

Angie's Marriage Column – January 21, 2016

We Can't Save Your Marriage but You Can!

Many people who write into the marriage ministry want to know what they can do about a cheating spouse, alcoholic spouse, moody spouse, drug addicted spouse, a physically abusive spouse, a bossy wife, an abusive husband, a cold and angry spouse, a porn addicted spouse...etc, etc, etc.

We can't save your marriage but we can encourage you and give you hope, and show you what Gods will is for your life but you have to put in the effort. You can save your marriage!

My husband cheated on me. My wife won't stop flirting with me. My husband treats me bad when he is drinking. My wife says she doesn't love me anymore and wants a divorce. My husband is verbally abusive. My husband stays out late. My wife won't stop telling me what to do.....Etc. etc. etc.

Why don't we ever hear from these wayward spouses? It's because they are not ready to change themselves. In the 14 years that we have been helping couples in their marriage, we have only received maybe a dozen out of thousands of emails from the spouse who is doing wrong; it's always about the "other" person. BTW, when a spouse does write in talking about themselves and wanting to change, it means they are truly repentant and are ready and willing to change for the good.

And what about you? The spouses that write in and complain about the other spouse are part of the problem too but they are so absorbed and wrapped up in what their spouse is doing or not doing they don't realize they are part of the marriage unhappiness! No matter who is sinning more, or who is doing the immoral behaviors in the marriage, it takes two to tango!! Remember that.

Don't take this wrong. We want you to write in and express your marital concerns and questions to us so we can encourage you in your marriage, however, don't think that we can save your marriage because that responsibility is up to the

person and God. Men and women who are sinning against their marriage have to be ready and willing to turn their life around...it is a personal relationship a person has with Jesus Christ. Jesus did not come to bring religion but love, His love. Are you ready to accept that love?

So then let's get started!

Detach with Love

It's time you detached with love from the sins of your spouse and started to look at yourself for a change. What I mean is, we get so self absorbed with "how badly we are treated by our spouse" and "we get so involved with their sinning behavior" that we can't see our own self or take care of our own healing.

What are we doing? All we want to do is blame our spouse for our unhappy marriage and life. We think that if only they would change or if they would stop doing a particular negative behavior that everything will be ok. Let it go...

If we can't detach from the sins of our spouse we endanger our own emotional health with ourselves and others and our spiritual health with God. Your spouse does need healing, but so do you. This is why learning to detach from your spouse is the best way to help yourself and to inadvertently, help them.

YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR SPOUSE – YOU CAN'T MAKE YOUR SPOUSE STOP SINNING

It's human nature to want to control our spouse and tell them how they should be and behave but shouldn't they be taking care of themselves? Aren't they adults? Can't they make choices for themselves? You make choices for yourself, right? So then your spouse can also make their own choices.

How to DETACH with LOVE

- 1. Let your spouse be**, even if they are doing something you do not approve of: isn't that Gods job anyway?
- 2. Let them deal with their own negative consequences of their behavior** - don't save your spouse from their sin that would be enabling them to continue in the

sin.

3. Take a look at yourself, how can you change to be a better person for God? Ask God what He thinks needs to be changed in YOU! Really, really ask and you will receive.

4. Save yourself from your spouse's sin by choosing to do what's right for yourself in the sight of God.

5. Get to REALLY know what God asks of you as a wife or husband and Christ-one.

6. Apply your role in your marriage; stop allowing the world to dictate how you will behave. God did not create feminism and it is not a Godly role for a woman, especially if she is married! God created the man to be "the man", your role as the man is to be the head of the wife, not the other way around. TAKE CHARGE on the foundations of Christ Jesus, not on your own foundations! **Look at Jesus' leadership over the people and emulate that example in your marriage. Be the man!!**

7. Base ALL your actions and behaviors on the foundation of Jesus Christ, who gives you the faith you need (if you will accept it) to be strong in your marriage. That means, getting off the pedestal and not behaving as if you are God in your marriage. God knows what we need and we only NEED to have faith in *that* concept. It's not about what we think we should do for our marriage, it's about what God wants for our marriage.

8. Prioritize your life – God/Jesus Christ – Spouse/Marriage – Children – Self/Career – Ministry. Ministry is at the bottom because you can't help others until you help yourself! This might look confusing since I said, take care of you instead of a wayward spouse, but taking care of you in the healing sense is number one priority-get yourself right with your Lord and Savior!

9. PRAY for your wayward spouse, silently and quietly, away from your spouse, during alone time. Never behave self-righteous with your spouse.

10. Stop trying to control your spouse and tell them how to be, change, and stop blaming them for the unhappy marriage. If you follow all of these guidelines, your spouse will see for themselves how they have been hurting the marriage.

You see, the more we complain, nag, scream, yell, blame, accuse, finger point, and act self righteous towards our spouse (no matter how bad they have been) the less likely your spouse will see how they have contributed to the unhealthy marriage relationship!!! Do you know why? They're too busy defending themselves from you. Sometimes turning the other cheek (detaching with love) is the only way and it is a Christ-like behavior.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

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In Christ

Frank and Angie

Marriage Healing Ministry

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