

Angie's Marriage Column – July 17, 2008

Dealing with Cheating Spouse

This marriage column is dedicated to everyone who has written in wanting support and encouragement because of their cheating spouses. My inbox has become inundated with requests for help in dealing with this devastating issue and what to do. I would tell you all the same thing and so here is my guidance.

Marriage Guidance: You are married to an unbeliever. What do I mean when I say you are married to an unbeliever? Let me put things into perspective so you will understand better. You are married to a person who has not given their life over to Jesus Christ. This does not mean that your spouse can't repent, seek forgiveness and turn their life around. It means they have no faith in God at this moment in their lives. We all live by faith. Some of us live by faith in God and some of us live by faith in self.

Faith is a gift from God. Growing in our faith is a never-ending spiritual journey of putting our trust and confidence in Jesus Christ. If we aren't even trying to have faith in Jesus than we are living our whole existence in unbelief. Because unbelievers have no faith in Christ they put their trust in themselves and base their life upon worldly standards. Unbelief is rebellion to God and His standards for living.

[The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. \(II Corinthians 4:4\)](#)

The Word of God is revealed and open to everyone, except to those who refuse to believe it. The allure of money, power, selfish ambitions and pleasures (adultery) blinds unbelievers to the truth and light of God's Word. Your spouse keeps committing adultery because they are unbelievers, living by the standards of this world.

Some of you have told me that your cheating spouse is a Christian and goes to church. A true Christian will not continue committing the same sin over and over again. Christ Ones are not slaves to sin. This does not mean that Christians never sin, but it means that sin does not control the true Christians life because God has freed them from having such worldly desires and thoughts - it's part of the gift of salvation. Just because someone goes to church and says they believe in God does not mean they are automatically saved. Salvation is a lifestyle and involves acting on our *faith in God* daily.

A habitual cheater is controlled by the desires of the flesh – they are living to gratify the self. They are acting on the faith in themselves. Do not take anything that an unbelieving spouse does personal – it is in their nature to seek selfish pleasures. This does not mean that your spouse does not love you; it means they don't know how to love! And they don't know how to love themselves – they need inner healing – they need God!

“For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

(1 John 2:16-17)

So what can you do? Understand first, God teaches us how to love through our faithful walk with Him. You can seek forgiveness for your sins, accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, if you have not already done so, and put your faith and trust in Jesus by following His principles for your life. The best way to help yourself and save your marriage is to allow the unbeliever to witness *Jesus Christ working in your life*.

Seek for yourself purity, love, and righteousness of Christ and hold these gifts dear to your heart for that's the only place where you will find the contentment, hope, and forgiveness you desperately need. An unbeliever cannot give you those things – only your personal relationship with the Lord can ease your pain.

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God who said, “let light shine out of the darkness, made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”. (II Corinthians 4:5-6)

Detach yourself from the spiritual deficiency of your spouse and into the loving arms of your Creator. Turn your life around through the greatest gift given to you – salvation. Take care of yourself – heal yourself! And know that God is with you, even through your suffering and despair. God has a plan for you. I know it does not seem like it today or tomorrow, but God is watching over you *so find faith and continue being faithful* and trust that God has your life under His care. Understand that God’s plan for you is not your plan for you. Maybe your plan is to leave your spouse but that’s not God’s plan for you.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who *earnestly seek him*” .
(Hebrews 11:6)

I do know what “part” of God’s plan is for you. God intends marriage to be permanent, even though one spouse may suffer for it and the other one commits adultery over and over again. But why would God want us to stay in a marriage where we are treated so bad and are miserable?

Because for one good reason. When we suffer for righteousness sake we will be rewarded! The key is “for righteousness sake” This does not mean just because you decide to stay in a bad marriage you will automatically be rewarded with salvation. No - you must truly seek forgiveness for yourself and turn your own life around, so you can then forgive your spiritual deficient spouse, and possibly help them to understand their own need for Christ. For “righteousness sake” means *we have to act on our faith through our suffering*.

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; character, hope.

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us". (Romans 5:3-5)

Could it be that maybe through your suffering and for doing what is right, by following Christ's principles and teaching for your life, you may be able to bring your spouse out of the darkness and into the light where they can finally see clearly enough to seek forgiveness for their life? I believe it is VERY possible for this to happen.

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised". (Hebrews 10:35)

It happens all the time. People are saved every single day. Don't forget, half of all marriages succeed. That tells us that many couples are doing something right in their marriages. Your marriage can be saved too. Don't give up on your marriage just because you are married to an unbeliever. Use this as an opportunity to get closer to the Lord and really seek out "what His will is" for your life. Pray for more faith and trust in God to come into your heart and allow Him to go to work in your personal life.

"Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should *suffer for what is right, you are blessed*. Do not fear what they (unbelievers) fear; do not be frightened! But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil". (1 Peter 3:13-17)

Heal yourself of past baggage and mend any open wounds. Let the past go and start living for today! Seek encouragement from God's Word, study it, and put what you learn into practice. God will reward you for "doing what is right" rather than only doing what "feels good".

For whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good.
(1 Peter 3:10)

If we are part of the world what “feels good” is to get even, be vengeful, be unforgiving, seek divorce. But if we are part of God’s family we do what is right according to His principles and if that means we have to suffer for it, then so be it. Is it not better to be given the gift of eternal life than to hold in bitterness and resentment for the rest of our lives?

“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessings, because to this YOU WERE CALLED so that you may inherit a blessing”. (1 Peter 3:9)
[FORGIVE AND LOVE A CHEATING SPOUSE – Heal the Wounds brought on by Adultery.](#)

God Bless,
Angie and Frank
Heaven Ministries Marriage Healing Ministry

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