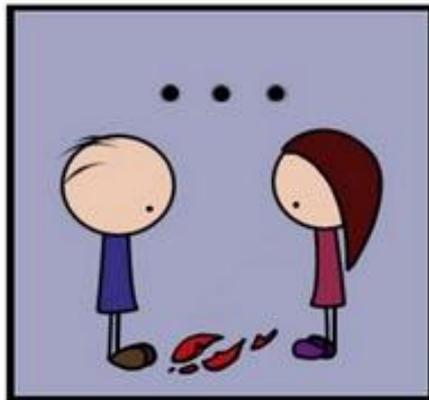
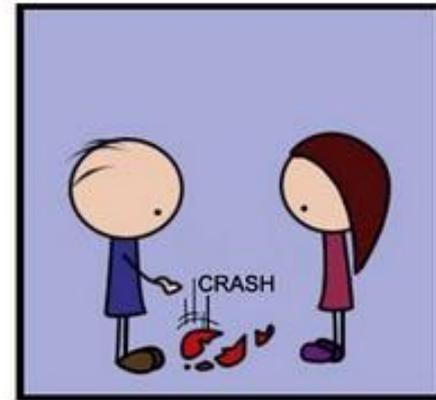
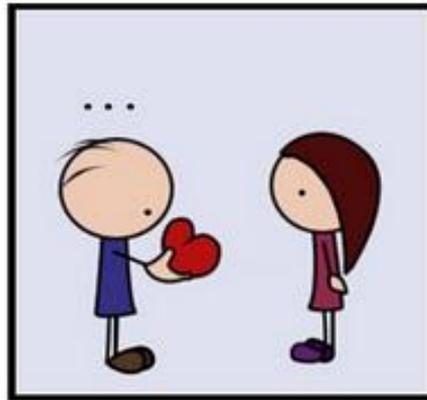


# What do we do?



- Knowing that the church refuses divorce, having friends who live in divorced family situation, how do you feel you should treat them?

# Who Is Hurting?



# Who Is Hurting?



# Who Is Hurting?



# Who Is Hurting?



What is it like for them ?



# What can I do?



- We should make sure that we are not judgmental; we should love them the same way if not better than any other friends, make sure we are a good support to them if they need us. Those friends could be going through a lot of struggle psychologically, financially or even spiritually. The role we can play in a friend's life could be the difference between them coping and progressing forwards or struggling and losing hope in life.

# Real stories, not real names



**Kerry**, 28 y.o. woman, I was surprised when she told me she lives in a caravan in someone's driveway for the last 6 months, she will stay there until they ask her to leave then she will move to a different area as she did for the last 10 years . When I enquired about the reasons, she went straight to her parent's problems. Her dad left when she was 13, she hated her mum because they were always arguing, left home when she was 14. She said I was abused, then she corrected "I allowed myself to be abused by the choice of relationships I chose, I left school, have never been back home, could not keep a job for longer than a year. I regret the past and now paying the price for it, I started calling my mum but it is difficult to change the past. I am unemployed, have not husband or children, have been on drugs and abused alcohol. I am pretty messed up".

# Real stories



- **Michael**, 19 y.o. Uni student, he came suffering from depression and low self esteem. He first felt anxious and extremely stressed when his parents were constantly fighting at (he was 10 y.o.) later on they got divorced, he became depressed and isolated, did not have friends at school, got bullied and always felt that if his stayed things would have been better. He did not feel close to his mum, both of them had a lot to deal with. He feels betrayed and lonely.



- **Melissa**, now a 35 y.o.woman. said “I did not talk to my mum for years, our relationship has been strained since my dad left home, she was depressed, angry and I always blamed her for not trying hard enough to keep dad at home. Now I know it was not her fault but our relationship is already damaged”.

# Church's opinion

- The Coptic Church's opinion regarding divorce is taken from the Holy Bible, is based on Christ's teachings, is for the benefit of our lives and for our children, long before people conduct research and come up with conclusions.