Angie's Marriage Column ~ April 7, 2010

Marriage Restoration to First Spouse

Ask Angie: Hallo Angel, I have been divorced last year September & as of to date my husband has been coming back to us [me & 2 children]. Am confused??? Kindly advice. Thanks & God bless. And what are your views in remarry??? Especially when your spouse is still alive???

Marriage Guidance: It sounds like your husband is having second thoughts and wants to save his marriage. I would certainly sit down and talk with him about it. Christians should work on their marriage and do whatever it takes towards restoration. Marriage belongs to God. He is The Planner; The Architect; The Designer; and The Creator of marriage—we need to stop giving our marriage away to the world!

Sadly, couples leave and divorce each other all the time. I would venture to say that a lot of couples do regret ever getting a divorce, but many times it is too late. Either one or both couples are with someone else, remarried, or simply do not want to go through the battle of marriage with them again. This is why it is absolutely imperative that couples pray about their marriage and wait on God to give them the guidance they need so they can manage their marriage properly. Divorce hurts everyone involved.

Emotionally and Spiritually Unprepared

The problem begins because couples aren't <u>prepared for marriage</u>. Most couples marry one another based on how they feel about each other at the time, rather than on the <u>principle to love</u> one another and commit themselves to one another. So when problems arise they don't have a firm foundation for working through their problems and subsequently it fails.

The bottom line is couples desperately need to be <u>more prepared emotionally and</u> <u>spiritually before getting married.</u> When we nonchalantly walk into marriage based on feelings and without commitment and principle to love one another, the marriage is going to have many difficulties—there is no doubt about it.

It is God's will that we keep our marriages and families together. In fact, in God's eyes you are still married to your husband even if you signed state divorce papers. No state can simple break apart a marriage that God created as one flesh! You are still married to your husband, regardless of what has happened between the two of you since last September and now.

"But at the beginning God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be untied to his wife and the two shall become on

flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God joined together, *let man not separate*." Mark 10:6-9

This is difficult for many to grasp. For more information about divorce and remarriage according to God, <u>read our free Ebook—Permanency of Marriage: The Teachings of Jesus Christ on Divorce and Remarriage.</u>

Regarding your second question about remarriage, here is your answer. "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Luke 16:18)

"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)

Save Your Marriage With Christ's Principles

God wants you to either stay unmarried or be reconciled with your husband. We encourage couples to <u>work on their marriage</u> problems and restore their marriage back to God. Couples need to work together preparing themselves for a lifetime commitment. Couples can do this by <u>bringing God into the marriage and applying Christ's principles in your marriage</u> on a daily basis.

We must <u>prioritize our life</u> and put God at the top of our list, where He belongs and base our life actions on His commands and principles for us. Feelings are fine to have and experience but we should never allow our feelings to dictate our actions. In other words don't allow your negative feelings to lead you to divorce or to remarriage—that's silly for Christians to do because it goes against everything Christ teaches!

If we profess to be Christians then why are we giving ourselves and marriage away to the world? That doesn't make any sense. Christians NEED to live their life based on Christ's commands and <u>principles</u> and then manage their marriage based on those principles. What does this mean? It means that some things that we do in marriage will be a sacrifice to our spouse because we will not FEEL like doing it. The point is if we live our marriage to please self it won't last, or the very least the couples in it will be suffering from unhappiness.

Let's learn and be encouraged to <u>love our spouse with the wisdom</u> that God has freely given us.

Basic Principles to Live by For Marriage

Command # 1 (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Love God with all of your heart, mind, and soul. If Christ followers don't do this then they really are not following Christ—they are kidding themselves and everyone else in their life.

Command # 2 (1 Corinthians 7: 10-11)

Remain unmarried or be reconciled to your husband. Marriage is Permanent.

Principle # 1 (Colossians 3:13)

Forgive your spouse and share each other's burdens. Did not God forgive you for your sins? This is why we must forgive one another.

Principle # 2 (1 Peter 3:8-9)

Be compassionate and humble with one another as you seek God's guidance for your marriage. When you communicate and express yourselves with each other do not be accusatory, mean, self-righteous and vengeful, but instead be sympathetic of each other's needs. Couples that do not humble themselves with each other will be in a constant battle with one another.

Principle # 5 (John 15:12-13)

Love each other in the same way Christ has loved you. Over and over again scripture teaches to <u>love one another</u>. We are taught to love one another—to <u>love our neighbor</u> as we love ourselves and to be devoted to one another. We do not have the power within ourselves to love as Christ loved us. We must utilize the power of the Holy Spirit that is within us into our marriage—for better and for worse. This mean to put your <u>trust and</u> faith in God.

Practice these principles in your marriage and the healing process will begin and your marriage restored. Your marriage belongs to God, so restore it (back) to Him—give your marriage to God! Any marriage, no matter the circumstances can be restored if the couples are both willing to bring God through Jesus Christ into the marriage and take the steps towards the healing it needs.

Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking.
It is not easily angered; it keeps no records of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
(1 Corinthians 13: 4-6)

We have written an eBook that discusses wisdom from God and it is FREE! You can instantly download this ebook onto your desktop and read it today. We hope you enjoy and find encouragement from this ebook. God bless to you all!

In Christ,
Angie and Frank
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