

The Christian's Counseling Corner

“Help! My Husband Is Not a Christian”

Apparently, the Lord realized that some wives would face this very problem, so to provide a solution for them, He made sure Peter wrote the following words: “If any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear” (1 Peter 3:1-2). The Apostle Peter was not simply talking about our speech when he used the word “conversation” but rather the manner in which a wife carries herself before her husband. Let me show you what I mean.

At a church I visited, I heard the pastor tell the sobering story of his conversion experience. He said that he had been a very wicked man. He talked about watching wicked movies, drinking liquor, etc. His wife also had been a very heavy drinker until she started to go to church. In the process of time, he noticed that her lifestyle had begun to change. She no longer scolded him for watching wicked movies. He also noticed that she was not drinking anymore. Instead, he found her doing things like praying, and he became bothered that she was not like him anymore. He finally decided to go to the church to find out what they were doing. Too shy to enter the building, however, he peeked through the key hole of the church door and listened to the service.

In this example, this pastor's wife lived an honorable life before her husband which eventually played an instrumental part in winning him for the Lord. What a wonderful testimony! What about you? Do you live a life before your husband that demonstrates that you are a Christian, or do you participate in the same unholy things that he does? Are you watching the same shows he watches or talking the same talk he talks? If so, how do you expect to win him for the Lord?

A lady told me, “If I had it to do all over again, I would never marry an unsaved man.” Time and time again, we meet Christian women who have married non-Christian husbands. Often, these wives are torn. They want to serve the Lord, but it is difficult because of the constant strain of living with an unsaved man. If this is you, you are not alone, and there is hope! If you are married to a non-Christian man, instead of spending years living in regret and mourning over your decision, stop.

1. Repent before the Lord for becoming unequally yoked to an unbeliever and ask Him to forgive you. He is still in the business of forgiving sins, and He will forgive you of this sin if you sincerely repent.
2. Accept the reality of your decision, and don't run from it. If you run away from the bad decision in hopes of rectifying things with God or to have a better life somewhere else, you will just add to your troubles. Your last sin will now be greater than your first. Instead, ask the Lord to give you the grace to face your situation.
3. Practice the things written in the book, *You Can Be a Happy Wife: A Look at the Wife's Role* with your husband. If, for instance, this is your second marriage, leave all the old things behind. Don't bring up your ex-husband over and over again. Practice treating your unsaved husband the same way you would treat a Christian husband.
4. Be patient with your husband, and trust God for his salvation. Your husband may hurl religious slurs at you or make fun of Christianity, but be patient with him. Commit him to God, and pray for his salvation as you continue to treat him well.

I realize that even if a wife does all the right things, her husband still may not change. This is why I stress being obedient to the commands of God regardless of how you feel and regardless of your results. Take Abigail as an example. Her husband, Nabal, was a stubborn and drunken man. The Scriptures say of him, “The man was churlish and evil in his doings” (1 Samuel 25:3). Yet, in spite of Nabal's wickedness, Abigail treated him well. One day, when David was coming after Nabal to kill him, instead of rejoicing over his potential demise, Abigail quickly entreated David to spare her husband. She said, “Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him” (1 Samuel 25:24,25). Abigail could have said, “My husband is a horrible man, and I need to find someone else who will love me.” Instead, Abigail stayed with Nabal until the Lord killed him (1 Samuel 25:38). Abigail stuck with her husband literally—“until death do us part.” Read the story for yourself. It is a fascinating one. So, what if your husband is not a Christian, do you have to submit to him? This is how one wife answered this question: “I would rather stand under the umbrella, even if it had holes, than to be outside of the will of God.” Astounding!

For further help on this issue, or if you have a counseling question, email Rebekah Prewitt at rp@lakecitycounsel.com