



Top10 issues



facing today's family

10. Materialism 9. Balance of work and family 8. Negative media influences 7. Lack of communication
6. Financial pressures 5. Lack of discipline 4. Absent father figure 3. Busyness 2. Divorce 1. Anti-Christian culture

 print document  save to disk  hide/show menus  get adobe acrobat reader



Introduction

A two-round survey conducted last November and December by the Internet strategies department of LifeWay Christian Resources found that modern families struggle with a variety of issues ranging from an anti-Christian culture to materialism. In November 2005, the Internet strategies department of LifeWay, an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention, began soliciting participation in the Top 10 Issues Facing Today's Family online research project. From the initial list of responses, LifeWay compiled the 20 most frequently submitted answers and sent that list to the original survey respondents. During January, those participants used the same Internet survey tool to rank their top 10 from among those 20 issues.

LifeWay began revealing the results of the survey in early March with the announcement of materialism as the No. 10 issue. Each week, the Internet strategies department unveiled another topic in ascending order along with an extensive list of resources and information addressing that issue. Ministry areas throughout LifeWay are offering materials such as articles, movie clips, dramas, Web sites, sermons, Scripture passages and illustrations intended to aid ministry leaders in helping others or directly assist families facing the problems.

“This was an opportunity to put forward the best our organization has to offer related to the top issues as identified by the survey participants,” said Michael Epps Utley, marketing coordinator in Internet strategies. “LifeWay exists to provide biblical solutions for life, and this survey gave us some additional insight into the solutions people are looking for in order to address key challenges among their families.”

“Some of the survey results proved somewhat surprising,” Utley said. For instance, it was expected that substance abuse would rank in the top 10. Instead, unexpected issues such as busyness (No. 3) and lack of communication (No. 7) received a majority of votes.

Overall, more than 2,000 people from around the country offered their opinions in the survey, making this survey pool even larger than the one that contributed to last year's Top 10 Issues Facing Today's Church research project.





10 Materialism

“The placing in high regard of ownership and consumption as a family priority.”

“Materialism is being hurled at us in every television, billboard, radio, and internet screen we encounter, not to mention peer pressure. Too often parents substitute “presents” for “presence” which, I think, leads children to value things more than people.”

Vickie R. Springfield, GA

Families throughout the developed world are subjected to an unceasing flow of advertising, image-making, and plain old selling of consumer goods and services. And... we are buying it. While the freedom to make consumer choices depends on this open market, the high pressure to buy more has other effects. These include consumer debt, lack of savings, and overextended parents.

Much of this commercial pressure is applied to reaching “decision makers” and “purchase influencers” as young as age two. Even mature consumers are falling prey to the trap of consumption that outstrips earning power or even earning potential. Feeding this fire are the seemingly unlimited offers of consumer credit sent through the mail and over the airwaves.

In a “stuff” -oriented culture, the Gospel is drowned out. We listen to our own insecurities and greed rather than finding fulfillment in Jesus Christ alone. A life of peace with God's provision is lost.

Rampant consumption also levies direct costs; families trapped in the race to satisfy wants and desires fall prey to financial stress, dissatisfaction, and bitterness.

The number 10 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Materialism.”

“We suffer from Affluenza in this country – we have so much, and kids are learning to want more and more and more, without assessing the true value of “things” in life, or the fact that so many do without.”

Patty F. Henderson, NV





10 Materialism: Resources

“Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

But the disciples were astonished at His words. Again Jesus said to them, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” **Mark 10:23-25**

Holman CSB® [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

Dave Ramsey

Financial Peace University is a 13-week, life-changing program for a total money makeover.

Crown Financial Ministries

Core values include recognition of God’s ownership of all things, the need to pray about everything, and the desire to equip and serve others with excellence.

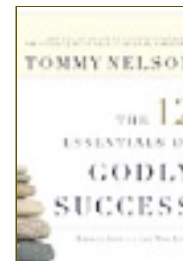
LifeWay.com’s Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

ADULT EVENTS

Discover the many ongoing adult enrichment events at two LifeWay conference centers and across the country.



BOOKS AND RESOURCES

The 12 Essentials of Godly Success

Broadman & Holman | 9/15/2005 | Hardcover | \$19.99

In a success-driven culture, measuring one’s worth is too often dependent upon what one has attained. And just as often this exercise leads to despair.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“It’s All His Anyway” Psalm 89:11-12

This sermon by Lloyd Stilley has excellent illustrations to help people understand the biblical concept of life stewardship.

“Stockpiling to Sharing” Luke 12:13-21; 21:1-4

Wondering how much to put into the offering plate? A lady once said, “Don’t worry! If you put in too much God will give it back.”

[MORE SERMONS](#)





9 Balance of Work and Family

“The rising pressure to invest more of one’s energy in work at the expense of family.”

Often, a moment of decision is not a decision at all, but the logical choice given thousands of decisions made in the past. The decision to work late, go back into the office, see one more client, etc. was made before the event... when the deed was signed, the purchase was made, the private school application was submitted... etc.

Also, the dream of having one parent stay home to raise the kids full-time seems to be getting less and less likely for families. Despite the high priority we say we place on family, other good priorities seem to crowd out time with children. These include the need for the right education, the need for a good home in a nice neighborhood, and the honor and feelings of accomplishment that come with success.

However, the stakes are getting higher. No longer is working too hard merely costing parents the joy of time with children – children increasingly are seeking attention from other sources.

The number 9 topic facing today’s family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Balance of Work and Family.”

**“Mom comes home tired,
Dad comes home tired.
Family life suffers - nutrition
suffers, homework for school
suffers, kids must make
decisions for themselves that
parents should make for them.
Too much emphasis on material
things, not Godly things..”**

Diane W. Guyton, GA

**“Children are spending
more and more time away
from busy mom and dads
which is hurting their men-
tal and spiritual growth.”**

Toby D. Kansas City, MO





9 Balance of Work and Family Resources

“Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.” *Psalms 90:12*, “Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” *Matthew 11:28-30 Holman CSB®*

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

Men's Fraternity: Helping Men Reach Up

Surround yourself with other Christian males - guys who can challenge you, share your struggles, help you up when you stumble, and cheer for your successes.

Focus on the Family

Dr. James Dobson's method attempts to “turn hearts toward home” by reasonable, biblical and empirical insights.

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Family Balance](#)

[Managing Time and Priorities](#)

[Integrating Work and Family](#)

[The Balancing Act](#)

[How to Find Balance as a Working Mom](#)



BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Men's Fraternity:

Winning @ Work & Home - Viewer Guide

LifeWay Church Resources | 2006 | Paperback | \$9.95

Focuses on the chief responsibilities men have. The study presents 2 mirrors to help men evaluate how they are doing in life: the mirror of work and career, and the mirror of home and family.

MORE RESOURCES

SERMONS

“Making Your Home a Field of Dreams” and “Homerun for the Home” Sermon Series

In these two series Steve Andrews, Sr. Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia, used his experience as a little league baseball coach and dad to develop two creative sermon series around a “baseball” theme to help build up families in your church.

MORE SERMONS





8 Negative Media Influences

“The growing influx of destructive images and messages into the home.”

The media, more specifically the entertainment media, have long been the subject of criticism by Christians and traditionalists... and for good reason. Since the invention of the printing press brought about cheap print, a wedge has been driven into Western culture. The disposability and constant market for new entertainment content makes it a natural battleground between two competing forces. Those forces are values that promote the family versus values to pleasure the individual.

“We may not like to admit it, but everything influences us. Parents should monitor all media. The media continues to increase in promoting not just entertainment but also a worldly agenda.”

Cheri S. Las Vegas, NV

Our modern entertainment media, rampant with sex, violence, and anti-authoritarian sentiment, traces its roots to the rise of “carnival” in Europe in the 16th century -- a festival of rebellion against the Church allowed one day per year that since has evolved into what we know as Mardi Gras.

In recent years, however, personal pleasure and freedom have been enshrined to the point that family values are not merely rebelled against but are considered a threat. The traditional values of faith, nation, and family are being overwhelmed by a juggernaut of image and sound across numerous platforms.

The number 8 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Negative Media Influences.”

“ We are being desensitized daily to what one should tolerate to the point of not recognizing sin as sin but accepting it as the way things are.”

Tara H. Huber Heights, OH





8 Negative Media Influences: Resources

“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise, dwell on these things.” *Philippians 4:8*

Holman CSB® [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

BSafe Online

Reliable protection from harmful sites that promote pornography, hate, violence, racism, sex and a host of other obscene, objectionable materials.

Clean Films

Family-safe movies sent to your home. Clean Films edits popular movies to qualify for a PG rating.

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Video Games and the Real World](#)

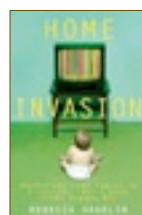
[Just Like in the Movies?](#)

[What Are Movies Saying About Our Culture and Christians?](#)

[Caught in the Web of Addiction](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

BOOKS AND RESOURCES



Home Invasion

Nelson | 2005 | Media: Hardcover | \$22.99

Worried about protecting your family in today's culture? This book can help you raise a Christian family amidst the moral decline in today's world.



Movie Nights for Teens

Focus on the Family Publishing | 2005 | Paperback | \$12.99

25 Movies to Spark Spiritual Discussions with Your Teen

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS AND SLIDES FROM SERMONCENTRAL

“Communication” (PowerPoint Slide)

“Oneway” (PowerPoint Slide)

“Mind over Media” (sermon)

“The Curse of Pornography” (sermon)





7 Lack of Communication

“The near elimination of meaningful family member interaction.”

Cell phones, email, text messaging, instant messaging... there are more ways than ever to stay in touch. But family communication continues to be a challenge. Combined with the forces of increased levels of activities and more and more options for entertainment, time together to ‘just talk’ ebbs further.

“Cell phones, the Internet, digital satellite systems, and play stations are becoming substitutes for relationships. Families can not communicate effectively because of text messaging or using a cell phone talking to some one rather than being with the person in physical proximity.”

Robert C. Bogart, GA

These growing influences do not limit the amount of communication necessarily, but change the type of interaction that occurs. Rather than long stretches of time together in which issues have time to bubble to the surface, families have more perfunctory exchanges of planning for times and places.

Instant access to children by cell phone offers a feeling of safety, but furthers the freedom to spend time among friends over family. Music players and game consoles further isolate boys to a personal soundspace or their rooms while young girls are spending hours at a time chatting online and forming virtual relationships at great risk.

The number 7 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Lack of Communication.”

“Perhaps no other activity provides the intimate sharing and conversation time as a calm, comfortable meal together. The rush of today's schedules prevent families from having this provision.”

Dan W. Kosciusko, MS





7 Lack of Communication: Resources

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. And fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” *Ephesians 6:1-4 Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

Ministry Insights

Increase communication and build closer relationships during this crucial time in your family's life.

Focus on the Family

Dr. James Dobson's method attempts to “turn hearts toward home” by reasonable, biblical and empirical insights.

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Relational Parenting](#)

[6 Ways to Gain the Respect of Your Children](#)

[4 Ways to Let Your Family Know they are Important](#)

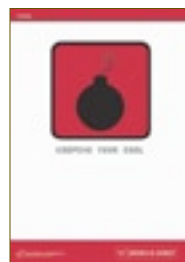
[Taming a Mouse Potato](#)

[Connecting the Hearts of Parents and Teenagers in 30 Days](#)

[Disconnected Parents and Disconnected Teens](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

BOOKS AND RESOURCES



Keeping Your Cool

Serendipity House | Paperback | \$6.99

We all find ourselves in stressful situations, but you can survive and even thrive as you walk through life's hassles.



Love Talk Workbook for Men: Speak Each Other's Language Like You Never Have Before

Zondervan Publishing Company | 2004 | Paperback | \$7.99

Follow the deep yet simple plan prescribed in *Love Talk* and begin communicating your way into a happier, healthier, and stronger relationship.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“Plans for Building a Christian Home” Psalm 127

“Parenting Is Not for Chickens” 1 Samuel 4:10-22

[MORE SERMONS](#)





6 Financial Pressures

“The chronic misuse of debt and/or mismanagement of financial resources.”

“The pressure felt by many people to “have” so much “stuff” is overwhelming and credit is an easy way to fulfill the wants and perceived needs. However, its long-term affect is to cause anxiety and frustration when the bills can’t be paid and the spending must be stopped.”

Shirley B. Ocala, FL

Debt, finances, credit cards, rising costs... the list goes on. Each idea generates a sick feeling in the pit of one's gut. Money is a divining rod for revealing one's values and desires. And within the practical, emotional, even spiritual dynamics of being part of a family, the effect is intensified. If we took the time to evaluate our spending over the course of a year (as many people do), the results would tell us what we do value rather than what we say we value.

Why are we stressed about money? We are stressed because it is a good indicator of priorities based in our earthly desires. And further, our earthly desires can be powerfully misleading forces in the decisions we make daily with our finances.

The number 6 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Financial Pressures.”

“Living costs are rising rapidly, especially in terms of health care, prescriptions, and health insurance premiums. It is hard to stay on budget when living costs rise significantly faster than income.”

Osborne B. Blandon, PA





6 Financial Pressures: Resources

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!” **1 Timothy 6:17-19** *Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

Dave Ramsey

Financial Peace University is a 13-week, life-changing program for a total money makeover.

LifeWay.com Career & Finance

Exclusive articles and news related to Career & Finances

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Learning Not to Fear the Future](#)

[When Monthly Payments Aren't Easy](#)

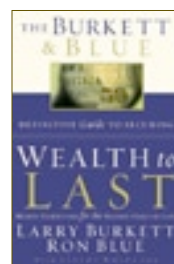
[Low Income Help](#)

[Morality and Economics](#)

[Gambling: Don't Bet Your Life](#)

[10 Common Tax Mistakes](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

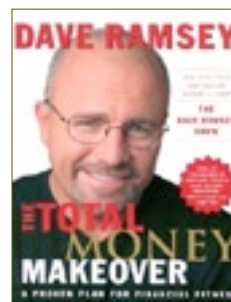


BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Wealth to Last

Broadman & Holman | Hardcover | \$22.99

The two most revered and trusted names in Christian finance have teamed up to create THE book for building your solid financial future.



The Total Money Makeover

Thomas Nelson Publishers | Hardcover | \$24.99

Respected Christian financial expert Dave Ramsey offers a practical, biblically-based action plan to help get you in the best financial shape of your life.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“Getting and Giving” Mathew 16:26

“It's All His Anyway” Psalm 89:11-12

[MORE SERMONS](#)





5 Lack of Discipline

“The death of respectful behavior as a norm in our schools, churches, and families.”

Ward and June Cleaver seemed to have it so easy. A stern look from Father, and you knew you were “in for it.”

“Two sides of the same coin are self-discipline and self-respect. Children do not see the modeling of these attributes in parents or other adults, therefore they grow into self-absorbed and selfish adults.”

Jeff P. Dacula, GA

Think for a moment of times you have seen children badly misbehaving in a grocery store. Think of the times they have been your kids!

We are in a different place than the Cleavers. What has changed? While some families strive to provide consistency and high standards, a culture of disrespect creates a sometimes overwhelming pressure against them. A spirit of rebelliousness pervades our schools and youth culture, more and more often with tragic results.

Gee Wally, things sure have changed.

The number 5 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Lack of Discipline.”

“Without discipline and respect in the home, there is none in the world.”

Karen B. Marshall, TX





5 Lack of Discipline: Resources

“No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” **Hebrews 12:11**, “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing in the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won’t become discouraged.” **Colossians 3:20-21** *Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

[LifeWay.com's Family Channel](#)

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

[Focus on the Family](#)

Dr. James Dobson's method attempts to “turn hearts toward home” by reasonable, biblical and empirical insights so people will be able to discover the founder of homes and the creator of families: Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Parents Wary of Teens' Involvement in Social Websites](#)

[Top 10 Discipline Tips for Parents of Teenagers](#)

[Flying Lessons](#)

[Teach Tweens to Make Good Decisions](#)

[Help Teens with Decision Making](#)

[How to Deal with Discipline Issues](#)

[Ground Rules for Discipline in Youth Groups](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)



BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Parenting From Your Strengths

Broadman & Holman | 2006 | \$14.99

Helps parents-and their children-get on the same page, build more harmony, and head off potential conflicts.



Effective Parenting in a Defective World - DVD Kit

Walk Thru The Bible Publishing | DVD Kit | \$99.95

Moms and dads will find clear outlines for the roles they and God play in the parenting process, as well as discover practical lessons.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“Parenting Is Not for Chickens” 1 Samuel 4:10-22

“Making Your Home a Field of Dreams & Homerun for the Home” Two 5-Sermon Series)

[MORE SERMONS](#)



4 Father Figure

“The absence of a father in the home or lack of strong participation in the family.”

“The father plays a most important role in the stability of the family, and when he is missing (from divorce, etc.), the family structure is unbalanced and void of the male figure God intended to lead and grow the family. Children are growing up with trust issues, along with bitterness toward the male role from the feeling of abandonment.”

Pam N. Brooks, GA

The dissolution of the nuclear family has occurred for a number of reasons. The rise in frequency of divorce, and the recent increase in alternative family structures has left many children, some from the time of birth, deprived of a male role model.

Besides Biblical norms or traditional values, there are significant repercussions. These include developmental issues such as a lack of self-control and can be an indicator of likelihood to abuse drugs.

The number 4 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is the lack of a “Father Figure.”

“ If the fathers in our families do not take the spiritual leadership how will our children learn to follow God, their heavenly father's, leadership?”

Ranita K. Woodward, OK





4 Father Figure: Resources

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. And fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” *Ephesians 6:1-4 Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Glorieta Adventure

A Men's Outdoor Event - Fly Fishing in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico

Be the Man: Men Pursuing God 2007

May 4-5, 2007

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina

[MORE EXPERIENCES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[Raising 'God's Children': Advice to Fathers](#)

[7 Steps for Effective Fathering](#)

[Fathering the Young Man in the Mirror](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

BOOKS AND RESOURCES



What a Daughter Needs From Her Dad

Bethany House Publishers | Hardcover | 2004 | \$14.99

Addresses issues common in all families with daughters: friends, dating, personal appearance, and preparing for the roles she'll have as a woman.



Preparing Your Son for Every Man's Battle

Waterbrook Press | 2003 | Paperback | \$13.99

Biblical information and spiritual insights your son needs to stand strong, overcome temptation, and experience the blessings of godly obedience.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“Every Team Needs a Coach - Encouraging Fathers to Step Up to the Plate” [Ephesians 6:1-4](#)

“The Far Country (Prodigal Son)” [Luke 15:11-32](#)

[MORE SERMONS](#)





3 Busyness

“The participation in numerous activities crowding out quality family fellowship.”

“We’re too busy to spend time with God. Consequently, we don’t know God who God is which means we don’t know who we are. We then try to establish our value ourselves through fame or fortune which causes us to be too busy (see the circle?).”

G. R. Stockbridge, GA

One bag for soccer. One more bag for Tae Kwon Do. Another for swimming, and then there’s baseball and choir practice. Our closets.. and our calendars... are bursting.

Many parents are faced with a unique problem in human history -- too much of a good thing. Opportunities to participate in children’s sports leagues, the arts, church activities, neighborhood organizations, and more have never been greater.

However, the temptation to “overdo it,” can have drastic implications -- poor eating habits, little time in unscheduled play for small children, less time together for parents or as a family, and the increased stress of making it to another lesson, practice, or meeting.

The number 3 topic facing today’s family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Busyness.”

“Satan uses busyness to think we are being productive, meanwhile, our relationships, our families, our churches are faltering.”

Tom K. Bowie, MD





3 Busyness: Resources

“He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint. *Isaiah 40:29-31* Holman CSB® [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

Michael Zigarelli: “Busyness Professor”

This father of four created *Freedom from Busyness*, a small group study that addresses our hectic lifestyle and how it affects our health, families, and most importantly, our relationship with God.

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

LifeWay.com’s Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

[A Biblical Remedy for Busyness](#)

[Chronic Busyness: No Time to Think](#)

[New Lumps for the New Year](#)

[Family Fence Busters](#)

[Carpool Tunnel Syndrome](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

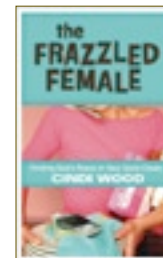


BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Freedom From Busyness

LifeWay Church Resources | 2/06 | DVD/CD-Rom | \$74.95

In 5 sessions, you’ll learn how to create a plan of action resulting in a more reasonable pace of life, and discover true contentment and joy.



The Frazzled Female

Broadman & Holman | Jan. 2006 | Hardcover | \$12.99

Reaches out to busy ladies everywhere, guiding them to sanity, peace, and a deeper, more vibrant relationship with the Lord with wisdom and humor.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS AND SLIDES FROM SERMONCENTRAL

“Weathering the Storm” (PowerPoint Templates)

“Too Busy Not to Pray” (Sermon Outline)

“Coping with the Busyness of Life” (Sermon Outline)

[MORE SERMONS](#)





2 Divorce

“The ongoing wave of broken marriages and families within the church and without.”

“Books have been written, movies have been produced, and studies have been conducted and still the ravages of divorce continue to reach depths unheard of among Americans. While adults are suffering, children are hurt so deeply that most will continue the divorce cycle into their own marriages.”

James M. Wartburg, TN

There is no ceremony for the end of a marriage. The great pain that comes from a broken relationship is compounded by the hurt so often caused to children. In addition to the deep suffering, there are complications in financial and other life issues.

Tragically, divorce rates within the church are not lower than the culture at large.

What does differentiate the church and the culture is the response to the problem. Churches are responding with greater efforts in pre-marital counseling, couples discipleship, and efforts to increase men's role as positive leaders within the family.

The culture at large is faced with anti-marriage options running the gamut from a “test” phase of co-habitation prior to marriage all the way to the avoidance or the outright re-definition of marriage.

The number 2 topic facing today's family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Divorce.”

“Divorce seems to be on the increase, even among Christian families, leaving many to wonder (especially children) what commitment really means.”

Sherri W. Simpsonville, SC





2 Divorce: Resources

“I command the married - not I, but the Lord - a wife is not to leave[6] Or separate from, or divorce her husband. But if she does leave, she must remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband - and a husband is not to leave his wife. But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has an unbelieving wife, and she is willing to live with him, he must not leave her. Also, if any woman has an unbelieving husband, and he is willing to live with her, she must not leave her husband.” **1 Corinthians 7:13** *Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

ADULT EVENTS

Discover the many ongoing adult enrichment events at two LifeWay conference centers and across the country.

DIVORCE CARE

Healing and encouragement.

HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS

LifeWay.com's Family Channel

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

MINISTRY ARTICLES

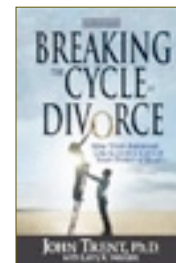
[The Day My Wife Asked for a Divorce](#)

[Poll Says Children of Divorce Negatively Affected](#)

[In Rejecting Christianity Will Society Re-Define Marriage?](#)

[As Long as We Both Shall Feel Like It](#)

[MORE ARTICLES](#)

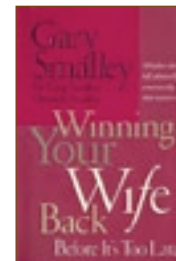


BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Breaking the Cycle of Divorce

Focus on the Family Publishing | Hardcover | 2006 | \$19.99

Gain an understanding of the patterns that exist in a relationship leading to divorce. Address the deep issues of being a child of divorce.



Winning Your Wife Back Before It's Too Late

Nelson Books | Paperback | Sept 2004 | \$12.99

Real-life examples offer insight into how other men won their wives back, and a workbook section helps men develop a personalized plan for their situations.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

SERMONS

“Is Your Marriage Winning?” [Ruth 3:15-18](#)

“Just the Three of Us” [Colossians 3:16-19](#)

[MORE SERMONS](#)





1

Anti-Christian Culture

“The stripping away of Christian heritage and traditional values.”

“When Church members don’t have a Christian worldview they will readily accept and live according to ideas that are non-biblical and even anti-Christian. Thus they are not the salt and light which will influence non-believers to become believers.”

Alan C. Kansas City, MO

Removing ‘Christ’ from Christmas, banning references to the 10 Commandments, outlawing public prayer... there seems to be a lot of resistance to acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God.

Why is the culture so sensitive to faith? Has a purely materialistic view of the universe become so dominant that matters of belief cannot be tolerated in public?

What principles of behavior and right dealing can serve as universal values in place of the Christian Gospel? Is a culture that enshrines absolute freedom and radical individualism safe from itself? The answer is not known, but one thing is certain... if we continue on this path, it will be.

The number 1 topic facing today’s family, as expressed by individuals from a range of backgrounds, is “Anti-Christian Culture.”

“Fewer and fewer of my children’s friends from school have Christian upbringing, knowledge of God’s Word and how it applies to them. Many of the parents don’t even care.”

Allison K. Clearwater, FL





1 Anti-Christian Culture: Resources

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” *Matthew 5:13-16 Holman CSB®* [MORE SCRIPTURES](#)

[HELPFUL MINISTRY LINKS](#)

[Apologetics @ LifeWay.com](#)

How is the culture confronting Biblical faith in education, law, science, politics, and the public square? More importantly, how can Christians address the culture by pointing people to Jesus Christ?

[LifeWay.com's Family Channel](#)

Articles and resources to help with everyday life

[MINISTRY ARTICLES](#)

[Can God Bless America if America Doesn't Bless God?](#)

[Come Together: Being More than Island Christians](#)

[The Last Enemy](#)

[Proliferation of Public Profanity a Cultural & Spiritual Problem](#)

[America, Honor God](#)

[Okay... I'm Offended](#)

[The World Still Wants to Hear 'Merry Christmas'](#)

[Helping Children Develop a Biblical Worldview](#)



[BOOKS AND RESOURCES](#)

ACLU vs America

Broadman & Holman | Sept. 2005 | Paperback | \$14.99

Thanks to the ACLU, the church has been progressively silenced as human life continues to be cheapened-both at birth and death.



Countering Culture: Arming Yourself to Confront Non-Biblical Worldviews

Broadman & Holman | May 2004 | Paperback | \$29.99

Take a reasoned stand for biblical principles in the classroom as well as in the boardroom.

[MORE RESOURCES](#)

[SERMONS](#)

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” [Matthew 28:1-20](#)

“Disrespect to Respect” [1 Peter 2:13-3:22](#)

“Valuing Life” [Hebrews 11:23](#) and [Exodus 1-2:10](#)

[MORE SERMONS](#)





Sponsors

The following organizations graciously contributed to the success of the Top 10 Issues project.



BILLY GRAHAM TV SPECIALS

Delivering a message of hope.



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Earn your degree at home from a Christian University



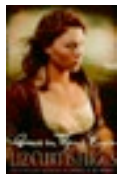
APEX MOVING & STORAGE CO.

Offering a wide range of organizational and individual relocation services.



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN CREDIT UNION

Ministry-minded financial services.



GRACE IN THINE EYES

Novel by Liz Curtis Higgs is a recreation of Dinah's story in Genesis and speaks of the healing God offers.





About LifeWay

LifeWay Christian Resources is one of the world's largest providers of Christian products and services, including Bibles, church literature, books, music, audio and video recordings, church supplies and Internet services through lifeway.com.

Established in Nashville, Tenn., in 1891, the company owns and operates 125 LifeWay Christian Stores throughout the United States, as well as two of the largest Christian conference centers in the country.

Through its Broadman & Holman division, LifeWay has produced one of the most accurate and readable Bible translations ever – the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

553 distributors currently sell LifeWay products in 81 countries.

For more information about LifeWay, please go to <http://www.lifeway.com>

To email comments or questions regarding this study: netministry@lifeway.com

