

Angie's Marriage Column – December 12, 2007

What Can I Do If I Married an Unbeliever?

Question: What if my husband is not a believer?

Guidance: This problem is more common than you would think among married couples. I have known cases personally where one spouse turned the unbelieving spouse around and the marriage became happily ever after. They actually divorced and then remarried. So never give up hope. Sometimes some of us have to stumble and fall a few times before we are willing to humble ourselves to Christ and hand our life over to Him.

I suggest you lean on the Lord and become strong in Him and pray about it. God works His marvelous wonders in our lives when we have THE FAITH to give our problems to Him. When we live with an unbeliever it is basically out of our hands, we have to let the unbeliever decide on their own which path they want to follow. If we try and push our beliefs on them or try and change them, they most likely will run further away from the message we are trying to convey.

We must take a moment and look at the big scheme of things so we may see more objectively on the subject.

Why would someone NOT believe in his or her Creator? Did something happen in their childhood to make them turn their life away from God? Are they seeing too much hypocrisy among the Christian community / church and it is causing them to not believe in a Supreme Being? Are they wrapped up in the enjoyment of sin and do not want to pull away from that selfish desire? Could it be that the Church(s) are not giving people the answers they need? Does your husband only see the religious aspect of God and finds it distasteful that believer's in the same God cannot seem to get along? All of these things cause unbelief in people. Is there any wonder?

I'll tell you a secret. Once you break away from all of those things above is when you will be able to truly identify yourself as a Child of God because you have then allowed yourself to have a growing and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Don't let all that other holier than thou stuff keep you from seeing what the purpose of what Jesus really is all about because Jesus Christ did not come to bring dissension and animosity among believers. Jesus our Savior is all about love and sharing our love with others; how completely opposite is the how Christians treat one another. Break free from all that other religious jargon, and then you will be able to help your husband see Christ's love in you.

What if your husband is not a believer? What can his wife do to help him become a believer?

1. Don't condemn or judge because he is not a Christian like you. The more you scold or criticize him about his unbelief, the more he will turn his heart and mind from seeking God. Have you ever heard the saying, "you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar"?

But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. (2 Corinthians 10:17,18 KJV)

2. Don't try to control his behavior or change him to become a Christian. These things are best left up to God; Only God knows your husband's heart, and it could very well be that God is using your husband for His purpose, and when God knows that your husband is ready, God will show Him the way to truth and light. And that is what you can pray about.

The minute we give up trying to control circumstances that are out of our control, and we put our trust and faith in God we feel such a big burden lifted from our shoulders. We really do! I know it is difficult for you to be married to someone who does not believe the same as you, but that is why we must pray about it everyday and God will make us strong for our spouse, if, we only ask Him to.

3. Don't get discouraged. Try and keep your focus always on God because even if you don't think anything is happening, it certainly is. If you stay faithful, God will prepare the way for your husband to see the truth for himself.

4. Detach with love. Many times when a spouse does not believe in the way we think they should it can cause many other problems within our own spiritual bank, such as resentment, animosity, bitterness, fear, anger and anxiety. We have to be careful because if we get ourselves in such an attitude it will hinder our own spiritual growth process as well as the unbelieving spouse.

I encourage you to give the negative attitude to God and move on in forgiveness and love your husband the best you can. Pray constantly for God's help in doing this.

5. Be a good witness through your actions instead of your speech. The best way to help your husband is to show him how Jesus Christ works in you by being a supportive and caring wife. I think that God has given you an important job, and that is to shine your light by showing your husband what God has done for you, and is doing for you in your life (nature and qualities) through your loving actions.

If your husband sees his wife with a bad disposition day in and day out what kind of loving quality is that. I mean, if God is love then why are not His followers being more loving and kind to others? This is the hypocrisy I was talking about earlier.

Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 KJV)

You can be the Light of God for your husband. Right now your husband has no eyes to see God with nor ears to hear God with, he has been made blind to the ways of truth, as many in this world have. Let him see God working in you because of how you shine your light. The Word of God is open and revealed to everyone, except to those who refuse to believe. Satan is the god of this age, and his work is to deceive, and he has blinded those who do not believe in Jesus Christ.

In whom the god (satan) of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest, the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV)

Those people who reject Jesus Christ and continue living in their selfish desires have unknowingly made satan their god.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6 KJV)

And no marvel; for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:14,15 KJV)

Article Resources:

Married To An Unbeliever – Shine Your Light

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

Witness by Example

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

Marriage Does Not Come Already Fixed

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

Until next Wednesday, May God bless you for His glory in His kingdom!

Angie and Frank

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