

Angie's Marriage Column – June 2, 2011

If Separated From Spouse Are Both Parties Free to Date?

Let Love Be Without **Dissimulation**

Romans 12:9

Dissimulation: a form of deception in which one or both parties conceals the truth.

Ask Angie: If you are separated from your spouse are both parties free to see other people? What boundaries should be established? If a husband still loves his wife how can he remain separated from her and date other women?

Marriage Guidance: If you are separated or divorced from your first spouse are you free to see other people? It depends on who you work for? Do you work for God or for the world? We aren't here to tell anyone what they can or cannot do, but we are here to teach about God's kingdom and principles to whoever has ears to listen and to apply Godly created principles into his or her Christian life and marriage.

The many problems of marriage begin because [people are not prepared for married life](#). People are marrying people they don't truly know and or love. They are getting married unprepared and without any commitment to the marriage. They marry based on feelings of lust and desire, or they marry to receive something for themselves; they think marriage is going to make them happy... to put it bluntly they marry out of selfish reasons.

Scripture teaches to “**let our love be without dissimulation**”. (Romans 12: 9)

Dissimulation is a form of deception in which one or both parties conceals the truth. It consists of concealing the truth, or in the case of half-truths, concealing parts of the truth, like inconvenient or secret information.

The “secret information” in many marriages is marrying for selfish reasons and not truly knowing how to love spouse, the end result is infidelities, divorce, and possible remarriage.

This is what happens when we equate love with feelings. In many instances arranged marriages do better than those couples who only *think* they are in love with their spouse, because anyone can learn to love without dissimulation when they take feelings and emotions out of the equation. We should not marry because we think we are in love, we should already *love the one we marry* and do it well.

Sincere love does not share in any kind of wishy-washy feelings and behaviors. Sincere love is something one must “do” and “be”. Sincere love (without dissimulation) is Fruit of the Spirit, which is Christ living inside of us. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such things there is no law.**

(Galatians 5:22-23) The key that opens the door to sincere love is Christ living inside us. So then think about this, “Is dating other people, while separated from your spouse, result in fruit of the Spirit?” **And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:24-25)**

Now the works of the flesh (Christ NOT living in us and being separated from God) **are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornications, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like this: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)**

Well what is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is the Spirit of Christ working and living in us, teaching us to live our lives pleasing and honorable to God in our walk in life. If we claim to love God and be one of His children, we must behave as such and do His will. This should not be difficult for the Christ-one because they are empowered with the Holy Spirit to live righteous lives now! The kingdom of heaven is here! It is within you, if you allow Christ to be the most important part of your life. It is written, **‘be ye holy; for I am holy’.** (1 Peter 1:15)

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as you have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee or forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:4)

Sincere and true love, which is spoken of in scripture, and taught to us to emulate as Christ’s people, creates fruits from the Spirit, most important **respect for our marriage vows and sincere love for our Father** who blesses us with the ability to stay pure for Him. If we are **TRUE to Him** then we will be given the power of the Holy Spirit within us to work on our marriage problems and remain married, or at the very least, to remain pure in heart while separated or divorced from our spouse.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abuser of themselves with mankind... (1 Corinthians 6:9)

Following Jesus Christ may involve some suffering and discomfort. **Remember:** one aspect of the fruits of the Spirit is *“longsuffering”*. No one says it is going to be easy being a sincere follower of Christ but we must bear through the issues of our flesh and stay convicted in our hearts and in our minds by staying true to God! If we belong to God then we have NOTHING to fear because He will watch over us and guide us in His marvelous and glorious ways.

We forget that getting close to God means bible study, reading the word daily, and constant prayer for “His will to be done”, **not our own will.** This takes faith and trust in God.

The question we should be asking ourselves is why do we not know what God’s moral principles are for our lives and if we do know, then we need to ask ourselves, “Am I separated from God”? If we are separated from our Father who watches over us and guides us then it means we are without the light of Christ and are living in the darkness of this world. Many of us don’t even realize we are living in the dark. But this is precisely why we do not have the wisdom to live pleasing and honorable lives for God.

People think all they need to do is go to church, be baptized, and tithe and these outward appearances are following Jesus Christ and they are saved! But nothing could be further from the truth. Doing these things show are disconnection from the spiritual Christ in our lives. These things are not inward deeds of the Spirit of Christ working in us, but outward deeds. We can participate in these outward appearances until we are blue in the face but they will not get us into the kingdom of heaven! God wants your heart and your service to Him.

What is in our hearts is much more important to God than our actual baptismal, going to church and tithing. There is nothing wrong with doing these outward appearance acts but they will not help you have a relationship with God and they will not save you. They will not bless you with wisdom or show you how to *live* a pleasing life for God. Why are we so stubborn to accept these outward appearances as our saving grace?! The Pharisees were stubborn too.

Giving our life to Jesus Christ is the only way we can be saved from ourselves...We need to sincerely get down on our knees and beg for forgiveness for our wretched sinful lives!! WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT GOD.

We Want to Inherit the Kingdom of God

What we have to do, instead of “going to church” we have to “go to God” and plead for a new heart, new mind, and attitude in Him, filled with the Holy Spirit of Christ and plead for mercy and for His will to be done in our life and not our own. This is what’s important right now, today! If we want to *inherit the kingdom of God* we need to put our lives with Christ now!

Nothing else matters—only our life with Christ should matter to the Christ follower!! Then we will be given the wisdom and the knowledge to know that dating other people while separated or divorced from our first “one flesh” spouse is wrong according to our position as “children of God” *living in the kingdom of God!* (The reason many don’t have the wisdom to know it is wrong is because they are not living in the kingdom of God)

God asks us to flee from immorality because our bodies are not our own. Our body is the temple for which the Holy Spirit resides. If Christ lives in us, and if we commit adultery, which is

having sex with another while our spouse still lives, we are dishonoring God with our body and polluting the temple in which Christ dwells? (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

What does it mean to be “born again”? How can we say we are “born again” when we are still living for our own selfish interests and desires above and over God’s will? How can that be? If we are carrying on as if we are not married when we are married then many, many people have been deceived and misled down a path to destruction. Dating and marrying other people while our first “one flesh” spouse still lives is NOT being born again into God’s kingdom. It is just being born. We can choose to *trust in* and *follow Christ* or we can stay babies and just born but never born again.

Born again: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:23)

Being born again means the old man, *with his old ways, old mind, old attitude*, is no more and the new man is enriched with wisdom and knowledge to seek truth and righteousness in Jesus Christ. What this means is we need to “come out of ourselves” and live our lives for God!!

Regarding your last question, if a husband really loves his wife he would not be dating other women. Here it is again, “**Let love be without dissimulation?** (Romans 12:9) If your husband is saying that he loves you and wants to date other women then he is trying to conceal his true intentions, which are selfish and lustful on his part. Remember: **Dissimulation** is a form of deception in which one or both parties conceals the truth. It consists of concealing the truth, or in the case of half-truths, concealing parts of the truth, like inconvenient or secret information.

But what were to happen if his wife were to (other half of the flesh marriage) know the truth?
Here is where you come in:

The bottom line here is keep your focus off of what your husband is or is not doing, or what he wants to do and instead focus on your own life in Jesus Christ. *Put Christ on the pedestal and worship Him* with your heart mind and soul. You can’t save your husband no matter how much you try and you cannot change your husband no matter how much you try. But you can be a righteous example and good influence by showing him *through your behavior* how Christ has changed you and blessed you with sincere love, walking with Christ rather than with the world.

Many think this next scripture was something that apostle Paul taught, and he certainly did teach it, but it did not begin with Paul. If you look at this verse more closely you will see that it is a command of Jesus Christ and Paul is only reiterating what Jesus taught and preached. **And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, ‘Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.** (1 Corinthians 7:10-11) This sums up the will of God for married people. God *commanded* that married people follow this principle for their lives. The only way

to remain unmarried or pure is to not “see” (date) other people while your “one flesh marriage” spouse still lives.

I know, life doesn't seem fair sometimes, but life was not created to be fair *as we know it* and have been taught and conditioned to know it. You see this is the problem. We have to move ourselves away from how the Christian culture thinks and believes because if we follow *it* we'll end up going down the wrong road.

It doesn't seem right that God would not allow remarriage or dating if a spouse has left you, but that is precisely the point. Perhaps you are not seeing the whole point. We almost never look at God's perspective but when we do we'll see things differently. If couples would not be selfish but rather learn to practice fruits of the Spirit they would not be alone—they would still have each other and they could be blessed and happy together. At least 95% of marriages can be saved by our efforts in Jesus Christ. Selfishness is what pulls marriages apart. Our life separated from God pulls us away from loving sincerely.

Perhaps all we need to do is trust in Jesus by taking our burdens to Him and praying for His will to be done in our life!! Perhaps we should pray for God's perspective and God's wisdom to be given to us so we may see what we may have done or not done to possibly help facilitate the separation from our marriage.

If we truly want to do His will, and if we see that God does not want us to remarry, perhaps we will have the conviction to work on our marriage we already have been blessed with and **STAY MARRIED!** **Longsuffering is what many must go through to save their marriage.** The opposite of longsuffering is selfish and self seeking behaviors.

What is Sincere Love? How do we love without dissimulation?

Loving without dissimulation, which is the Fruit of the Spirit mentioned above, is not what we do but who we are and become in Christ. It's not going to happen overnight. We have to look at our life and observe the way we live and change what we know to be wrong in the eyes of God and move towards living our life to please God rather than ourselves, all the while practicing and applying the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

If we take time out of our busy day to study God's Holy Word and to pray, we are given all the answers to live our lives pleasing to Him. But when we don't take time out of our busy day, to make God the most important part of our life and instead we outwardly go get baptized, go to church and tithe, we will not be satisfied and never truly know God's will. Not only that, but God will not be satisfied with our life and will not give us the gift of wisdom and knowledge to know His will.

Ask yourselves this: Do you honestly think God would want married couples who are separated to “see”, as you call it, other people? **If God believes marriage to be honorable and the**

marriage bed to remain undefiled it would make sense that we are to behave honorable as well. An undefiled marriage bed is a result of a pure attitude and behavior. A defiled marriage bed is a result of impure attitude and behavior from one or both of the parties in the marriage. Notice I use the word “attitude” and this is because all of our actions come from how we think and what we believe to be true for our lives. In other words, what we think to be ok for our lives becomes ok for our lives, even though it is not ok with God.

As Christ-ones we must live for and believe that Jesus Christ is the truth, the way and the life, because anything else is unbelief.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

If we chase down temptation (date other people while separated) then it will eventually tempt us to defile our marriage bed, will it not? Regarding your second question, God has already established all of the boundaries we are to live by, and all we need to do is apply those boundaries into our life. There is no need to make up new boundaries for ourselves or for others.

Read the bible and then do what “it” says.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality (sounds like sincere love), and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3:13-18)

We are not alone, we have Jesus Christ and He is all we need!

[How to Be a Good Marriage Spouse? Growth in Christ](#) Video

[I Don't Want a Divorce](#) Video

In Christ,
Angie and Frank

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