

“Ending the Trash-Talk of Divorce”

Dear Antwort Mann,

**My parents just got divorced six months ago. There are four of us kids, and we live with our mom. I know my mom hates my dad because she is always saying bad things about him in front of my brothers and sister. All of us love both our mom and dad, but we hate what she says about him. How can I get her to stop?
Signed, “Very Hurt,”**

Dear “Very Hurt,”

Divorce is a painful and difficult thing to deal with, not just for the husband and wife getting divorced, but most especially for their kids, who have to deal with the breakup of their family. It is not uncommon for very bitter feelings to be expressed in inappropriate ways. All too often, the kids end up being in the middle of a tug-of-war between the parents. It sounds like your mother is saying all these things against your father as a way of trying to justify getting the divorce in the first place, and to hurt him as deeply as possible by turning you against him. This is wrong.

I know your mother is hurting, but so are you all. The divorce is still fresh, and it’s going to take time for everyone to get past the feelings of anger and hurt. But, your mother is the adult, and she needs to act like one. She has no business constantly “trashing” your father in front of you (just as he would have no business doing that to her).

Der Antwort Mann suggests that you and your siblings try to talk to her about this during a calm time when she is not expressing anger with your dad. Reassure your mom how much you love both her and your dad, and be honest with her about how much it hurts you when she talks about him the way she does. Ask her to please not do that anymore. Don’t yell at her, and don’t put her down. But understand that this may not end immediately. She may continue to say bad things about your dad on occasion. When that happens, all of you kids should just quietly leave the room and go somewhere else until she cools down. Eventually, she’ll get the message.

Though your parents are now divorced, they are still your parents. Love and respect them as God directs in the 4th Commandment. And pray for them, that the love and forgiveness that Jesus showed to us on the cross might help them learn to forgive each other.

“Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.” Psalm 105:4

Best Regards,

Der Antwort Mann

Kids and adults are encouraged to send their questions to Der Antwort Mann for publication in the newsletter. These questions can be sent to, or dropped off at church.