



Spiritually Mismatched Marriage Ministry

Women in spiritually mismatched marriages face many different problems than those married to strong believers – such as clash of values, loneliness, persecution, stress, etc. It is a balancing act between your husband and church. You live in two conflicting worlds – Spiritual vs. World. Your spiritual growth is hindered. And it is frustrating that you cannot share this wonderful journey of peace and joy with your husband, as well as painful knowing he is not going to have eternal life in heaven with you. Unfortunately some of these unequally yoked marriages even end in divorce.

In order to help these hurting women, First Baptist Church of Ft. Lauderdale initiated in spring 2006 a women's ministry to give assistance, assurance and encouragement to these often neglected group of women in churches. We called our ministry '**Between Two Loves**' (BTL) because we are caught between our love for Christ and our love for our husbands; we took the name from one of Nancy Kennedy's books pertaining to this topic. It has been a blessing to all of us involved. May God lead you to explore the idea to start your own BTL.

Please see the following pages which outline how we run our BTL ministry, show you book resources available, and give you some personal quotes from a few of our ladies participating in the ministry. If you want to contact us, please e-mail us at womens.connection@fbcfl.com; we will get back to you as soon as possible.

'Between Two Loves' Ministry Information

Ministry Purpose: positive women's ministry to give assistance, prayer and encouragement to those women in spiritually unbalanced marriages, as well as to teach them how to 'walk the walk' in their homes.

Three Types of Spiritually Mismatched Marriages:

- (1) only one spouse is saved
- (2) spouses are of different religions
- (3) one spouse is growing spiritually and their partner is standing still

Classes:

Meet Spring (Feb. – May) and Fall (Sept. – Nov.) Semesters monthly
 Read and discuss a new book Fall through the Spring Semester; there is homework given for the next class (reading and questions)

Books read so far:

- “Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage” by Strobel, Lee & Leslie
- “How to be the Happy Wife of an Unsaved Husband” by Davis, Linda
- “Can Two Walk Together?” by Sabrina D. Black
- “When He Doesn’t Believe” by Nancy Kennedy

Lending Library with other books relating to spiritually mismatched marriage

Class Format:

Welcome & Fellowship with refreshments (15 minutes)

Small Group Discussions (60 minutes)

Closing Fellowship & Prayer with Large Group (15 minutes)

Prayer Request Forms filled out during the class and the complete list of prayer requests are e-mailed to all after each class; any urgent requests are e-mailed to all immediately.

Leadership Team consists of a Facilitator, Small Group Leaders, Greeter, Hospitality, Librarian and Prayer Leader.

Fellowship Activities: (try to get together outside class once a month all year round)

- ‘Ladies Night Out’ to the movies
- ‘Salad Socials’ at someone’s home (everyone brings an ingredient for a salad)
- First Sunday Church Service of the Month, ladies go to the altar to pray for their husbands

Social Functions with Husbands: (try to do one per semester)

- Pot Luck Dinner at someone’s home
- Bowling/Dinner night out
- Church Dances
- Picnic with sport activities
- BBQ cookout at someone’s home
- Christian concert
- Super Bowl Party/MLBaseball game

Other Ideas:

- Women speakers who were once in the same situation
- Male speakers who became saved recently
- Bring wedding pictures to a fellowship activity – guess whose picture is whose and then reflect on why you fell in love with your husband

BTL’s Lending Library

Bridges, Jerry

‘The Pursuit of Holiness’

Heald, Cynthia	‘Becoming a Woman of Excellence’
Kennedy, Nancy	‘Between Two Loves’
Matthews, Nick	‘Unequally Yoked, Equally Loved’
Meyer, Nancy Sebastian	‘Finding Joy in Your Marriage’
Murrow, Dave	‘Why Men Hate Going to Church’
Murrow, Dave	‘How Women Help Men Find God’
Odell, Jeri	‘Living with a Unbelieving Husband’
Strobel, Lee	‘Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary’

Group Study Books: (questions at the end of each chapter)

Strobel, Lee & Leslie	‘Surviving a Spiritual Mismatch in Marriage’
Berry, Jo	‘Beloved Unbeliever’
Davis, Linda	‘How to be the Happy Wife of an Unsaved Husband’
Tizzard, Maureen	‘How to Pray When He Doesn’t Believe’
Black, Sabrina	‘Can Two Walk Together? Encouragement for Spiritually Unbalanced Marriages’
Kennedy, Nancy	‘When He Doesn’t Believe’

‘Between Two Loves’ Quotes from BTL Participants:

BTL was an amazing experience and allowed me to realize that many other women were living the same life that I lived for years, when I felt so alone. My husband is saved now,

praise God, and I want all these women to know that your prayers are heard and God will make a way!

Linda Sykes

BTL has encouraged me to have the Hope that is in Christ for my husbands' salvation and to trust God that He will answer the deep desire of my heart. It is comforting to know that others in my class are lifting him up in prayer also. It's a time of great encouragement as I learn how to be the wife Christ wants me to be and learn how to stay focused on my relationship with Christ as I await that blessed day when my husband will come to know the Savior I love.

Bonnie Anderson

The BTL class has certainly made a big difference to my married life. Through our studies, I've learned that I am not in charge of my husband's salvation; he's in God's hands. My job is to concentrate on my walk with the Lord and make Him the focus of my life. It's so awesome to be in the company of women who are going through the same experiences, and we pray and support each other. BTL rocks!

Jean Brown

I am so blessed to be in a church that reaches out to the needs of ALL the people, not just singles and couples, but to those of us who are in a spiritually mismatched marriage. Through our study of God's Word, I have learned to be fully content in Christ, He is all I need and my contentment comes from Him, not my spouse. God knows my heart and wants my husband to know Him even more than I do, so I am trusting in Him. I will continue praying for my husband for as long as it takes.

Becky Medley

The books, homework and support have revived my marriage. I was angry, bitter and struggling personally and my marriage was going nowhere. I learned that I am not alone; through God's grace and these classes I have learned to love my husband all over again, respect him, honor him and give God the glory for how BTL has worked in my life and my husband's.

Norma McDonough

I love the support and encouragement we receive. I just want new ladies to know that it is not about putting our husbands down, but lifting them up in prayer. I recall a quote by Ruth Graham, "It is my job to love my husband; it is God's job to change him."

Sharon Triangolo