

# Divorce—a complex dilemma gaining in acceptance

by Dave Wilson  
Divorce has existed in our society for decades. As a result, we have tended to it. Divorce no longer has evil or sinful connotations, but seems to be regarded as an unfortunate consequence of mismatched marriages.

According to Reverend Kim Warne of Victoria Harbour however, our tolerance of divorce in society does mean that we really understand it.

Rev. Warne, who specializes in family counselling, contends that divorce is a phenomenon so complex that to associate any one specific cause with it is to ignore a host of other factors that are often involved.

This basic misunderstanding, says Rev. Warne, can be perceived even at the level of the courts, where marriages are officially annulled. As an avowed opponent of the current adversary system in divorce proceedings, wherein one

spouse must be found guilty of an offense to the other before the marriage can be terminated, Rev. Warne feels that divorces incur an unnecessary amount of pain, indignity and hardship.

**Worse than death**  
“A divorce is worse than a death”, he says. “Death is clear and final. A divorce is just as dead, but there is also a painful sense of failure.”

Rev. Warne feels that 75 per cent of divorce cases could be settled out of court. Although opposed to the idea of divorce on demand, he suggests that non-criminal divorce proceedings might be more amicably dealt with in the privacy of a judge's chamber.

The incidence of divorce, he notes, has increased significantly over the last five years. He suspects that there is no single overall reason for this increase, and prefers to cite a number of possible personal,

social, and economic factors to account for it.

Certainly one reason for high divorce rates, Rev. Warne remarks, is the simple fact that people are not educated in the aspects of living together. Too often people are married with little or no idea of what is required for a successful relationship.

“I'm bothered by the fact that there are no training or counselling programs available for prospective couples. I think people need to be trained in the aspects of living together.”

**Should express anger**  
Also, he feels that people in our society are unable to be angry in a proper manner with each other. The Christian ethic, he notes, tells us that anger is wrong, and inasmuch as humans are emotional creatures by nature, this ethic has tended to replace honest anger by undue tension. When a couple is unable to sensibly express their

anger to each other, they together separately in the marriage, Rev. Warne finds, often becomes a situation of “living together separately in the same house”.

In his experience, Rev. Warne has found that



Rev. K. Warne

North American conceptions of manhood have also placed unreasonable requirements on the male half of a marriage.

“Our notion of what it is to be male has stipulated that it is wrong, for instance, for a man to cry. If a man cries, he senses that he is no longer a man. As a result of these restrictions, men are often unable to express emotions which are human.”

The inability of men to openly express their hurt, notes Rev. Warne, results, in many cases, in buildups of tension which inevitably explode, often destructively.

In periods of economic difficulties such as exist presently, traditional sources of potentially destructive marital friction, says Rev. Warne, are aggravated even more.

A husband who is unable to find employment, and who finds it difficult to express his frustrations can un-

willingly project his tensions on his marriage. Similarly, the woman in the relationship who is forced to work in order to support her spouse can experience more than normal pressures when it comes to the business of also maintaining a household. She must deal both with her husband's frustrations and his masculine aversion to housework.

**Economic effects**  
Economic troubles are especially disruptive in young marriages, Rev. Warne has found. He has frequently dealt with cases where both spouses are forced to work at different times of the day, the result being that the couple rarely come in contact with each other. Unfortunately what often develops is, as Rev. Warne calls it, “a liaison of convenience in order to cut down on rent.”

Perhaps the greatest cause of broken marriages, comments Rev. Warne, “is the lack

of maturity and intestinal fortitude on the part of the couple to say to themselves—I'm not mature enough here to deal with the situation, and I need advice.”

Rev. Warne emphasizes, however, that the advice couples seek should be the right advice. Confessing marital tensions to a friend can often only engender sympathy, and as a rule, sympathy only serves to enforce tensions, not alleviate them.

Counselling should be sought from people qualified in the field, whose objectivity exposes

the real problems underlying the relationship.

It is only in this way, explains Rev. Warne, that a troubled marriage can be spared the agonies of divorce, and be set on a course in which both spouses are aware of the forces motivating each other's behaviour.

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The bonds that receive an annual interest cost \$300, \$500, \$1000 or \$5000. The bonds that have compounded interest are available in the same denominations but there is also a \$100 bond available.

The Royal Bank spokesman says the in-

terest rate as of November 1, 1977 is 8.06 per cent if the bond is held to maturity. This means that it cannot be cashed before 1986 to receive that specific rate of interest.

If you go to cash some coupons for interest on your new bonds you will notice another change. The government has instructed all banks to ask for your Social Insurance Number. According to the Royal Bank spokesman if you do not have your Social Insurance Number the bank has to take 25 per cent of your interest for income tax purposes.

A government press release says when you buy Canada Savings Bonds from now on your Social Insurance Number will be recorded. The reason for this is because the number is unique to you. If you want to find

out how many bonds you hold, the Bank of Canada can easily trace the information using your number. Similarly if someone in your family dies, the bonds they hold can be traced using their social insurance number.

As the system stands now, according to the press release, the person's name is the only way to trace his bond holdings. If he registered his bonds to John Smith once and R.J. Smith the second time, it could be difficult to find out just how many bonds John Smith really does hold.

The government says if you have already bought savings bonds this year and did not have to supply your Social Insurance Number it is important to get that number in to the Public Debt department in Ottawa along with your bond serial number,

name, address and account number as they appear on your bond certificate.

The Royal Bank spokesman says this year's bonds “are pretty good.” He says in comparison to term deposits, the interest rates are favourable.

He says in the case of his bank, the social insurance number will not make much difference to their paper work. He added that in their case they make sure they know the person before they cash bonds or coupons for interest. He says it is just like cashing a cheque.

However, he says it is a government rule that when cashing in your bonds your social insurance number must be on hand.

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## Special millions draw to be held Boxing Day

E. Marshall Pollock, Q.C., President of the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation, today announced that the first special million-dollar Provincial Bonus Draw will be held on Boxing Day, December 26 in conjunction with the regular Provincial draw scheduled for that day.

The extra million dollars, which will be awarded by selecting fifty extra winning numbers valued at \$20,000 each, represents a projection of unclaimed Provincial prizes to the end of 1977. The draw is being held in accordance with Lottery regulations which provide

that unclaimed prize money, after the expiry of the one-year claiming period, be transferred to a special prize account for additional or bonus prizes in subsequent draws. “It is the policy of the Interprovincial Lottery Corporation to pay out all unclaimed prize money, whether it is due to the failure of a winner to claim his prize or resulted from an unsold ticket,” Mr. Pollock explained.

“In the Bonus Draw, a total of fifty bonus numbers valued at \$20,000 each will be drawn for an extra \$1 million in prize money. Because these are

bonus prizes, there will be no subsidiary or included prizes. In order to win a bonus prize, the bonus number on your ticket must be identical to one of the fifty bonus numbers selected for the draw.” Mr. Pollock said.

“What this means,” Mr. Pollock concluded, “is that Provincial tickets for the December 26 draw (November/December and December/January) will, in addition to having six chances at \$1 million and four chances at \$100,000 and thousands of other tax free prizes, be eligible to win fifty extra prizes of \$20,000 each.”

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