

Angie's Marriage Column – April 29, 2009

How to Salvage Shattered Trust

Ask Angie: I just read an article I found on line called [Forgive and Love a Cheating Spouse](#). Your article brought me to tears because as a woman, married six years, I just learned three months ago my devoted, wonderful, best friend and husband cheated on me while he was working several times. This was last summer. He ultimately ended it telling her she took advantage of him. I have decided to forgive my friend, NOT my husband yet. Our therapist said he grew up poor and has a serious low self esteem...I don't care. He should have said NO I LOVE MY WIFE!!! Can you give me any more advice so that I possibly can move past this? I love him and respect him but our trust has been shattered.

Marriage Guidance: Please print out this marriage column and share it with your husband. Your last question about how your husband's infidelity impacts his relationship with his wife and with Christ is an excellent question and I'm glad that you have asked it. Essentially being unfaithful in your marriage breaks the bond of trust with your spouse and breaks the sacredness and purity of marriage the way God designed it to be.

Your marriage can be restored. The adulterer absolutely needs to seek repentance and change the way he views himself in the world. Are you *of the world* or just *passing through* the world—there is a big difference here. Only God can change us—we can't change ourselves. God changes us through the death of His Son—that's the only way! People have to be willing to allow God to go to work in their life and then God will do the rest. God is at the helm but you are rowing the boat to where God wants it to go.

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best: but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:10-11)

When a person commits adultery, they aren't only hurting the person they are married to—they are also hurting themselves, immensely—they just don't know it. We all have a moral conscience that lets us know we're doing something wrong but yet, we still do it. Why is that? We still do it because our relationship with Jesus isn't that great. Admit it, at least to yourselves. We have never really given our life to Him—we are essentially leading our life under our own understanding. We believe we're in charge of our own life, not God!

Church-going folks especially have been deceived into believing that all they got to do is go to church, say their prayers, and they are saved. There is way more to it than that. Nothing against church-going folks because many of them are truly kind-hearted people, but the reality is, they are the ones who have been the most deceived... and unfortunately

they are the majority! So what does that tell you? If any of you think about the condition of society today you will understand exactly what I mean.

God Gives Us Choices

Most adulterers feel some sense of guilt and remorse for their indiscretion and some don't. And some may pull out of the cloud of temptation by accepting Jesus Christ for their life and never commit adultery again and some won't. God gives us choices. We can hold onto our selfish, worldly lifestyle that we have established for ourselves or we can choose to hold God's wisdom filled ways close to our heart and live by Christ's Spirit (Holy Spirit) within us.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:24)

What is your purpose for your marriage? What has God assigned you to do as the man/husband in your marriage? What has God assigned you to do as the woman/wife of your marriage? What roles have you accepted as truth for your marriage? In what ways are you hurting your marriage now? In what ways are you being productive for your marriage? If you are not living your marriage the way the Creator designed it, you will have problems—it's almost inevitable.

When we **do not** have a clear cut Godly purpose for our marriage we find that temptation is difficult to keep away from. Everywhere you go there are scantily dressed women bearing all in the streets and workplace and flirtatious men making married women feel good about themselves. But what is all that? Is that part of who you are? You have to decide who you are! If that's who you are, then why are you reading material from Heaven Ministries marriage ministry, but if that is not who you are, why don't you bear up under it and simply walk away from it. God will give you the determination to turn away from temptation.

Who Do You Work For?

We have to decide who do we work for? If we want to believe in Christ's Teachings and if we want to believe in doing what is right then there is your answer. If you work for God that would mean you get your instruction from the Word of God, and not from the world. The world is full of lustful temptations and deceitful lies. If you are part of the world's schemes, won't you cave in under the pressure? You say that your husband said that "she took advantage of him" and that is the pressure I'm talking about. Your husband caved in. She probably did take advantage of his sex drive, but he also could have chosen to walk away.

95% of people believe that adultery is wrong and yet about 60% of them still cheat! That's because they are allowing their emotions/flesh rule the spirit. When a person doesn't have a convicted heart to place action with their beliefs they will do things that

are worldly. That can all change when you shift your attitude away from the world and on the principles that Christ established.

Your husband needs to seek repentance, ask for forgiveness and turn away from that lifestyle. He has to make up his mind and decide who he works for. If he works for Jesus then he needs to seek Him out in prayer and supplication in times of temptation. God will not allow anyone to be tempted by more than they can bear. If you aren't determined enough to suffer "just for a time" while under temptation then you aren't really putting the willingness or effort into it.

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

You see! God will give you an opportunity to turn away from tempting situations that happen in your life. It is only difficult at the moment while it is happening. The minute you turn your back and walk away, it will give you a feeling of satisfaction and self-worth. You chose to walk away and keep your marriage pure. It's hard to do—that's why more people aren't doing it. When you walk away it is because of your good relationship with Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! (1 Corinthians 6:15)

Many people believe they have every right to do whatever they want with their body. But in marriage your body belongs to your wife and the wife's body belongs to her husband. When you misuse your body in ways that hurt others physically, mentally, and emotionally, and cause marriage to be broken than how is that such a great right? God doesn't say it is ok to do whatever you want with your body. The world says it's ok to do what you want with your body. Let's not be misled.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price (Christ's death). Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

If we are bought at a price, (Christ's death) what is that price? The price is our belief, steadfast loyalty and faithfulness to God. Don't just stand up under your own two feet, stand up under your two feet through God. He is our stronghold.

Blessed is the man who preserves under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

God bless!
Frank and Angie

Heaven Ministries

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Article Resources:

[My Wife Won't Forgive Me! \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[My Wife Won't Forgive Me! \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

Book Resources:

[Adultery Pandemic: Print: \\$19.95 Download \\$7.95](#)

Turn Your Marriage Into A Success! If you want to restore your marriage from the demoralizing effects of adultery, then look no further - this is the book for you! Your Marriage Can Be Restored! A treasure book filled with effective guidance for your marriage from forgiveness and trust to recommitting your lives to each other again. Practical and easy-to-read, this book combines the solutions and remedies your marriage needs towards recovery. This book will give you the guidance you need to discover the true secrets to a happy, lifelong marriage. You Can Heal The Wounds! Your marriage deserves to have the best possible care. God is that care! Make your marriage important to you. A treasury of great information you can't live without if you want to remain happily married.

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