

The Financial Impact of Divorce on the Church

This Analysis provides insight into the financial impact of divorce on a congregation. You can substitute your own experiences to get a more accurate assessment of the impact in your congregation.

Facts

- Median income 2008, \$52,029¹
- Median gift per church attendee is \$1038, which means the giving for a family of 4 would be \$4154.²

Assumptions

100 couples in your congregation

- Five couples with significant marital problems in counseling
- One couple gets divorced

One or both spouses stop attending the church

- Financial impact of divorce significantly reduces couples resources
- Giving likely to decrease by a minimum of 50%
- Frequently it stops entirely

Results of One Divorce a Year or One Marriage Saved

- 50% reduction: \$2,077 x # of Divorces = Your Financial Impact
- 100% reduction: \$4,154 x # of Divorces = Your Financial Impact
- Your Situation: Your Ave Annual Giving x # of Divorces = **Your Financial Impact**

Investment Opportunity

- Send couples to marriage coaching - Distressed couples who complete coaching report an average 180% improvement in their relationship (many testimonials available)
- Program Cost: \$160

Testimony from a couple who simply came to be trained as a coach couple. They did not even go through the coaching process.

I came to coach training because of my own troubled marriage, my own hopelessness, and my own fear of the future. When we came to MarriageTeam, we were steps away from divorce. I was done. I had enough of the challenges of the difficult situation I was in. Little did I know, our main issue was communication. In partaking in the coaching classes, my eyes opened to how little my husband and I communicated. We both were involved in the marriage ministry at our church leading bible studies for couples and wanted different but just didn't know how to get there. Not even counseling seemed to help. Taking the [coach training] classes gave us hope and a plan on how to have a healthy loving marriage via healthy loving communication. We were excited to share that plan with as many people as we could as we have a passion to drop the divorce rate in our churches and beyond.

Assume you can prevent 50% or more of the divorces with marriage coaching.

- **(Your Financial Impact from above x .50) – (\$160 x # of Divorces) = Your Savings**
- Example: (Save 1 marriage = \$4,154) - (\$160 x 2 coaching for two couples) = **\$3,834**

1. US Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>

2. Giving in the Church: An Analysis of Average Giving per Person, Excerpted from the book, "Before You Build," Stephen Anderson