

## Angie's Marriage Column ~ January 20, 2010

What Can Wife Do if Husband Wants Out of Marriage?

**Ask Angie:** Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm 30 years old. My husband and I are believers, and both grown up in pastoral families. A year ago I discovered my husband had an affair. I was devastated but decided to forgive him and fight for our marriage. Then he told me it happened again 2 years ago. He does not love me and our marriage was a mistake. I still had faith for God to do a miracle. Now, 1 year and a half later, I am loosing hope. Can God change the will of a person? He asked me to file for a divorce agreement 2 times. I said I'm not agree to divorce, so if he want to he has to ask for the divorce himself. I don't know what to do, I want my husband back, I desire my marriage restored, but seems like nothing is happening. All pastors and family tell me to restart my life with a real Christian person. I am tired of pray and not see. Please, help me, I am lost and have not direction anymore.

**Marriage Guidance:** I'm truly sorry to see you or anyone going through such pain suffering in their marriage. Adultery can literally tear a marriage apart until there is nothing left. This is certainly not God's will for marriage. Please read all of the links that lead to other articles that will help you get a fuller understanding of the issue at hand and the encouragement you need to take care of yourself.

Most marital problems begin because [couples are not keeping their marriage "set apart" from the world.](#) The whole reason why God established marriage was for His purpose, but we aren't caring for

our marriage in the way God has asked us to—instead we're giving our marriage to the world!

Your husband needs deep inner healing. Only God can restore your husband but your husband has to be willing to get the healing he needs. It is between God and your husband. According to your letter you have done your part. You have forgiven and want to work on restoring the marriage. I commend you for that. Your husband is not a believer, at least not of Jesus Christ.

If your husband wants out of the marriage then what can you do? Scriptures says, "But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances." (1 Corinthians 7:15) Even so, there is no scripture that condones remarriage. What "not bound (NIV)" or "not in bondage (KJV)" means is you are free from your duties and service to that person. Why undermine your own faith in the Lord to serve an unbeliever? God doesn't want you to do that. If one spouse divorces the other God wants both to remain single.

To the married I give this command (not I but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

### **Take Care of You!**

What I'm about to tell you may be difficult to take but you must understand that this is the only way that you will find happiness for

yourself. *You have to take your eyes off of pitying self.* You have to take care of your spiritual well-being and not feel sorry for yourself.

I realize the pain and frustration it must bring to know that your husband continues to sin against the marriage but crying over his spiritual sickness is NOT going to help him to seek Jesus Christ for his life and get the healing he needs. Your husband may be spiritually bankrupt today but later on down the road he may be rich in love. God will change people if they are willing to get the inner spiritual healing they need.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

What is best for you right now is to move forward with your life in the Lord rather than staying stagnant and unhappy in the sins of others. **Don't allow yourself to remain victimized by your husband's sinfulness. Seek God! God wants us to give our worries and cares to Him!**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. (Psalms 37:5-6)

God surely has bigger plans for you than worrying about your husband. What do you think Gods will is for you and how do you think you can please God with your daily life? When a wife is in

constant worry and pain about her cheating, unbelieving husband she really cannot focus on what God's will is for her life. Give "it" to God.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Understand that even though your husband may bring state papers for you to sign, you are still married to your husband in God's eyes. The state does not have authority over God to break apart the "one flesh" of marriage. This is why scripture repeats itself three times that if anyone marries another while their spouse still lives it is considered adultery. It's because you're still married!

Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery (Luke 16:18) (Mark 10:11) (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

Regarding the advice from your Pastors and families to start all over anew with a real Christian is in error. They are confused. Please see our new ebook called [Permanency of Marriage- The Teachings of Jesus Christ on Divorce and Remarriage](#).

If you are a believer and follower of Jesus Christ then how can a married person marry another—its not scriptural? Do you think it is God's will for you to start all over and find a "real Christian"? Isn't that what you (thought) did when you married your husband—a Christian? In your letter you said that your husband grew up in a

Pastoral family, isn't that right? So do you think that starting over anew with *another* real Christian will make all your problems go away? I don't believe it will.

## **What is God's Will For You?**

Scripture says to let the unbeliever leave ([1 Corinthians 7:15](#)) if they want to leave the marriage. God doesn't want the believers faith to be damaged by the unbeliever. In the meantime God wants believers to help unbelievers come into the light of Christ. God's will is that sometimes [we suffer for doing what is right](#) and sometimes we have to sacrifice because of Him.

It may be God's will that you help to [bring your husband back into the family of believers](#) through your Godly influence. You don't need to be living together to do this, although it does help. As in most cases of adultery, the unbeliever is so influenced by his emotions and the pleasures of the world that he has taken his marriage for granted.

Continue to pray for the man you married. Ask God how you may influence your husband to come out of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ. So how can you shine your light for your husband?

Married to an Unbeliever: Shining Your Light

## **You Can't Make Your Spouse Believe in God**

We cannot change anyone's view, opinions, or beliefs about God. Trying to make our spouse become a believer can cause numerous problems within the marriage. It is possible though, to influence an unbelieving spouse through your upright behavior. But a person needs to accept God on his or her own time frame. Your relationship with God is not anyone else's but your own.

### **Don't Get Discouraged**

Never give up hope that one day your spouse will find wisdom, knowledge and truth for their life. Your good attitude is what brings the light in front of your unbelieving spouse. Be their light and let it shine with positive and uplifting words about God. Your light is the greatest influence of them all.

**Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16**

I think that when we back away from the sinner it allows them the freedom to actually see their sinfulness for themselves and take responsibility for their life. Our job as spouses is to be supportive and encouraging when they make positive, Godly changes in their life.

### **Don't Be Critical or Self Righteous**

Be careful to not become critical of your spouse. When you play the "self righteous holier than thou act" you will actually push them further away from God. Be perceptive and understanding as much as you possibly can, even if they don't or won't accept

Christ. Your spouse knows they have faults, but they need to be ready to give those faults up, not you.

## **Be Patient**

Patience is a virtue. I know this can be difficult to do at times, but you have to let them be their own judge, which brings them aware of their sin, and hopefully closer to God. You are not your spouse's judge and executioner, on the contrary, you are a part of the person you married, and therefore you ought to make every effort to help them become free of their life of sinful bondage through your support of them.

How do you know wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know husband, whether you will save your wife? 1 Corinthians 7:16

## **Be Encouraging**

How can we encourage those we love to come into the light with us? Understand that you cannot make anyone do anything that they don't want to do. All you can do is be true to yourself at all times and in all situations. Continue to walk your talk in life; be a righteous example, not a self-righteous example. This in itself gets others to see what a good life you have and from there, it is their turn to accept it or not.

- A. Build up your spouse with encouraging words. Find a quality you appreciate about your spouse and tell them about it.

- B. Be patient with your spouse. This by far is probably one of the hardest things to do because they may be sinning in some way against the marriage and that can hurt. But remember we are not looking to pull our spouse further away from the light but to bring them into the light by our acts of kindness and consideration. Shine your light.
- C. Continue to stay faithful to God no matter what. Don't become tempted with your spouse. The good life is not lived on our own terms but is lived through the power of God and on His standards.
- D. Be joyful and happy knowing that God is with you and He is in control. Never give up hope! Never give up praying just because you don't see results. Keep praying and show God how much you care about your marriage and the wellbeing of your husband. God will answer your prayers, be patient and wait.

(Many times prayers will not be answered in the way you think they should and so your prayers may be getting answered and you just don't know it.)

If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. 1 Corinthians 7:12-14

God Bless!

Angie and Frank



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