

Angie's Marriage Column – December 17, 2008

My Wife Thinks I Am Too Controlling

Marriage question: My wife feels as though I am trying to control her. If I am I need to know what to do. Our family has had its ups and downs and she is spending lots of time on the Internet (4-5 hours a day) catching up with old friends and I question her about it. She wants to sleep over old friend's houses to get to know them better and I ask her why? In our home, I have been doing all of the cooking and have helped for years in everything. In many ways I feel like the father and mother. I know I have resentment over it. So she wants to visit old friends. She says she is stressed. My response to her is if it is good for the family. Our house is definitely not in order. How can I handle this?

Marriage Guidance: I am glad you wrote because this gives me the opportunity to feed His sheep. I am concerned that you are finally seeing the tip of the iceberg, and I would caution you that a large world wind might be headed your way.

What I mean is, it appears that the stresses of an imbalance are starting to cause cracks in your marriage. There are several issues here. First is the "underlying foundational issues". Second is how the people involved respond to the stresses caused by those underlying issues.

It's important to understand that in marriage usually *both husband and wife* are the cause and effect of where they happen to be at a particular juncture. Cause is choices both have made in the past and currently are making. Effect is the result of those choices. It is my prayer that those choices will be more in line with scriptural foundation from here on out. So let's get down to business, shall we?

I see some confusion on your part. I also see your wife is attempting to adjust to how she feels. This is typical, but as you know we have (scriptural) remedies and we teach them at Heaven Ministries. I think it becomes easier to "handle" something once we have the understanding.

Let's understand this: We need to get back to basics. It begins in the family structure that God created and Jesus Christ defined further in his teachings. In this God created structure here is what it looks like according to our understanding of scripture:

- 1) We have responsibilities vs. rights
- 2) We have duties vs. rights
- 3) To God and Family.

RESPONSIBILITIES and DUTIES

Husband	WIFE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duty to God first and foremost - Accountability to God - Second duty to wife - Responsibility to wife - Third to children (if applicable) - Love, cherish and protect wife - Primary provider for wife and family - Accountability to wife and family - Primary spiritual decision maker - Primary decision maker on large issues that involve the rest of the family - Responsibility to love your fellow man 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Duty to God first and foremost - Accountability to God - Second duty to Husband - Responsibility to Husband - Honor, love, respect, submit to husband - Responsibility to nurture and care for house and children - Responsibility to love your fellow man

Both husbands and wives have a duty and responsibility to meet each other's needs, husband's needs usually more physical and wife's needs usually more emotional.

So do you see any rights in the lists? If you think this sounds old fashioned, it's because it is. We call it getting back to basics.

DISCLAIMER: In no way is it intended to offend anyone that does not live according to this prescription and does not have any issues at this time, as I realize that, in some households variables exist that some can make a go of it for a time because of personal circumstances. If someone is not ill then they don't need a doctor right?

Definition of CONTROL or CONTROLLING

Just like most things in life there's the good and then there's the bad.

Example: when I get behind the wheel of an automobile, I am controlling the vehicle. At least I'd better! A conductor "controls" the train so it won't derail. A ship's captain controls the ship by having a plan and a destination, not necessarily by doing all of the work. On the other hand where would a captain be without his mates? Proverbs says don't spare discipline to your children or they will suffer later in life, you will control your children or suffer the consequences of a disappointed parent. We all need to control our emotions or we run the risk of making inappropriate decisions.

Now to the bad: We should all know what bad controlling is. Bad controlling is anything we don't have a right to.

Example. If I control my neighbor's car without his permission, I am stealing. If I look at another woman with sexual thoughts I am in Lust and disobedience to God, and offending my wife. I need to control my sexual urges. If I boss my wife around like

a dog and lay my hands on her when she doesn't "listen" I am obviously not on scriptural foundation and am an abuser, etc. etc. you get the picture.

It appears from this list that bad controlling is disobedience to God and for us is not an option. As you can see the CONTROL word as normally understood is a fraud, perpetrated and foisted upon a culture walking in darkness, the blind leading the blind. *Come out of her my people that you be not partakers of her sins and receive not of her plagues...*

Scripture says the Husband is the Head of the Wife and the Wife is to respect her Husband. You need to stand firm on this understanding in a loving way. You need to be kind and patient at this point, but you guys need to talk about this. There's no deviating if you're a follower of Christ and the Holy Spirit, and if you want the blessings promised to His people. He is a loving God that steers us back in the right direction when we're off track.

You need to let her know this is the reason why you don't agree with her spending the night anywhere, at any time, without you if you both have not agreed on it. That is responsibility to one another and accountability.

You also need to pray and ask for Christ's forgiveness for not meeting you're wife's needs somehow, and let your wife know that, and be willing to meet some kind of need that is not being fulfilled. On the other hand she is out of scriptural line and needs to come back. You guys both need to come back to the basics.

She does not need you to do her housework or to cook. She needs you to be the man Christ wants you to be and be the man of the house. You do this by standing on your new understanding of the law of love. Let her know that you have erred and are willing to love her better but that her behavior is not acceptable because of the above, and you are going to stand on the foundation of Christ regardless of circumstances.

She has some things to do too. She needs to repent, but will probably not do it if you don't show her Christ's love in all of this. It is hopefully now evident that it is not God's will for you to enable your wife to go and run her own life as if she has no accountability, responsibility, and duty to any one but herself.

All I've done here is given you a firm foundation. You will have to work out the details. Much prayer and fasting will be necessary. Hope in Christ one moment at a time.

Christ's peace,
The Minister
Frank

www.heavenministries.com

Book Resources:

Love The Woman You Married ♥♥♥♥♥ Love The Man You Married
<http://stores.lulu.com/angielewis>

LOVE THE WOMAN YOU MARRIED –

Marriage is a serious commitment, and God makes it clear that it not only serious to the unified couple. It is important to Him, too. Angie Lewis has penned a novel that can help married men better understand how to be a good husband, why they should be a good husband, and how to make the necessary changes.

"Love The Woman You Married" should be mandatory reading before a man receives a marriage license. Ditto, but in reverse, for her other book, "Love The Man You Married." Women will receive the same great advice men receive in this book.

When a husband is following the instructions his creator has asked him to, a wife is much more likely to respect, be inspired by, and want to be completely committed to the man she married. But there are important things to learn, important character traits to change, and even some serious prayers to say for relationships to become as strong as they can be.

Lewis tackles every subject in this fascinating God-help (notice I didn't say self-help) book: Love, sex, romance, expression, attitude, wisdom, communication, forgiveness, and respect. Her writing is accurate and concise because she has been down in the valley and, in my personal opinion, she has reached the mountaintop of understanding how to have a successful and happy marriage.

"Love The Woman You Married" is almost impossible to put down once you pick it up. It is full of undeniable logic and creative advice. It is written by a woman dedicated to her Lord and her husband.

After reviewing this author's other amazing book, "Journey On The Roads Less Traveled", I knew this book would contain the same real life experiences, the same brutal honesty, and sound guidance from someone seriously involved in helping others become better and more well-rounded individuals. Reviewed by Christian husband and father Dan Blankenship author of *THE RUNNING GIRL* (Exposing the Spiritual War Against Christianity)

LOVE THE MAN YOU MARRIED

'Love the Man You Married' is an impressive piece of work. It touches on issues such as 'How to be Happy in Your Marriage', 'Healing Marriage after Adultery', and 'Communicating Effectively with Your Husband'. Angie uses Bible scriptures to try to examine issues and she even shows how she has helped people mend their broken marriages. This is the Ultimate guide for any Christian family. I highly recommend this book. It is much needed in today's society and it is a worthwhile investment that will change your outlook on life and marriage. <http://stores.lulu.com/angielewis>

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