Divorce: The Only Option?

It is a time that neither Claudia nor Jack Kaiser could have imagined years earlier. Over the past couple of years, not only have they grown apart but also are reconsidering what they ever had in common to begin with. While counseling has been suggested, neither are inclined to engage in it. They are strongly considering divorce, or at least separation, as the only realistic alternative to their current situation.

You have been a long-term friend of Claudia. If you had to be objective, you would have to say that such a situation has been increasingly obvious for a considerable period. Just last Friday, that observation was solidified when Claudia confided in you,

“I don’t know what to do. We are facing a situation that neither of us saw coming. The most striking part of this is that we are not angry with each other. We are not fighting. It is just that we are finding our marriage is like an empty shell and both of us agree there should be something more if our marriage is to be fulfilling. Furthermore, this strain is increasingly affecting other parts of our lives.”

You have known both Claudia and Jack for years. You first met when both you and the Kaisers were in your late twenties with children at home. The Kaisers have been Christians for a long time although their paths to Christ have been very different. Claudia is from a family of believers who regularly attended Sunday morning church services but did little else. The Sunday morning service and related bible school classes was the extent of their commitment. Outside of church, there was little activity in her family that focused on faith development. Her two brothers who grew up in the same home elected not to follow Christ when they graduated from college.

In contrast, Jack was mostly on his own growing up. While not encouraged by his parents, Jack became an active Christ follower when he was fifteen. It just happened that several of his friends were involved in a church youth group that had sport activities throughout the year. Later, in his teens, his involvement in the church ranged from ushering during Sunday morning services to participation in the church youth group which he often led. Looking back on his youth, the important missing link to adulthood was that he never experienced Christian household leadership as part of his faith development. As such, he admittedly missed out in much of the modeling of a successful marriage relationship.

Having known the Kaisers over many years, the most striking observation is that none of the common factors that strain a marriage are apparent in the Kaiser marriage. First, you could define their living standard as comfortable. There is no evidence from your friendship that

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finances are a significant problem for the Kaisers. Perhaps an issue may be that their youngest child just entered college last fall. With the other two kids both married, Claudia and Jack have kidded that finally they can experience the empty nest. While they joke about being empty nest, they have never mentioned to you about troubles they had with the kids as they grew up. Finally, both of them are active in church and long-standing members of your mid-week Bible study group. From their participation in the group, an outsider would never expect them to be having marital problems.

It was after your last Bible study meeting that Claudia took you aside and said, “We just don’t know where to go with our marriage. You know we have been having trouble identifying our relationship now that the kids are gone. We have been praying about this both individually and together. Would you please give us your scriptural-based view on where we should go. We know there are counseling services but we both feel that we are missing something by going down that route.”

You reply that you would surely do what you can. As you see it, you need to develop a set of scriptures that could deal with the unique aspects of the Kaiser situation.

**ASSIGNMENT**

Give what common marriage counseling can provide without a Biblical structure, you must create a scriptural basis for the Kaisers’ marriage reconciliation that provides assistance in their current crisis, but also the structure for a long-term relationship.
My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: