

Angie's Marriage Column ~ August 12, 2009

Forgive and Love a Cheating Spouse

Ask Angie: I have been married for over 27 yrs. My husband has cheated on me many times over the years, first with pornography, then with other women. Each time I believed it was my Christian duty to forgive and move on. Last fall I found out he had been cheating on me for the third time with the same woman. I have been broken to bits ever since. I feel like I have put up with enough. Each time he claims it will be the last, and he is truly sorry. I am out of strength to keep going. Heart broken.

Marriage Guidance: To get a better understanding of how to forgive in marriage, please click the article links within this marriage column. Understand it is your Christian duty to forgive your husband for being a sinner, but that is as far as it goes. You have to move on and keep growing in Christ...don't allow your husband's stunted growth to keep you from having a close connection with your Savior.

1. **You forgive so you both can move on in the marriage.** Many times we think we have forgiven and we really have not. [Have you truly forgiven your spouse?](#) How will you know? When you can move past the sin and continue to mature in the Lord that is when you have truly forgiven.

2. **You forgive because Christ has forgiven you.** Please print out this marriage column and read it with your husband. Marriage takes two to tango and it definitely take two to put it back together again.

I know how [difficult it is to forgive a spouse of adultery](#), even when they are remorseful and repentant for their actions and never commit adultery again! So I can fully understand your frustration and pain and the difficulty in which you are having with forgiveness, seeing that your husband is continuing in his indiscretions. Believe it or not, I have been on both sides of this issue years ago in my marriage, before I accepted Christ into my life and I do understand what you are going through.

How can a person forgive a spouse who continues to be unfaithful in the marriage? We certainly do not have the power on our own to forgive others. You have to ask God to allow Christ's Spirit into your heart and mind and then [live your marriage according to Christ and His principles](#)—NOT the world's principles. This is the only way you will find relief, peace and comfort in your trials and sufferings.

By going to God and admitting our own sins and need for Christ's forgiveness that is what helps us to understand what forgiveness really is and why it is so important in our

lives. We have to admit that we ourselves need forgiveness before we can accept it, and that takes faith in Jesus Christ. [Choose to work on your marriage today!](#)

Unfortunately you cannot make your husband change his sinful ways – only Christ can do that. Your husband will need to be the one to go to Christ, in sincerity of remorse, and ask for forgiveness for his sins. Then your husband must actually turn his life around and be the man that God intends for him to be—a man of God. But you can be spiritual influence on your husband to help him “see” his sinful ways by seeing Christ’s Spirit within you! [Are you shining your light in the marriage?](#)

My heart goes out to you and I do hope that you try and focus your energies on trying to forgive and let the sins of another go because only than can you [be free of the pain and suffering that you are going through](#). When we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit then the words of Christ will be on our minds, and the Power of Christ will help us overcome our suffering. The only way to freedom from our heavy-laden emotions is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit within us.

What Really Causes a Spouse to Cheat and Why Would They Continue to Cheat?

I keep reading in various articles and in marriage self-help books that the reason a spouse cheats is because of something the other spouse did or didn’t do? But this is incorrect information. To blame one spouse for the sexual indiscretions of the other only gets the cheater off the hook, so to speak. What a web of deceit we can weave. It’s wrong folks.

Couples spend hundreds, and sometimes thousands of dollars listening to a stranger tell them what is wrong with their marriage. But if the marriage does not have the proper foundations established for it in the first place, none of it matters! What is important is getting to the root of the issues facing couples today in their marriage, not arguing over who is right or wrong.

Everyone originates from God and everyone is accountable to God for his or her actions. The root of unfaithfulness in marriage has absolutely nothing to do with who we are married to. It has to do with who we are as people.

What really causes a spouse to cheat is the lack of the spiritual Christ in his or her life. Spiritual bankruptcy is the root of unfaithfulness to God and to our spouse. Living a spiritual life and experiencing the power of Christ tends to make people realize how important they really are, that is when morals begin changing in that person for the good and the temptation to cheat goes away from their heart and mind.

What causes a spouse to cheat is lack of morals – It takes a person of upright character to withstand the temptations of society. If a person does not trust in and believe in God they will follow what the world does. It is really that simple. Sometimes a person will

commit adultery even when they know it is wrong. It is a lifestyle thing. Monkey see, monkey do.

If you have no faith you will live with no faith. If you think you are a believer in Christ and are still cheating on your spouse, maybe it is time to review your faith. Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ? That's the question that needs answered? If you answered no, then you will live your life under your own understanding of what you think, feel and believe, which ultimately leads to sin.

[Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexuals offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11]

In the above scripture, Paul was describing the characteristics of unbelievers. If you feel that you are a believer but continue in these practices you will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Such people need to re-examine their lives to see if they truly are believers in Christ Jesus.

In other words people are condemned not because of what they do not know, but for what they do with what they know. If a person knows that adultery is a sin and they still cheat on their spouse, then God will judge them. People violate the very standards that they create for themselves. **The standards of society are sin. So if we live by that foundation for our marriage, what do you think is going to happen?**

If a man is not dedicated to his marriage and he has no principles to base his marriage on then his commitment level will not mean much to him either, and he will stray from the marriage bed. It's that simple. So next time you read that the cause of a spouse's infidelity is because of the person they are married to, think again.

[He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly praised among men is detestable in God's sight." Luke 16:15]

What Else Can You Do When a Spouse Commits Adultery?

1. [Read This Free Ebook – Forgive Cheating Spouse](#)
2. [Know That You Have Not Fallen Out of Love With Your Spouse](#)
3. [Get Rid of Negative Feelings You Have About Your Spouse](#)
4. [Know What is Really Important For Your Marriage](#)
5. [Bring Intimacy Back Into The Marriage](#)

6. [Read Adultery Pandemic: Recovering From Adultery](#)
(Available as E-book or Hardcopy)

7. Study The below Priority List For Marriage

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 (service)	Ministry (service)
Self (career, job, hobbies)	Self (career, job, hobbies)

8. Do bible study together from home. We go to church thinking that's enough, but it's not enough. We need to daily have Christ on our hearts and minds so we can do the right thing and be the people that God intends for us to be—children of God! Marriage needs God in it 24 hours a day, not just when we go to church.

Take care and God Bless!
We'll see you next Wednesday
Angie and Frank

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