

Angie's Marriage Column – December 10, 2008

My Cheating Husband Thinks He Wants Divorce

Marriage Question: My question is how do I move forward. I don't believe nor want a divorce. My husband is currently cheating and feels like he wants a divorce. I am trusting God but what do I do while I wait. We are currently separated. We have two daughters (8 and 12) and are always praying for Dad. Any suggestions?

Marriage Guidance: My suggestion to you is to keep doing what you are doing right now, finding peace and comfort with God. I think it is great that you are putting your trust in God; also that you are praying for your husband. God will listen to your prayers and will answer them on His time. It could be that God has already answered your prayers but in a way that you are not expecting. You may not even know that God has answered your prayers because it may affect your husband and what he is doing.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

When a spouse commits an infidelity it is because they are basing their marriage on feelings rather than on commitment. This is what most people do. They do not understand that marriage is not about *feelings of love* but about the *commitment to love*. Your husband must find his own way home with God and the reality is, that may never happen.

Divorce is a very hard thing for children, of any age, to have to go through. If your husband does not own up to his responsibilities in the marriage and to his God-given position in the Lord, you will have to explain these things to your daughters. Many times children blame themselves for the divorce of their parents and this can emotionally and mentally overwhelm a child. Make it as easy as possible for them.

Since you do not believe in divorce, stick to your convictions. Don't help your husband in anyway to get a divorce, make him do all the work because you don't believe in it. Be strong and faithful, always asking God to give you the peace and contentment you need to go on with your life the best you can, doing the best you can.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

My next suggestion is for you to let your husband know that you are praying for him and the marriage and encourage him to come back home. Do not beg, but just let him know one time and that's it. There is nothing else you have to do, but be the woman/wife/mother that God wants you to be. Bring your girls up in the Lord, teaching them all about the ways of the Lord. You are not alone. God is our Father and our Father watches over us.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. (Psalm 32:8)

There is no reason to throw stones at your husband. Give him the opportunity to repent and come to Christ by turning his life around and becoming a new man. The more you rub his nose in his sins the more he will stay away from you. This is because by nature people do not want to recognize their sins and take responsibility. But he needs to take responsibility for his own actions, and until he can do that, he will stay away from working on the marriage.

Spouses of adulterers think they are the victims, and in some ways they are, but in reality the adulterer is the victim. They are hurting themselves and their life with Christ more than anything or anyone else.

You are already moving forward by doing what you are already doing. I praise you on your willingness to do the right thing, even though I know you are suffering for doing it. Stay faithful because God will reward you in this life and later on in eternal life with Him.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.** (Hebrews 11:6)

What can you do if your spouse insists on divorce?

1. Pray every day for the unbelieving spouse
2. Always show a good example of Christ working in you
3. Don't allow the unbeliever to bring you down with them - stay spiritually fit at all times!
4. Influence your spouse in loving ways that shows "principled acts of love" rather than feelings of love

Remember: Divorce is a hardened heart. It is something that one decides because of a bad attitude and dwelling on that attitude.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us encouragement and good hope, **encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.** (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

In Christ
God Bless,
-- Angie and Frank

Article Resources – **Must read articles!**

Divorce According To God and The Sanctity of Marriage

http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/divorceaccordingto_god.htm

The Unbelieving Spouse Who Wants A Divorce

<http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/unbelievingspouseandDivorce.htm>

Marriage Divorce and Remarriage

<http://www.heavenministries.com/HeavenMin/Articles/marriage-divorce-Remarriage.htm>

Second Opinion About Divorce

http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/NewArticlesS08/secondopinionabout_divorce.htm

Stop Divorce and Recommit Yourselves To Each Other

<http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/stopdivorceandrecommit.htm>

Check out the free marriage e-books for immediate download on the Heaven Ministries website. <http://www.heavenministries.com/Ebooks.htm> I feel they will offer you the support and encouragement you need to work on yourselves and restore your marriage.