

Angie's Marriage Column – October 15, 2014

Financial Dishonesty in Marriage

Note to our readers: We're back from our long Sabbatical and ready to begin our marriage columns once again. I was checking the records and it has been one year since we published a marriage column. You can now find *some* of our [marriage columns here](#) where they will be listed under specific categories. We're always adding more columns when time permits. We hope you make good use of all the marriage guidance on the Heaven Ministries Website. Your questions are welcome. If you have recently sent in a marriage question we will be answering it in an upcoming marriage column.

Ask Angie: I have read the articles on your website but am missing info on helping a spouse to heal after discovering the partner has been unfaithful with his finances. I love your website and it has really helped me thus far and would appreciate your help in this regard as I do not know how to deal with this situation anymore. Thanks :)

Biblical Encouragement: Yes, we have written about this before. Go to the [Heaven Ministries Website](#), then go to "Marriage Articles AtoZ" from there click the category "Finances" and there you will find two articles we wrote. The articles can be found at the end of this marriage column as well.

However, we want to respond to this issue in marriage once again with more encouragement.

First of all we all need to change our attitude about money. When we place money, career, job, and material stuff as first priority in our lives, we become selfish and unproductive people.

Money can be the root cause of evil/sin when it is abused and misused.

Take a look at the priority list below. Where is money on the list?

Priority list for Christians

God/Jesus Christ
Spouse
Children
Ministry/Service
Work/Money

Do you see **work** and **money** are at the bottom of the list? Why is that? I mean we have to work to make a living, right? Well, of course we do, but...we also have to place God **FIRST** in our lives so the money we make comes from good and righteous living. That way we can take care of our family, home, ministry in the proper ways under the proper foundations. ...And then we'll be productive and fruitful with our money.

But what happens when we make money / careers number one in our lives as far as importance? What happens to our relationship with God, and with our spouse, and others?

When we make money the most important aspect of our lives we usually end up squandering it, losing it, being dishonest about it in many different ways, depending on the circumstances.

When we abuse and misuse money, our relationship with God becomes severed and our relationship with our spouse becomes strained. Why? **Because the money we are misusing keeps us from allowing God and His principles about money FIRST in our lives.** We essentially made a choice to make money more important than God and family.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mam-mon.” Matthew 6:24 KJV

When we put God above money and the things that money buys in our lives, he gifts us with principles for good money management and service. Without God being at the forefront of our lives we will not be fortunate to have such skills.

God did not say “Love the **LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” for nothing; there's a very good reason why God **MUST** come **FIRST** in our lives.

Good money management comes from God BECAUSE it is God that instills within us good character traits, such as reserve and shrewdness, both traits we need to be instilled within our being *if* we want to keep our relationships right and not misuse money in our lives.

You see, without PUTTING GOD FIRST IN OUR LIVES, we will live life under our own understanding of what we think is right for us, rather than allowing God to go to work in our lives and helping us to value money, work, and material things, appropriately.

For example, greed is a negative character trait that takes us away from that which is good, into a world of our own selfish cravings. Because we might place money first in our priority list we may do things with our money that is deceitful to our spouse and even fraudulent to others. And well, *this causes* numerous problems in our lives, thus the saying, “money is the root of evil”, stands true.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and *it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. I Timothy 6:6-10 KJV

Money Does Not Have to Be the Root of Evil

Just because someone has money does not make them dishonest. There are many Christ-centered wealthy folks that do not abuse or misuse money for their own advantage. You see, that’s the key.

Self-seeking folks misuse and sometimes abuse what they have because they are selfish in their thinking and greedy in their ambitions. However, the selfless folks look for ways to serve others with what they have and their ambitions are not out of self-seeking greed. Do you see the difference?

Back to the Beginning

This brings me back to the beginning of this report. **For healing to begin, our attitude needs to change about how we feel about money.** Go back to the beginning and look at the priority list again. Money and work are at the bottom of importance and that's because God wants you to FIRST put your faith and trust in Him and *then* base your lifestyle upon His principles for righteous living.

The truth is, once we actually do this *in faith*, God rewards us. How do I know, because God says He will and because of *seeing results* in my own family life. *Results* are what we see come from our actions in life.

All actions will have *consequences* and the choices we make will come out in our actions and those actions will produce a *result* of fruit(s) or no fruit.

If we do not see fruit or we see negative results, that means we're doing something improper with our use of money.

The Solution

The solution is simple but applying the solution into our lives is more difficult for some people and they may never be free from the love of money. Those who abuse money, love it too much. They love it more than God and they place the importance of it above everything and everyone else.

Solution – STOP LOVING MONEY!

What Can a Wife Do?

You say you want healing for your husband. Well, where is he? He is the one that should be reading this biblical report. However, you can always print it out and give it to him, or send it to him in an email.

The best thing a wife can do *if* her husband made a financial mistake and erred with the household finances is to “let it go”. Do not let it consume you, otherwise you will hold resentment about it and that resentment will come out in negative reactions towards your husband. The result: arguing and fussing about money. Nothing is worse than to allow money to control your marriage.

Your husband knows that he made a mistake, and you nagging him about it, and or being bossy with him certainly will not make the money miraculously reappear.

Scolding your husband, or brow-beating him will only make things worse between you since he is probably already feeling poorly about what he has done.

If you feel the need to talk to him about it, then be nice about it with loving interaction from you. Loving communication will bring him out to talk to you about it, while scolding will keep him defending his position more.

I'm not discounting your feelings; I know it can be a frustrating time for you right now, but the truth is spouses can ALWAYS catch more flies with honey than with a sour lemon.

Your communication has to actually be a productive one and I've never yet seen nor heard of a issue in marriage getting resolved because a wife was being bossy with her husband, or a husband was being demanding with his wife.

Marriage TIP: Love one another and work through your hardship(s) TOGETHER and it will make you stronger marriage partners for each other.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

Unfortunately you did not really give me enough information to know if your husband has a gambling addiction, or if he made a onetime money mistake through a business deal, or if he recklessly spent money without your knowledge. So I cannot really give you any more guidance about what to do without the proper knowledge from you.

There is quite a bit of information for you to soak in already from this marriage column; do not forget to send it along to anyone who you think might need it.

Articles about Marriage and Finances

[The Crumble of Intimacy with the “His Money, Her Money Attitude”](#)

[Keeping up with the Joneses, or Not](#)

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy:

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing

to communicate. Laying up in store for them-selves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” I Timothy 6:17-19 KJV

Blessings always, and until next week, stay safe in our Lord
Angie and Frank

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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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