

Angie's Marriage Column – June 17, 2009 - 2014

What Can I Do about an Angry and Selfish Husband?

Ask Angie: Dear Angie, Thank you for your article. ([**A Wife's Submission To Her Husband](#)) But I was wondering what you think about a husband who is verbally abusive with outbursts of rage. My husband cussing horribly at me when he gets angry then goes upstairs and goes to bed. He also lies and has broken his word and trust many times. We don't have quality time together and he works a lot. He is the worship leader at church. I tried to counsel with the Pastor's wife and she relayed what I told her but they only seem to care that they've got a worship leader. He never reads his bible and watches really bad stuff on TV. I've tried to be patient and loving and serve him like I would the Lord. But I guess I'm wondering where does one draw the line? Doesn't there have to be some boundaries of respect? I try to talk lovingly to my husband but he seems to think he can treat me and yell at me any old thing he wants to. I suppose I feel he is getting away with this abuse. I do pray and ask God if I'm doing something wrong - but his daughters even say he was a very selfish and angry man before. Do you have any suggestions?

Marriage Guidance: My first suggestion to you is to **print out this marriage column and read it with your husband.**

If he professes to be a follower of Christ then he shouldn't have a problem with understanding accountability and priorities for his life. It certainly is not right for anyone to be abusive with their spouse. Read this column and you will understand why it happens.

It's sad that some leaders in the church still don't get it. They don't understand or they don't want to believe that Christ is above them. If we are unable to humble ourselves to Christ then of course we are going to be verbally abusive with our spouse or with anyone who gets in our way. We first must humble our lives to Christ before we can humble our lives to others. Your husband does not understand the proper ways to love his wife.

You both need to read through all the articles on this marriage column to give you a better understanding of how marriage should be according to God.

Your Husband Is Not Walking In Faith.

People who have the love of Christ in their hearts do not treat others hostile and disrespectful. He is NOT walking by faith but by the flesh. This is “why” he’s unhappy. Unhappy people want everyone else around them to be unhappy with them. ([**Why Are Unhappy People Unhappy](#))

Your husband like some church leaders seem to think they have no accountability or responsibility and unfortunately this “way of life” is a cover-up for an unhappy person within. Many things happen when we don’t put Christ first in our lives. We become tempted in the world, addicted to alcohol and drugs, abusive and have anger management problems, etc.

See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the *living God*. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. (Hebrews 3:12-12)

You can spiritually influence your husband by what your own actions. Remember talk is always cheap unless you can back it up with your actions. If you say one thing but do another your husband won’t be influenced one iota. If you preach to him and behave self righteous, you will also not influence him to see Christ in you. “Be” a good example of how a believer should be—follow Christ.

If you want to influence your husband then be consistent with your beliefs and the way you live your life. Let him see your fruits multiply and your blessings mount up, as you stay faithful to God. This is how your husband will see his faults and weaknesses.

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:15 NIV)

If we do not acknowledge and humble ourselves to God he will leave us alone to contend with our sin and we will become trapped within our own hardened hearts. But know this: God can give us new hearts, new desires, new minds, and new spirits! But your husband may not find those things by “going to church”.

Many churches (I'm not saying your church) keep the truth about Christ away from its hearers. They don't teach about accountability, priorities, and responsibilities in marriage and in life in general. This is one reason why marriages and families are breaking apart. Where is the accountability? Where is the responsibility to our marriage? If our priorities are confused so will be our life!

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Here!

Many times a person is better off reading, studying, and researching scripture with close friends and family rather than trying to understand the message in church. What is it exactly that you are learning in church about Jesus Christ? The difference between good and evil? Most churches that I have attended talk more about Satan than Jesus Christ!

They talk about how Jesus Christ is going to come back one day on a shiny horse, on a big blue cloud in the sky? But did you know that Jesus is already back?! Jesus lives in the hearts and minds of believers today in Spirit and in Truth! The Kingdom of Heaven is already here!

Why is everyone who goes to church still waiting for Jesus to come back? It's because they don't teach that Jesus is living now amongst them in *Spirit and in Truth*. Jesus Christ is the Holy Spirit promised to us. He is here and now!

Teaching that Jesus will be coming is very detrimental to spiritual health because most Christians do not have a personal, growing relationship (accountability) with Jesus and that is why there is so much confusion among the so-called believing population. So many people are waiting, waiting, waiting in anticipation of Christ's RETURN...But Jesus Christ is ALREADY HERE!

God has given everyone a purpose for living but if we don't understand what that purpose is we certainly won't be able to lead our lives by the principles taught to us by Jesus. Our purpose is to live the principles taught to us in our daily life. Most people don't even know what those principles are.

[\(**Sermon on the Mount for marriage\).](#)

[I Am The Bread Of Life](#)

Those people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are FAR from me. They worship me in vain, their teachings are but rules taught by men.

We Profess To Be Christians But Don't Live Like Christ Ones!

What have you learned about how marriage should be? What have you learned about what your role in marriage should be?

We can talk about having a Christian marriage until we are blue in the face, but until we finally live our lives in Christ-like ways, our light in marriage will remain hidden from others. We hide our light in marriage in several ways. **The most prevalent way we hide our light is by having a marriage like everyone else.** Christians are supposed to be different in a good way, but if our marriage has the same problems that affect godless marriages, than what is that saying about our so called Christian marriage? Where is the light?

Another way in which Christ Ones hide their light is by letting sin come in and destroy the light. When we do not rely on Christ for our marriage issues and problems, we again, behave like the crowd and handle marital qualms the way *they do*. But what do they do? Have affairs, control one another, become jealous, angry, selfish, resentful, addicted, depressed, etc. This happens because some Christian couples have denied the light. They have not put their full trust in God for their marriage! Are you letting your marriage get trampled down by men? *Turn the light on!*

How could we NOT give God the power over of our marriage when He is the One who established marriage in the first place? Christ *is* the light that shines in marriage! This means if Jesus Christ is not the head of your marriage, you may be hiding your light from others, and that means your marriage is like everyone else's.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2 NIV)

Do you have a glowing marriage? Doing the “will of God” or “walking the Christian walk” is showing your light to others by being an example of

Christ. Be a beacon of truth in your marriage – don't shut your light off from the world. Even if there is only one believer in the marriage, the marriage can be saved. ([**Living With An Unbeliever](#)).

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV) Shine your light!!

Are You Disrespecting Your Spouse?

[Why is it so important that we respect our spouse?](#)

Are you disrespecting the person you married? Are you sure? Many times we say and do things that are disrespectful and we don't even know it! When it happens, we are so wrapped up in our own needs that we don't even realize we are being disrespectful! Over time, our spouse begins to feel intimidated, invalidated, and just plain awful about themselves because of being treated badly.

Several things can happen in a marriage like this. A spouse can retaliate and treat their spouse back with the same demeaning words, and nasty ways, and now both partners are bitter, selfish and disrespectful of each other. Or a spouse will start to feel extremely resentful for being treated with such contempt, and later they will bring all that resentment out in an angry outburst, often times doing and saying things they may later regret.

Ask Christ to help you with your attitude. Allow Christ into your heart and give you the peace you need to be happy and content. We should never stomp on our spouse with our emotional problems—that's not right. It is better to not say anything at all than to beat each other up with verbal abuse. When was the last time you prayed for your marriage?

Many times, leaders in church are so busy with their lives they forget to pray for their own life.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV)

What Can A Spouse Do When They Feel They Are Being Disrespected?

So what can you do when you feel that you are often the target of disrespect? When your wife or husband says or does something that you feel is disrespectful, you should immediately let them know about it by repeating back to them what they just said to you. Let them know it is offensive when they say things that demean or disregard your feelings. I encourage you to be assertive with how you feel, otherwise, how will they know that they are behaving disrespectful?

Over time, when we don't speak up, we become more bitter and angry inside, while more and more marital issues keep piling up. This is what I call the cycle of disrespect. It is a never-ending series of disrespectful and selfish behavior that can and will destroy the marriage. Be assertive in a good way. Never speaking up or speaking up in anger or retaliation both non-productive ways to get your message across.

As followers of Christ shouldn't we be encouraging and supportive to the person we married? If our spouse becomes discouraged won't that come back to bite us later on in the marriage? Of course it will! Everything we say and do, productive or not, will have a lasting effect on our spouse and the marriage. Why instigate unproductive behavior? Why not be productive by choosing to be a respectful marriage partner.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Priority List For Marriage Who Are You Accountable To?

Husband's Priority List	Wife's Priority List
God – Jesus Christ (Accountability, Purpose, Service)	God – Jesus Christ (Accountability, Purpose, Service)
Wife (Accountability, Responsibility, Service)	Husband (Accountability, Responsibility, Service)
Children (Responsibility)	Children (Responsibility)
Ministry (Helping others)	Ministry (Helping others)
Self (career, job, hobbies)	Self (career, job, hobbies)

Take care and God Bless!
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