

Angie's Marriage Column – November 20, 2014

I'm Afraid to Get Married while I Have Past Baggage that Haunts Me?

Ask Angie: I just stumbled upon your website and find it enlightening even after only a few minutes of reading. I found your website by typing in "Godly love vs. Worldly love" into Google. I am 23 years old and have not always lived a Christian life. My question is this. Throughout my life I have taken part in every sin imaginable that would cause one to be spiritually scarred when it comes to relationships. Even though my spirit yearns for God my flesh still is strongly pulled in the direction of old ways. To this day I struggle with said things. I understand seeking God and praying for forgiveness and that when he so chose to give me salvation through Christ my sins of past present and future were all forgiven. However, how do I deal with and move on the scars that past sin has left. I'm afraid to even think about a Christian marriage for myself because of the baggage my past brings into the marriage. I agree with everything on your site and love how you outline Godly courtship. Admittedly I have been looking into Christianmingle.com but after reading what your website has to say I agree that is not Gods will for a relationship in His glory. Any advice you can offer is greatly appreciated. God Bless!

Marriage Guidance: It's very true, we never FORGET our past but our SINCERE relationship with Christ cleanses us and frees us from our past! Because of the love of Christ we are given a second chance to be RENEWED in our Spirit. You are still living in your old man body and ways, rather than allowing yourself to be renewed. Most people do this and they don't even realize it; AND THAT'S WHY THEY REMAIN SLAVES TO SIN! They allow sin to control them.

In Fact some people think (not to offend but to enlighten) all they need to do is go up to the altar in a church building and eat some bread and drink some wine or grape juice and they are saved. Some folks think that just because they BELIEVE in God and are BAPTIZED, they are saved. On the contrary, participating in these religious, symbolic ceremonies and rites DOES NOT SAVE US! These things are

something one can choose to do if they want but they don't save us or provide us with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus is all about LOVE not RELIGION: One plus one does equal two, meaning participating in religion and its political schemes is what KEEPS PEOPLE OUT OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN! We need to have a one on one relationship with Christ!

There are two types of sins that humans interact with.

Christ ones are human in this fleshly stage of life and this is why you *feel the flesh* pulling at you; your mind and heart are wanting to do what is right as a Christian man, while your body is pulling you to be a slave to sin. It's called temptation. The churches love to blame this temptation on the satan, because it makes the sin justified in some way. It does not matter where the sin came from, what matters is that we choose to not be controlled by it!

However, it's all about choice. We can choose to allow Jesus Christ to be a part of our life or we can choose to go our own way. The problem is if we do not have the FAITH and TRUST to let God lead our lives and protect us from sin, then we will succumb to it. God leaves the choices up to us so we must choose wisely.

*No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues in sin has either seen him or knows him. Dear children do not let anyone lead you astray...
1 John 3:6-7*

WE ALL SIN BUT WE ALL ARE NOT SLAVES TO IT!

The difference is this. A Christ one may have the thought to look at another person with feelings of lust but realizes instantly that it is not true and sincere Christian Living, and the Spirit of Christ within them intervenes and keeps them from acting out. We absolutely have to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Only God can heal our wretched lives.

It is a struggle between the flesh and the spirit and it can be difficult to control. But God is good and provides a way out of temptation. This is why, as Christ ones we MUST keep our eye on Jesus every day of our lives and doing that makes our

lifestyle a Christ-like example for others we are married to and any others we interact with on a daily basis.

We'll never be like Christ while we have this human body, but we can put all of our trust and faith in Him and allow Him to go to work in our life, while walking in the fleshly body in this world, and He WILL keep us from giving into our temptations! Why do I know this? God says so and because of seeing results in my own life. I do not need to see Christ to know He is real; I see Christ working in my life daily!! Once you live your life for Jesus Christ, putting your faith and trust in Him, temptations become easier and easier to deal with until they completely dissipate from your life...and that is because you have the Spirit of Jesus Christ in YOU, protecting you from the world. Your mind is with Christ, not on worldly thoughts and tempting situations.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

You see from the above scripture that temptations are common to us all. Do you think you are the only one that is tempted in the world? But here is the good part: God is faithful (this is why we need to put our life in his hands) **and will not allow us to be tempted above that we can bear!!** The scripture goes on to say, "God will make a way for us to escape from temptation! I've always said only the courageous can walk away from tempting situations because Jesus Christ within us gives us the strength through HIM!!

You see, there is a big difference between saying "I believe in God" or "I have faith in God" vs. actually "Living your life for God" because you believe in HIM. People think they need to "go to church", or they think they need to be "do-gooders", or they think they need to do "this" or "that" to be saved. Sadly they have been deceived and most people waste their valuable time chasing God while God is already knocking at their door, but yet they never allow Him in.

Yes, going to 99.95% of churches today keep people from entering into the kingdom of heaven... because all they talk about is all the things you gotta do to reach the kingdom of heaven; and all these people are just patiently waiting for

Jesus to come down on a puff cloud, as a knight in shining armor and take them to the kingdom of heaven.

What they have not been told is that the Kingdom of Heaven is already here! **Jesus is already here!! Sadly the churches stunt people's spiritual growth and that is "why" the way in to heaven is so narrow and few enter in...they are still waiting for something to happen... and then they die.**

We have to live for Jesus Christ TODAY! We have to allow Him to go to work in our lives NOW. He is the only one who can renew our spirit from the darkness of the world. We are still in the world but Jesus brings us out of the world and make us **new men and women in Him!**

Put on the New Man

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Colossians 3:10 JKV

The key in the above scripture is in having the RENEWED KNOWLEDGE to become like (*in the image of*) Christ; hence the saying "Christ-like". The new man is no longer spiritually blind to the works of Christ within Him... The new man or woman is transformed in heart, mind and soul; and they no longer allow sin to control their lives. (see below)

The person with RENEWED knowledge has put God FIRST above all other people and things, and strives to follow Jesus and be like Jesus (*in the image of*) in *everything* they do.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12: 2 KJV

You see, there it is again in another scripture, *renewing of your mind.*

Jesus renews our mind and gives us the knowledge and faith to do the right things and be good people. When our minds are renewed in the knowledge of our Father that is when we can REALLY begin to put our trust and faith in God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Slave to Sin

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. Romans 6:20 KJV.

Christ said, no man can serve two masters, you'll hate one and love the other. You are either a Christ-one or you are a person of the world. We all have a choice to choose what and who we are going to be. What are you going to be? Who are you going to be? Are you going to be a new man / woman in Christ, or are you going to allow the world to dictate your life? Choose!

Read this article for stories of people who have been tempted and find out what they chose. <http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/vicesandvirtuesinmarriage-Temptation.htm>

A New Man, Walking in a New Life

When you become renewed in Spiritual Knowledge, your past is long gone from you because having **“put on the new man”** makes the old man dead! So there is no more living in the past, bringing up the past. The new man buries the old man...therefore there is no past history.

Unfortunately for many, this can be difficult to do and they pay lots of money to go see mainstream psychiatrists, psychologists, and counselors, and medical doctors that prescribe terrible drugs, because they are living in their past issues and are scarred and wounded and feel awful. What they do not know is that **ONLY GOD CAN TRULY HEAL US FROM WHAT CONTROLS US!!**

We all have a past, I have a past, and virtually everyone reading this today has a past. That is why it is called a PAST, because it is not TODAY, it is YESTERDAY, and yesterday is gone and buried.

First Things First – Repent with sincerity

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. The unrighteousness that we're talking about here is "past baggage". Allow yourself to GIVE it all to God;

In the person who wrote in above, it looks like you already feel repentant for your past, now all you got to do is LET IT Go! Bury the old man, and allow Christ to renew your Spirit. Stop allowing the past control your future.

Last, but by No Means Least

Finally, allow Christ's Spirit within you to go to work! Jesus lives in you! Let Him guide you and show you the way into His kingdom today! Did you know that prayer is how we communicate with God and develop a relationship with Him? We need to talk with God on a daily basis, not only when we need something. God is our healer but He does wait for us to go to Him. With God All things are possible!!

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV.

Finding a life mate that is compatible with you can be challenging, but through prayer and much patience, the right spouse is waiting for you. If you haven't already, read our free Godly courtship book on how to find a good, compatible spouse to love and cherish.

Godly Courtship eBook! HOW TO PREPARE FOR A ROCK SOLID MARRIAGE

<http://www.heavenministries.org/Thank%20you.htm>

You cannot give up on marriage just because of some mistakes in the past. Your past is forgiven when you sincerely go to God and repent of your past.

Finally, let the new man come out of the shell you have unknowingly made for yourself and start your new life in Jesus Christ. The right woman is somewhere out there, and God will show her to you when He knows you are ready to sincerely love another and take on the responsibilities of being a husband...and for the sake of all our readers "responsibilities of being a good spouse". In the case of women it

would be **“helpmeet” for her husband**. For men it would be **“Headship” over your wife and family**.

Here are some more articles on this subject to read for encouragement and guidance.

ARTICLES

Temptation vs. Self Control

<http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/vicesandvirtuesinmarriage-Temptation.htm>

People Are Not Animals BECAUSE We Can Control Our Sex Drive!

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles2/Gods%20Creation.htm>

Influence of Society on the Christian

http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/influence_of_society_on_the_chri.htm

How a Single Man Should Love a Woman

http://www.heavenministries.org/ministry%20articles%202010/how_a_single_man_should_love_a_woman.htm

Read More of [Angie’s Marriage Columns](#)

Is there someone you know who needs some encouragement? Send along this newsletter.

Blessings,
Frank and Angie

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Godly Courtship Ministry - <http://www.heavenministries.org>

Visit us in Ecuador!

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Do you have a marriage question that you want biblical answers to? Let us know and we'll pray about it, research it and answer it with the understanding and wisdom God has blessed us with. It's not what Frank or Angie can do for your marriage; it is between YOU and God. We're just the messengers.

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