

Angie's Marriage Column – April 30, 2008

Dealing with a Constant Cheater

Marriage Question: My husband cheats no matter what, what can I do?

Marriage Guidance: Living with a spouse who continually cheats in their marriage is living with an unbeliever. So basically, you are living with someone who lives their life to please themselves rather than God. **This is** what unbelief is, even though many people may think they are connected to the living Christ in their life, *if* they are purposely sinning to gratify the self, then they are not living their life by “faith in God” but by “faith in themselves”.

[“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”.](#) (Galatians 2:20)

If a person were living by faith in God they WOULD not continue living in sin or whatever has taken a hold of their life, whatever that may be. Of course that is not to say that a believer does not sin, on the contrary WE ALL SIN, believer or not, the difference is in the *faith*. A child of God will not continue living in sin but rather will do those things to steer themselves away from sin. So lets talk about how “we all sin”.

[“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin”](#) (Romans: 6:6,7)

Everyone sins! Some of us have anger problems, some of us have greed issues, and some of us have jealousy, envy, pride, selfishness, and resentment issues. And some of us have unforgiveness, spitefulness, and self-righteous issues. The list of negative emotions that believers burden themselves and others with goes on and on, and on. If we are holding onto these negative feelings we are in fact [serving sin](#).

Yes, it is a sin to be jealous of your neighbor. It is a sin to be greedy and it is a sin to behave “holier than thou” with people. The funny thing is, no one thinks these things are sins. So they continue living in these negative feelings. The problem is it keeps them wrapped up within themselves and they cannot see far enough out to be the loving individuals that God created them to be. It doesn't have to be like this!

Here is what we all need to understand. The negative emotions mentioned above are not judged any different than adultery in the eyes of God. In fact, just because someone is sexually and morally good, does not mean they will see heavenly paradise. **Morality does not get one into heaven.** The foundation of the bible is about God's LOVE FOR

HIS PEOPLE and *that* love transforming us into loving people. My question is, are His people using that love to help others with? The LAW OF LOVE – [treat others in the way you would like to be treated](#). This is an important biblical truth for believers to follow. We know that unbelievers cannot do this, so that means believers have to be the example and SHOW them how to do it by our own loving actions.

I know, I am veering away from this woman's question, but in a way I am not, because we must understand what unbelief is and examine our own lives and see what we can do to change ourselves so we are living our life in "faith in God" rather than "faith in self." Look at some of the negative emotions above. What negative emotions have taken a hold of you? How can you rid yourself of that emotion? Give it to God and He will give you His love in place of the burdens you are now holding within you.

["But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law". \(Galatians 5:22,23\)](#)

Negative emotions control us, they control our attitude and the way we behave towards others, they are like an addiction in that before you can give it up you must first WANT TO GIVE IT UP AND STOP USING IT FOR YOUR PROTECTION. Oh yes, emotions guard us; they are our defensive shield because we can use them to attack others with or use them to protect our own territory with. When we "act out" using our negative emotions we feel safe and protected. But why would God's people need that kind of protection? That's the point; they don't need protected when God is already protecting them. Once again, where is the faith?

Incessant infidelity is an addiction. It is sexual lust. Whether the person is looking at porn or having affairs with numerous people, it does not matter, it is all the same. Someone who continually cheats over and over again does not have a very good self-image. They need to feel good about themselves by using and abusing others – it is how they get satisfaction and pleasure out of life. He continues to sin because that is all he knows. He has not yet experienced the workings of Christ in his life and is spiritually bankrupt.

["For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. \(1 John 2:16,17\)](#)

How can you help? ["Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity". \(1 Timothy 12\)](#)

I believe people can change if they want to change. I believe in the power of God working in people and transforming them into loving people. But I also believe that people have to want to change themselves and seek out something greater than themselves for contentment and solace. The problem is we can't do that for people. We can witness to them, and we can tell them about what Jesus has done in our own life, but we can't save them. That is Jesus' job.

["For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. \(Matthew 18:11\)](#)

We cannot make someone believe in Jesus. What we can do is be an example through our own life “with Jesus” and maybe they will want to turn their life around for the better. I know you are hurting and are upset with your husband but the fact is, if you are demeaning your husband, and lashing out at him with anger because of his sinning ways, he is not going to see Jesus in you. In fact, your behavior will keep him in his sin. You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. So put that vinegar away.

Marriage is not easy, and some marriages go through much suffering before they understand the impact of how God being at the top of the priority list IS THE MOST IMPORTANT component that marriage needs. Not only have that, but more than half of all marriages have ended in divorce, not because of adultery but because of negative emotions in one or both spouses. Marriage NEEDS spouses who respect each other.

We must want to keep God as our authority and head in the marriage at all times and **base His standards for living on our behavior.** This is the only way marriage can survive. We all need inner healing and without us first going to God with our own problems how can we even begin to know what we need? We cannot help others if we ourselves are in need. Do you see how that works? We first have to let go and give our troubles to God and then pray for the person we love who is walking in error. Because only then can we truly forgive them for their trespasses.

So try to stop focusing so much on what your husband is doing, but instead, ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins. Ask God to help you with your negative feelings you have towards your husband – let your husband see on his own through “your detachment of his sin” that he needs to change, repent, and turn his life around. And that is what you can do.

I suggest you look at your husband as if he were sick, because essentially he is sick. He is spiritually sick. He has no spiritual authority over himself and thinks he can do whatever he pleases. He is living his life to please the sinful self rather than doing what is right and honorable for the marriage. If it becomes overwhelming and just too much for you to handle because it undermines your own faith in Jesus Christ, then you are not bound to remain in the marriage. “Not bound” does not mean, “to get a divorce”. It means you don’t have to live with him any longer, unless he changes his ways.

Article Resources:

What Really Causes A Spouse To Cheat

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

Being Emotionally There For Your Spouse

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/beingemotionallythereforyourSpouse.htm>

The Cycle of Disrespect

<http://www.heavenministries.com/articles/cycleofdisrespect.htm>

Book Resources:

Adultery Pandemic is a treasure book filled with effective guidance for your marriage from forgiveness and trust to recommitting your lives to each other again. Practical and easy-to-read, this book combines the solutions and remedies your marriage needs towards recovery. This book will give you the guidance you need to discover the true secrets to a happy, lifelong marriage. 202 pages. <http://www.lulu.com/content/1766568>

[Hardcopy \\$17.97](#)

[Download E-book \\$7.95](#)

In Christ,
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