

Angie's Marriage Column - January 7, 2009

Husband Jealous and Does Not Want Me to Wear Certain Clothing

Marriage Question: My husband complains most of the time that I do not respect him and complains I should not wear trousers even sleeveless tops. I really love this kind of dressing and it bothers me. Why cant he just accept that I like them instead of me being told I should listen to what my husband wants or plead with him to let me wear them, he is also very jealous if I talk to men but he talks to women all the time, if I do the same he gets mad.

Marriage Guidance: This can be a touchy issue to give anyone guidance on, and should be dealt with after listening to both sides of the subject. For one thing I do not know any of the variables and circumstances connected to your husband's reasons of *why* he does not want you to wear pants. I'm assuming that it is because he feels that only men should wear pants and women should wear dresses.

I believe it may be a good idea for you to print out this marriage column and read it together with your husband. That way you both can discuss the questions that I bring up and communicate your feelings with a better understanding of a Godly marriage.

It is important for you to realize that your husband is probably not trying to control you, but is only trying to protect you from unwanted glances and flirtations from other men. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. His reasons are for your protection as he sees best. This is probably why he thinks you disrespect him because you do not see this issue in the same way as he. This is one of the reasons why you should read this marriage column **together**.

All I can do is show you what scripture reveals and then you can both pray about this together. Scripture does not talk very much about how a Christian person should dress, but it doesn't have to. Scripture talks a lot about how a Christian person should behave *and if that behavior does not*

match up with how a person is dressing, well then there is obviously something not right, don't you think?

A Christian woman, married or single should always dress in modest attire. That would be to not wear any see-thru or tight blouses, shirts that bare a woman's cleavage, or spaghetti strap tank tops. Pants and jeans that are too tight, or pants that show a person's derriere when they bend down, is not appropriate attire for someone who says they are a follower of Christ.

I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. (1 Timothy 2:9)

If a woman wears tight jeans and a spaghetti strap tank top out in public, what do you think is going to happen? She will probably get endless stares and even flirtatious advances, and especially if her husband is not with her. Does this sound like a situation that a Christian woman should get herself into? How can a Christ follower avoid these situations? One way is to dress conservatively. Another way is to behave conservatively.

I know...you can handle yourself when a man flirts with you. You don't need your husband to come to your rescue, right? *Well, actually it is your husband's job (duty) to be his wife's covering and to protect her from such advances.*

We need to ask ourselves, *why allow these advances in the first place? Why not take the needed measures to at least curtail most of the stares and flirtations by taking the steps needed to do that.* Would you dress your five-year-old daughter in a bikini top and shorts and then send her off to walk alone to school? Basically, that is what's happening when women go out in public alone baring personal body parts, and lots of skin.

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)

What do you think is God's will for you? Isn't it important that we please God and try our very best at being the woman / wife /mother that God wants us to be? I think it is very important and is part of our purpose as married people. It is God's will that all Christian people dress modestly and appropriately.

In fact, God's people *are not to conform to the pattern of this world any longer*. Well, what is that pattern? Where is society heading as far as the way this culture is dressing? *That* is part of the worldly pattern we are NOT to follow.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2)

The above scripture is saying that if we behave just like the world we won't know that what we are doing is righteous or not. Only when we move away from conformity and culture will we become renewed in Christ and *understand* what God's will is for our life. Some things in life, such as "the way we dress" may seem like not a big deal to our Christianity, but everything has consequences.

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. (1 Peter 1:14)

One way in which we disrespect our husbands, and we don't even realize it, is by giving reasons for other men to lustfully stare at us and flirt with us. One of those reasons is in the way we dress. Why do you think your husband is jealous? What is jealousy? Jealousy is an emotion people feel when they do not trust, and are in fear or anxious of losing something. Jealousy can do great damage to a marriage if left unattended. *Your husband feels jealous because other men are looking at his wife in a sexual way. And because of that he does not want you to talk with other men.*

Your body belongs to your husband – it is his. Your body does not belong to any other men, not even for looking. For when a man looks on a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Mathew

5: 27-28) So when a man looks at you, or any woman lustfully he is disrespecting the person you are. We shouldn't allow the trespasses of disrespect just because we feel that we want to dress a certain way.

We cannot control another person's behavior through manipulation and control because it will backfire every single time. Your husband may not know that his behavior towards the way he wants you to dress is backfiring; He only wants to protect his wife from outside harm and keep his marriage pure and holy.

Question: What do you think you can do to help him do that? How can you surrender something you enjoy for the sake of your husband?

This is what "real love" is. Love is not something we feel but rather something we must do. *Love is never selfish.*

Question: Husband, what do you think you can do to help your wife understand your desire to keep roving eyes off of her? How can you show your wife that you do trust her but only want to protect her from these kinds of outside influences?

When a husband *demand*s something from his wife without even discussing the issue with her, it can make her feel like a child. Instead of making her feel like your daughter, let your wife know that you trust her – it is the other men and their flirtations you do not trust. Make her feel like your queen by being a Godly king.

We can overcome jealousy by learning to put our trust in Christ. Jealousy is fear – that's all it is. But with God we should never be in fear. Our negative emotions don't have to control us, unless we allow them to. We can be in control of how we use our emotions by realizing the potential of what they can do.

Jealousy can bring about many other issues within us and cause resentment and animosity with the person we are jealous of. This is what we don't want. We don't want to be unhealthy spiritually because of an emotion! What we do want is to talk about our feelings with our spouse and come to

an amicable solution to resolving the issue of jealousy in an appropriate Christ-like manner.

The best way to get over jealousy is to express ourselves about why we feel jealous. Don't be afraid to express yourself and talk about the way you feel and why you feel a certain way. Scripture gives us the principles we need to overcome our emotions and move on in restoring marriage problems such as these and being better Christ followers because of it.

Build your marriage back up by learning to work together in healing and restoration of the marriage, always keeping God in the forefront of the marriage, while respecting one another in all ways.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth”.

(1 John 3:18)

God Bless,

Frank and Angie

<http://heavenministries.com>

Article Resources

Why Does Jealousy Hurt So Bad?

http://www.heavenministries.com/Articles/why_jealousy_hurts_so_bad.htm