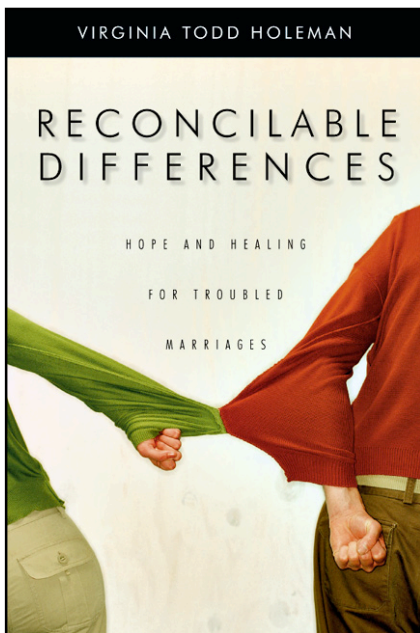


## Excerpts

*“Distance, suspicion and estrangement replace intimacy, acceptance and belonging. The thought of restoration is appalling, and the idea of termination is appealing. In other words, reconciliation seems like a pipe dream. Can people in severely damaged relationships reconcile? More specifically, can couples in severely damaged marriages reconcile?”*

—Page 8

*“I think it’s safe to say that all of us know of at least one couple whose relationship has ended because of some painful moral transgression. Abandonment and neglect, addiction, adultery, abuse (physical, emotional, sexual and even spiritual), various types of betrayals, financial irresponsibility, deceitfulness, disrespect—the list goes on. I suspect that many of us know more than just one couple. In some cases you may not be surprised to learn that a spouse has moved out, while in other situations you are shocked. Sandy and Tom, for instance, seemed like the ‘perfect family’ at church. Home was another story entirely. Their situation begs us to ask the questions that shape this book:*



- Can couples reconcile when their marriage has been severely damaged by moral wrongdoing?
- What roles do forgiveness and repentance play?
- Do other elements contribute to marital reconciliation in addition to forgiveness and repentance?
- Do reconciled marriages look alike, or are their contours unique, given the various contexts in which couples find themselves?

—Pages 9-10

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