

Review of *Prayerful Passages: Asking God's Help in Reconciliation, Separation and Divorce* (Outskirts Press, 2016) by Jack H. Emmott

Reviewer: Missus Gonzo, May 4, 2016

Growing up Baptist, I've attended many churches and seminars that are Bible-based. When I went away to college, I took a Bible as Literature class to open up my spiritual world. As a relatively new believer in no "true and correct" religion, I still maintain the idea that Christianity must be Bible-based. And according to the Bible, divorce is a no no in most cases.

Emmott provides an excellent resource for people who are so distraught that they lack the ability to form the words to ask God for help. And I was impressed that he provides the template for so many different scenarios that a person might find themselves in; whether that is reconciling a marriage, separating temporarily, or divorce. He also suggests prayers for those with or without children.

I only wish that Emmott provided Bible passages for the reader to immerse themselves in. Specifically, passages that explain why divorce is not desirable. And I wish that he had provided resources within the book for those who are doing all that they can to save their marriage. Praying for help is good, but one has to look for the help as well. It would be a great service to the reader to have some of those resources already in their hands.

I was a little confused by "Prayers for Putting Our Child/Children First". In that particular passage, it's not clear whether the spouses are just separated and not divorced. Biblically, man and wife are cleaved and have a covenant with each other, not their children. In a Christian marriage, Christ comes first, then your spouse, and the children after that. If the couple were divorced already or on the verge, I would understand this particular prayer.

Overall, I think this is a good book to share with someone who might be going through a difficult time in their marriage or divorce. I would definitely couple it with some Biblical references to help solidify understanding and provide additional comfort.

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