



# *WHAT BOOMERS AREN'T TELLING YOU ABOUT MARRIAGE*

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well Pastor Mark and Grace here Beauty and the Beast welcome to um Real Marriage podcast and uh we're going to do a series a short series we're taking kind of hot headlines and uh news articles related to marriage and then want to talk about them from a Christian perspective so you good yeah okay uh here's the first headline and uh this is on AARP how old you got to be to be in ARP 60 something oh yeah we're not even close we're only in our early 50s um but I will I will look forward to my discount on nachos I can't wait for that so divorce skyrocketing among aging couples and they call it quote unquote gray divorce so people with gray hair getting divorced um and here's uh just a few Snippets Jeanie Ralston says her marriage was great until it wasn't uh just about the time the 62-year-old New Yorker would have been celebrating her 30th wedding anniversary they got divorced oh my goodness 30 years that's how long we've been together we're not getting divorced just so you know yeah and I cover my gray so it's fine yeah that's great and I just put a hat on and so um in that statistically just for those that are curious or both who care uh the most marriages that end in divorce end in the first seven years mhm statistically the seven itch is a real deal thing you would think by 30 you out of the Red Zone you know you're like we're off the red and the terror alert we're down to the green but no apparently not um and they're divorcing more than any other generation and marriage research found that divorce rates for those aged 45 and over Rose in the last decade while rates Dro for those younger so older people are now getting divorced more than younger people it talked about during Co too yeah you're stuck together yeah if you don't like each other if they do shoulder toosh shoulder all those years it can work but you don't actually have a relationship you just coexist okay we'll pick that up you're you're fact finding you're in no no you're fantastic you have good hair good Insight it's proverbs 31 uh the most significant increase in divorce was people 65 and over and the divorce rates of older women quadrupled wow so you're welcome I'm here you're so blessed and then it lastly and then we can dig in disagreements over money infidelity verbal abuse pornography substance addiction mental illness indifference is over raising adult children were the big factors for divorce so where do you want to jump in older folks are getting divorced and maybe tell them kind of where we're at we're somewhere between I like to think we're somewhere between the younger folks and the older folks sorry babe I think we're closer to the I think we're the older folks yeah uh cuz we can't eat carbs or see things I think that means we're not young um so younger people are staying married older people are getting married possible reasons why maybe start by telling them kind of where we're at what season we're in and this is kind of the Season we're entering into yeah I mean I think if you don't work on your marriage for those 30 years or however long these people have been married um and you just kind of do life but you don't actually work on your relationship as friends and keep dating and then when your kids leave the house you stand there looking at each other wondering who each other is because you were so invested in your career or your kids or whatever and then all of a sudden you're faced with wait a second who are you do I still like you and honestly I think that people have gotten more selfish and so I think that that creates a you know well what about me and my desires and my wants and I don't feel like I'm being you know achieving my potential fulfilling my dreams so and um and yeah there is a selfish so we've got five kids three are married we've got a couple of grandsons and man if we got divorced right now and we're not so kids if you're listening mom and dad are good but just practically if we got very selfish and said hey we're going to you know hit the eject button on the marriage cuz we've given our years to raising the kids and now it's me time what does that do to our kids and grandkids and the Next Generation and the Legacy everything up totally blows everything up and because as Christians we believe as marriage is a covenant that's a whole another layer and so what is it say to them

about marriage and their marriages and do they have to stick in there you know through the hard times and the good times and I just marriage is about serving it's about sacrifice it's about enjoying one another but if people go into marriage thinking it's it's for them they're not going to last very long yeah it's about each other it's about investing in each other and helping each other be you know who God intends you to be as a couple but individually too in that um and I think yeah our kids would be they wouldn't even know what to do they'd be devastated yeah they would question everything you know cuz that's what we've we've built our life on the Covenant of God with us as Believers and then the Covenant of marriage and family and they just yeah they would be completely confused especially as newly married exactly like if Mom and Dad are Christians and made it 30 years and that didn't work right you know why even start down that road if it ends up with a rollover you know on fire you know death trap why even why even get in the car and go down that road they also wouldn't want to take any advice from us no we'd lose all authority to try to give any wise counsel or coach them be like hey if you consider this so be like you just emptied your um wisdom account you're bankrupt maybe explain the difference you intimated at it uh we talk about this in our first marriage book which is crazy over a decade ago uh real marriage but um the difference between back to back shoulder-to-shoulder face to face yeah um we do shoulder-to-shoulder really well together that's just working alongside each other the tasks of the day taking care of we can remodel a house we can move we can plant a church we can write a book we're both hard working and we're both good at different things so we can invest our time in different things alongside each other we actually before we were married when we were dating we worked alongside each other in different businesses and never had any issues so that's really easy for us to default to um and when the kids are little you have plenty of excuses and they're reasonable the kids are kids are innately selfish they think they're the center of the universe they don't wake up and pray Lord Jesus help me you know secure my parents marital Covenant today by being unselfish you know uh it just doesn't work that way and so the kids can be constantly demanding and putting themselves in priority yeah and if you let that continue to go and not do you know dating each other investing in that marriage relationship then it's easy for it to turn into a backtack where you you get resentful about things and don't talk it through you Harbor bitterness you you know don't forgive for something or you just have parallel lives and often times dad is at work chasing a career generating Revenue to take care of the family mom is home focused on kids or chasing a career yeah well and if she's if she's trying to chase a career Andy's chasing a career and they're raising kids right I hate to say it it's almost guaranteed you're going to be stuck in shoulder-to-shoulder and back to back because there's no time left yeah um So within that if you do too much shoulder-to-shoulder eventually you get back to back and you're like I'm not really looking at you you're not really looking at me you're not really a priority and neither am I and we've already just kind of had the Practical divorce may as well fill out the paperwork yeah you literally aren't looking at each other and you don't see eye to eye anymore it's literally because you're back to back and then face to face is what you want in a marriage and what you have to do to maintain a happy joyful um peaceful forgiving marriage and that's spending time together intentionally investing listening well um considering each other and having those hard conversations and having fun fun having fun making memory so you know so you know date to get married date to stay married if you stop dating you're starting the end of your marriage yeah and uh and for us we're at this season now where we have one kid left at home he's actually this is his 18th birthday that we're filming this so he can technically buy a gun and vote he's excited about both um and uh you know we're happy to report he's not a Democrat so that would explain the gun portion of the comment as

well and uh and so you know we're looking at Empty Nest he's going to college in the fall and uh I didn't know we'd get into all of this we kind of verbal process as we go but you know how many times in our marriage if we had to sit down and have a really hard conversation about a reset like it's a new season we're drifting we're not getting enough time together the kids are taking too much and we love our kids with all of our heart work is taking too much because I've got real Faith which is one comp one Ministry and I've got Trinity which is another Ministry and we both serve and and life is full and growing and it's almost like when you're young you plant a garden and when you're old everything blossoms ideally um and then the problem is though everything's choking each other out because there's too much in the garden and that's kind of where we're at like family's growing Ministry is growing with real Faith Church is growing with Trinity life is growing and it's like now it's just choking everything out there's not enough time and energy um to really be present for each other in the way that we need to be yeah and it's easy to grab at our thing in those Seasons like well I want to keep doing this well you want to keep doing this well if it doesn't work if it doesn't allow for connection then we got to make sacrifices and figure out a plan and both sides usually need to sacrifice because you're in your fullness of life and it's hard to think of letting go of something but it's only so that then you can have more blossoming and more flourishing especially for us with the kids and grandkids there's just a lot coming and so we need to plan for that so yeah we've we've had to have those conversations I mean so many times before we had kids with each kid as the kids were in their teens you know like there's so many of those conversations to really re-architect okay we've done this for this season it's worked it's kind of not working right now what pivot do we need to make what conversation do we need to have um how are we feeling about each other right now you know are we missing each other are we connected just being really honest about those things in those seasons and it's important to have those because otherwise you just do shoulder shoulder and keep going with life and then in 30 years like these people they realize they don't have a relationship that they've invested in anymore well and maybe you built a great company M or maybe you were very present for your kids but if your marriage isn't the priority above those things then we're even seeing at our age a lot of couples that are Christians and their their marriages are cratering or divorcing and it's it's like deferred maintenance it's like the check engine light has been on you know for 20 years and you just kept driving it and you thought well it's not going great but at least we're going down the road until one day it just you know the motor grenades and the whole thing blows up and the whole family's in crisis and so it's investing in your marriage before the crisis comes and for us right now I mean this is a constant this is humbling it is um it is humbling like we just we've had conversations with our adult kids that are now having their own kids and they're like your lives are too full we we love you you need to pull back you need more margin you know we want you to be available for the grandkids like absolutely like we we dreamt When We Were Young about staying married seeing our kids grow up to love Jesus marry somebody who loves Jesus and giving us grandkids but if we're not intentional everything we've been working on won't allow the time and margin for us to be together and to enjoy you know the kids and the grandkids and so we're even in a reset season this year 2024 for us is a reset and we're going and maybe just tell them the process that we're going through I tend to be what's more of a quick start which means I want to ready aimed fire get a solution as soon as possible and I carry my notebook around and I make plans and backup plans and this is my backup brain you're a FactFinder so you want to do all the research have the conversations consider the downside and so we're better together uh but even practically maybe some things that we're doing right now that if couples are hearing this are like I don't want to go

30 years and then get to divorce yeah like I want to make adjustments along the way so that the later years are the better years that's right yeah cuz otherwise it just seems depressing to hang in there um yeah we're having conversations with each of the couples because they're each a family when they get married and so we're having couples with each of them kind of seeing okay what what do you need us for in this season of life um how can we come alongside support be helpful um and so that's a conversation with those three couples and then a daughter that's not married having a conversation with her how we can still come alongside her be wise counsel for her be emotional support to her um but also let her differentiate and then with the youngest who's graduating this year um you know what does it look like for us to launch you into college and um you know help you move the Practical you know but also not just disappear because you know you're 18 now go go do life that's not how it works Works um you know you become less and less of a a caregiver caregiver in their life but you still have a voice hopefully if you have a relationship with your kids that's the that's the way it needs to go but um yeah so just having those individual conversations and then bringing all that back and then you and I talking about okay what does this practically look like for us what in our schedule what in our time what you know if we're traveling or any of the details of Life what does this look like what do we need to give up what do we need to add what do we need to you know what does this look like for you and for me it's real practical it's going for prayer walks and listening and verbal processing with God because sometimes you're just frustrated you're like it's not working but I don't know how to fix it to me it's seeking wise counsel I met with somebody this week that is very wise and uh she's a kind of a business coach person and was like you see a lot of leaders like let me sketch this out and she was great she was I'm preaching on Deborah she's kind of like Deborah in the Bible she's really wise um I carry my notebook around and as things come up like I got to we got to figure out how to fix this uh this is something the Lord burdened me this is what one of my kids said this is something that broke and I try to make note of it so that I can go back and try and reverse engineer and architect it and we're going for a lot of walks and for us it's holding hands we're in Arizona so like if if you're in Buffalo New York you know yeah not probably going snow boots out maybe take a trip to Scottsdale Arizona visit us at Trinity Church and go for a walk outside but yeah I like to go for walks and hold hands and just talk like okay let's let's talk about okay what do you want to do with the kids what do we and even things now like okay we got a bunch of grandkids coming like what do you want to do for a house you know what do we want to do for the holidays how much do you know probably going to we are going to cut way back on travel just so we're available like these life adjustments so that we can be together enjoying the people and things that are the priority Pastor Jimmy Evans has got an annual Vision Retreat that our kids have done and we have done that we also really recommend and then every Monday we do a calendar meeting we sit down it's like okay let's look at this week and then let's look well and way into the future so that all of our priorities get in our schedule and get on our budget and it's a lot of intentionality and we have a shared calendar so that we can make sure that we're sinking life up so any other practicals I mean yeah praying about it praying together about all of it yeah listening well to the Lord and um yeah just being willing to um receive the next season of life as it comes and not cuz I I'm slow to change change is hard for you yeah it is and because I invest fully when I'm invested in a season and so the thought of change is disorienting for me um and I'm always thankful when the Lord guides me through that and you lead me through that um on the other side of it but the change itself can be hard and so I have to really um sometimes wrestle with the Lord and just ask him okay Lord where where do I need to um surrender some things um so that I'm both being obedient but that I can also enjoy the next

season and not wish that I was in the previous season because I don't want to be resentful about it um and so yeah I just have to have some serious conversations with the Lord on my own heart and and just asking him to speak into that and and even show me kind of some hope for the future and what you know what the plans that he has and I like change I know you do and I like we're opposite that but by you um doing more fact finding and looking at the Practical it does slow things down but it makes it better and it used to frustrate me it's like hey let's move faster it's like well just cuz you're just CU you're changing things doesn't mean you're improving things right that's true and so by taking a little time praying getting on the same page and having a common shared Vision rather than division which is two visions which is Jesus warning against uh yeah then the goal is like let's get a plan for life that works and then let's work together on that life but the whole goal is not just to keep doing shoulder Toss shoulder but to build that life and then live in it so that you're face to face y um for those who are young I would say uh don't just assume that if you love Jesus and each other it's going to work it takes intentionality and if you're older and you're just feeling you're in your 40s 50s 60s 7s you're like it's not working then I think it's good to sort of raise your hand and say I love you and I want to make this work and I'm concerned if we keep on this path that it's not going to be good and I don't want to scare you but I want to invite you uh into a process where we we make sure we have a good future together yeah you want to pray for him or anything else you'd add that's great okay thanks babe dear Lord thank you for this opportunity just to speak into lives of other couples that are um maybe going through a similar situation as this article or maybe they're brand new into marriage and they just need some hope and some wisdom so Lord I just pray that you would speak through our words and just allow them to really have healthy conversations so that they can stay in their Covenant of marriage and that that can be a blessed thing for them in Jesus name amen