

Angie's Marriage Column ~ June 9, 2010

Persevering in our Marriage in God

Ask Angie: Would appreciate if next you could come up with an article on 'Why God chose a particular life partner for you' and 'Why some people think (eg: My husband) that whatever bad currently happening in a couples married life would not have happened if they were with some other person they marry'. I am writing this because my husband thinks had he been married to the girl he first loved and then broke off he would have been a very, very happy man.

Ask Angie: Hi Angie, could you please pray for my relationship. My partner has told me he has met someone from the past (early high school) and wants to have a relationship with them. He wants me now to only be his friend. He has only seen this female a few times but he says he has feelings for her etc. I need prayer for him not to be deceived and to be healed of this pattern of his.

Marriage Guidance: Your husbands are playing the “what if game”. *If only I would have married so and so I wouldn't have to deal with these problems. If only I would have married my high school sweet heart, I'd be happy now.* These are copouts for their own unhappiness. People love to blame or find reasons why they are where they are at in life. However, we've all made our own choices and it's time to take responsibility for those choices.

Besides, happiness does not come from outside circumstances but within our own spiritual well being.

Basically we are telling ourselves lies. It doesn't matter who you are married to, most marriages go through some kind of difficulties, issues and circumstances at some point in time during the course of the marriage, and especially *if* God is not first priority in the marriage.

We should never blame our unhappiness on the person we married because that is a copout plain and simple. It is a way to avoid “looking at ourselves” and changing our own lives. We would rather find fault and blame our spouse for our unhappiness then discover it is because of something we are doing or not doing for ourselves.

[Happiness comes from *within the person we are*](#); we find contentment no matter the situation. The contentment I'm talking about is the peace we receive from the Holy Spirit within us. If we aren't recognizing and feeling the presence of God within us then we are disconnected from Him. We must develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ so we can live our lives following His precepts for our marriage. No one can have a relationship with God unless they go through Jesus.

But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

Does God Choose The Person We Marry?

When we follow God's design for our relationships through the [courtship process](#), we will find a spouse that is suitable to us, and in a way that is how God chooses a life spouse for us. But if we don't wait on God and we choose our spouse through our own means and we get married to someone who is not suited for us, such as [marrying an unbeliever](#), it doesn't matter to God—we're still married to that person for life.

We chose and now we bear up under it. Marriage is for the good times and bad times. Had he married that other gal, later on when his unhappiness came into his being he would have said he should have married you. Do you get it?

Whether or not God actually chooses the person we marry or not, the simple fact is, He does establish the "one flesh" of marriage with the person we do marry. [He blesses and sanctifies couples in the marriage](#) and sets the marriage apart for his use. [Marriage belongs to God.](#) (1 Corinthians 7:14)

[God created marriage as a permanent relationship](#) and intends that couples work on restoring the marriage rather than look for reasons to leave the marriage. Telling ourselves "had we only married someone else, we'd be happy" is avoiding going to God with our personal issues that are harbored within ourselves.

[Pride literally keeps us from seeing our own faults and weaknesses](#) so we unbeknownst blame others and or outside circumstances for our problems. But we all need God to complete us and make us whole people with the ability to love others properly.

Are You Playing Russian Roulette with your Emotions?

Playing the “what if game” is like playing Russian roulette in our mind. We literally allow “what ifs” to take precedent over the here and now and live in the past rather than in the present, causing our mind to choose what we will believe and then we act on that belief.

At first we only recite the “what ifs” in our head through nagging and complaining because we truly believe that the “what ifs” that we didn’t live out in our life is the cause of our unhappiness. But eventually, the game turns into action, where our mental perception becomes skewed by our thoughts and we do not realize or recognize the blessings that God has given us and we commit sin in our marriage through the act of infidelity. Spiritual bankruptcy and our separateness from Christ is why we become [slaves to sin](#) in the first place.

God Knows What We Need More Than We Do

[But if God created us, and if God created and designed marriage](#), and if God loves us so much that He would come to earth in the form of a man to die for our sins, wouldn’t He know what we need even more than we do? Yes, yes, and yes!!

It’s time to burst the bubble. The reality is high school sweethearts and young puppy loves are an infatuation. Teenagers and young people are still growing and learning themselves about life and who they are and are barely understanding how to love themselves, let alone another person for a marriage commitment.

Love is something that has to develop and grow—love needs to be taught. This means if we desire someone from our past, such as an old flame or high school sweetheart then we are bringing back feelings of our past with that person. These feelings may be initiated by seeing the person again, or getting a phone call from them, or constantly thinking about them again. [Is it infatuation or love?](#)

The more we think and dwell on this other person from our past the more we will believe that our marriage is wrong and that we did [marry the wrong person](#). But this is wrong thinking again. We never marry the wrong person, even if we feel disappointed about our spouse and the marriage now. God has made your marriage to your first husband or wife “one flesh” in body, mind and spirit.

Marriage is for the Good Times and the Bad Times

Unfortunately, sometimes we have to suffer through bad times in our marriage because a spouse may not care about the marriage, or is an unbeliever living in sin. They never seem to enjoy the blessings of today or enjoy the person they are married to because they are unhappy with themselves. They may commit adultery, become trapped in an addiction of some sort, or simply live in their negative emotions, playing the “poor me” and “what if” game. They cause their own victimization. In other words, they do it to themselves.

We Need to Connect our Lives with God through Christ

But the hard, cold facts are, it's not the person we are married to that is the cause of our unhappiness, bitterness, and apathy for our marriage, it is our perception about who we are and it is what we dwell on and believe. We make ourselves unhappy because we do not have a connection with God through Jesus Christ. This is why some of us get drunk every night or do drugs—and is the reason many folks are trapped inside of addiction and are a slave to sinful behavior!

We play the “what if” game over and over in our head trying to change circumstances of today, but we're feeding ourselves lies and making ourselves remain unfulfilled because of those lies. These lies we keep feeding ourselves with is keeping us from God!

What we need to be thinking about is “how can I make what I have now better? How can I turn my marriage into the relationship that God intends it to be? How can I be happy with the person God has blessed me with? Even if our marriage looks gloomy and terrible today, that can all change once we realize our need for God in our marriage. We have to start [trusting in God](#).

Hand Your Marriage Over to God

Many of us in desperation hand our marriage over to the state and let them try to separate a union that God created as the one flesh of marriage. But all the state can do is make it legal for themselves—it doesn't make it legal for you and the person you married and God. [When the courts dissolve a marriage](#), they are interfering with God's intention for marriage, and unbeknownst to you they are interfering with your spirituality and connection to God. **The state doesn't care about you or your marriage, they make money from your divorce but you create sin for your whole family in the process!**

Instead of handing your marriage over to mere men, you should be handing your marriage over to God—it's His marriage. [Get the healing you need \(give up your pride\), so you can SEE your marriage through God's perspective](#) rather than your own. Your perspective is blurry and clouded. It's blurry with images of your past love and clouded over by feelings of lust with those past infatuations.

Reminiscing over someone from your past is clouding your judgment and you can't understand or see your marriage, as it is, "one flesh" in mind, body, and spirit. Think about this for a moment.

- 1) You left your parents to marry your wife/husband and you promised yourself to that person for the [lifetime of the marriage](#).
- 2) During this process of emotions, God joined the two of you together in such a way that whatever each does affects the other, good or bad. Your body does not belong to just you now, it also belongs to your spouse. Your heart does not belong to just you now, it also belongs to your spouse. Spiritually husbands and wives have their own relationship with God but together they are "one in spirit". Couples are responsible for each other's well-being by loving one another through the course of the marriage through [principled acts of love](#) and the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 3) You are "one flesh" with your wife/husband in the intimacy and commitment of the marriage that God gifted to you for your pleasure and production of life. Nothing and no one can separate what God joined together. **"Therefore what God has joined together, let man NOT separate." (NIV Matthew 19:6)**

You have NOT shared any of these beautiful things of God with your past sweetheart and yet you would risk losing these beautiful aspects of marriage to have feelings of lust and desire met by a past sweetheart from your childhood days?

Without offending anyone, we need to grow up and take responsibility for our (first) marriage. We need to take responsibility for our personal life and relationship with God. God gave us the gift of marriage and what are we doing with it? We are like little kids, treating our marriage like an old toy that were tired of. We look across the fence in our neighbors yard and see a new toy and we want it and go after it. We think about going after it for days, until finally we give into our thoughts. Oops we commit moral sin.

Some of us have absolutely no idea about God's purpose for us. Don't let worldly desires keep you from maturing and growing in the word of God. Pleasures of this world come and go and we can't take them with us to heaven, but we can build character, determination and self-control right now through our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, because that is our purpose!

If we are married, our purpose is to take care of each other according to the roles that God designed for us in marriage through the good times as well as the bad. Jesus teaches us how to love our spouse and He also provides us with the peace and contentment we need to persevere in our marriage.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burdens light.” (Matthew 11:28)

In Christ

Angie and Frank

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