



George BLOOMER

LOVE  
DATING  
& MARRIAGE

*Tough Questions, Honest Answers*

# LOVE DATING MARRIAGE

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George BLOOMER



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

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## LOVE, DATING, AND MARRIAGE: TOUGH QUESTIONS, HONEST ANSWERS

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# Dedication

To the Bethel Family Worship Center  
Singles Ministry...

*Thank you for providing positive reinforcement  
to those seeking both spiritual nourishment and  
life-altering sustenance to achieve the goals and  
aspirations that they seek. May the blessings of the  
Lord continue to rain upon you.*





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# Introduction

**L**et me begin by saying that I am not a relationship guru. I am not a love doctor, a psychologist, or a sex therapist. In a nutshell, I'm no expert.

This book is born, then, not out of any pretense that I might have of qualification or professional proficiency in the area of male and female relations, but rather out of a desire to help meet a broad need in the intimate realms of Christian people's lives. My hope is that couples will sit down and read it together, and that single individuals will also consider its advice.

Indeed, there is an urgent, dire necessity among Christians in relationships to establish and abide in marital and acceptable premarital unions that are healthy, successful, and blessed. I know, because there was a time when I was unsaved, unskilled, and unprosperously involved in relationships myself. Even after receiving salvation, in fact, there were times of questioning in my life when I desperately needed answers and lessons in marriage. Thankfully, I learned—sometimes the hard way.

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I am aware, too, that my personal experience is not totally unique, but that there are many romantically involved persons who are in the dark or in the wrong. Over the years, I've quietly but keenly observed the relationships of friends and family members, as well as those of the many confused couples and searching singles who've visited my office for counseling sessions. As a minister, I've had the privilege of holding post as both spiritual and natural advisor, and have heard the stories and situations of married, soon-to-be-married, ought-to-get-married, won't-ever-marry, planning-to-unmarry, and shouldn't-even-be-thinking-about-marrying individuals. The 101 questions contained within this book are, quite simply, theirs. But even after the carefully thought-out responses that I've offered as possible solutions to described romantic problems, I don't profess to know all of the answers.

My sincere desire and prayer is that this publication be used as a tool, not as law or secondary Scripture. It is a tool that we, the body of Christ, can actually use, nevertheless. The fact of the matter is that 51 percent of church marriages end in divorce. While this figure is high, it appears that our tolerance levels are at an all-time low, and few people want to stick to their choices or live with the decisions they've made. Two-timing and forbidden relationships are rampant and growing

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increasingly acceptable, even though the apostle Paul plainly admonished us to let every man have his own wife and every woman her own husband. (See 1 Corinthians 7:2.)

Speaking of women, females are frequently bearing the greater weight of relationship stress. Statistics tell us that the average man is married between the ages of twenty and twenty-seven, which means that if a woman doesn't find a mate while she is between the ages of nineteen and twenty-six, chances are she'll be forced to settle down with someone who's already been married. What's more, Satan is ardently deceiving and seducing believers into compromising their Christian values by embracing the demonic ideologies of the world.

Many believers are consulting psychic hotlines for ungodly advice and seeking astrologers, motivational speakers, self-help institutions, and soap operas for marital and relationship insight. This is due to a lack of knowledge and the absence of faith on the part of some wavering Christians. At the same time, there is a frustrating lack of proper, timely ministerial counseling, which is also to blame. Widely unavailable are church-based guidance and advisement that actually deal with the very human, very realistic situations that surface in and influence the lives of God's people.



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My prayer is that this book, on the other hand, will be a down-to-earth, reality-based source of natural counseling that will further enhance your spiritual walk.

Again, I'm no expert. God, on the other hand, is, and His Word is a blueprint guide to righteous living for all aspects of our lives—including the romantic one. Though some may beg to differ, I hold that the Bible does not contain all of the answers to our relationship questions, and we shouldn't expect it to. Romance, passion, and relationships are carnal entities, while the Word is spiritually coded; it was intended by God to be this way.

This is certainly not to deny that on multiple levels and in many instances, the Bible does offer us direct and straightforward solutions to our earthly, human problems. Indeed, its ancient characters did experience real, tangible existences, which we current-day dwellers should use as wise and literal examples. But more often than not, the Bible provides us with clues that require natural and spiritual discernment in deciphering and aptly applying to our lives...clues that are meant to whet our appetites, make us spiritually hungry, and send us scrambling for a filling.

Think of me, the author of this text, then, as an experienced but ever-learning chef, if you will, serving

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you the Word of God, scriptural insight, and prayerful opinion on the platters of Christian morality, righteous living, and personal experience. There's plenty of satisfying meat, some marrow-filled bones, and even a couple of juicy T-bone steaks to be had from the menu of advice provided. Help yourself to these time-tested recipes for relationship success.

—George Bloomer



Questions 1–15

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# DATING



## QUESTION 1

**What are the rules for Christian singles when dating? If they are determined not to get involved sexually before marriage, what should be the limits concerning physical contact and their conversation with one another?**



## ANSWER

*Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.* (Ephesians 2:3)

**I**believe that conversation is the gateway through which two mutually interested people enter the realm of physical intimacy. So usually, before any touching occurs, there's a lot of talking that goes on. For a woman, frequent verbal exchange is part of the natural way of communicating. For a man, on the other hand, incessant conversation is usually just a way to



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accommodate the woman's preferences—it's part of his seduction ritual. If he obliges her need for discussions, he can eventually get her to oblige to his physical needs.

The general rule for dating couples, then, is to apply discipline. Discipline must be the governing agent when it comes to sexuality, which is the crux of natural relationships, because the needs and desires of the flesh are so powerful that they can prove overpowering. The very nature of the flesh means that it is always desirous, always wanting, and it doesn't help when the factors of being a couple—attraction, compatibility, curiosity, love—are added to this desire before there is an actual marriage commitment. So if couples are disciplined about what they say and how much they talk, they've taken the first crucial step toward disciplining their sexual desires.

## QUESTION 2

**How much of an age difference should there be between potential mates, and is it okay for the female to be older than the male?**



## ANSWER

*Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"* (Genesis 17:17)

I see no reason why a younger man and an older woman shouldn't marry, but Scripture does indicate that men were typically several years older than their wives. Such was the case with Abraham and Sarah, for example, who were ten years apart. This is not to say that there is current-day significance to this point, but I feel it is necessary to point out the facts about how our biblical forefathers structured their relationships.

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Women tend to mature a bit faster than men do, and my experience teaches me that it can be good and wise for a young lady to date a man a few years older than she for the sake of intellectual balance. If the younger woman can handle the age difference, I believe the relationship can work. I do have a problem, however, with men who try to talk to girls who are twenty or so years younger than they are. It has been my observation that in many marriages where such a great age difference exists, the female is robbed of her youth and vitality. Nevertheless, the decision is the couple's.

## QUESTION 3

**How does a single woman with young daughters in the home go about allowing a new man into her life?**



## ANSWER

**V**ery prayerfully. This is a serious question because if the situation it presents is not handled correctly, the results can be tragic.

I believe that at a certain time in your lives, single mothers, you need to live for your children. Young girls are very tender and often extremely vulnerable, and men are sometimes overly fascinated with youth. Therefore, I think it unwise for you to bring your daughters under the potential romantic threat of a man who's supposed to be your suitor.

It is imperative that you go about your dating situation with extreme care and caution, and that you ask God for patience. If possible, I strongly suggest that you deny yourself any romantic involvement

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until your daughters have reached an age of independence—which is about the time they would go off to college. This will better ensure that the man who comes into their mother's life will be able to focus on their mother—you—and not be tempted to molest or seduce them. If the new man were to make such an attempt, the mature, aware young ladies that you have raised would more than likely be able to ward off their offender, protecting themselves until they can inform you.

## QUESTION 4

**In my church, it is taught that a woman should not date a man unless both of them plan to marry one another. What are your views on dating for single women?**



## ANSWER

**T**he Bible says to flee even the appearance of evil. However, in the times in which we live, it is important to get to know the person you plan to wed, and this often involves fellowship outside the church. Seeing a person within the confines of the church sometimes gives a false sense of security that this person is the “ideal” mate—and you need to interact with this person in the “real” world, too.

Dating is also necessary in our modern world because spouses are not chosen for young people by their parents, as was the custom in biblical times. In those days, children trusted their parents to make wise



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decisions for them; now it's necessary to date and find out for yourself what kind of person you want to spend your life with. (See Question 7 for further discussion of the practice of prearranged marriage in the Bible.)

You should use caution, however, not to view dating as a mere pastime. As a young Christian woman, you should always carry yourself in a dignified manner and set a standard that demands respect. It is okay, in my opinion, to date someone whom you don't necessarily plan to marry, as long as that person is clear on your position and offers you that same respect.

## QUESTION 5

**I am the parent of a teenage son and daughter. At what age should I allow them to start dating, and is it fair for me to make the rules for my daughter somewhat stricter than those for my son?**



## ANSWER

**T**he age at which a young person should begin dating depends solely upon the principles and foundations established in his or her home. I don't want to begin to sound like a love guru or sex therapist who dictates what should happen in others' love lives, so this one is on you, the parent. I do, however, recommend that you look for maturity in your children before you allow them to date. Relationships are for the mature alone.

Also, I concur with your concern about monitoring your daughter a little more closely than your son. It's not an issue of "fairness" as much as it is about

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protecting the naturally vulnerable, and you should probably explain this to your daughter and son so that your son will be able to defend his female companions. The violent nature of our society has only made women's vulnerability more evident. Make sure that you teach your children to exercise discernment and use common sense.

## QUESTION 6

**I am a single woman attending an extremely strict, orthodox church where certain recreational activities are prohibited. This restriction is causing problems for me, as far as dating is concerned, because there isn't much I'm allowed to do with the young men I'm interested in. I can invite them to church, of course, but that's about all! What should I do?**



## ANSWER

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.* (Galatians 5:1)

**F**ind another church. The one you're in is evidently binding you. Not only are those shackles around your spiritual life improperly placed, but they are now actually pinching your physical being as well, particularly in the area of romance. Break away from

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that controlling ministry under which you are being manipulated, and go forth in the freedom that God intended you to have when He first saved you from the bondage of sin. He certainly didn't emancipate you only for you to become enslaved all over again.

## QUESTION 7

**I have a terrible tendency to always pick the wrong man to get involved with. How can I know ahead of time—before I wind up getting hurt—if a man I admire is any good for me?**



## ANSWER

**I**n biblical times, young men and young women under Hebraic custom did not make their own choices when it came to dating and marriage. Instead, their mates were chosen for them by their parents, based upon a number of careful considerations that included lineage, background, and compatibility.

We are not living in biblical times, of course, so we have to select our own relationship partners. We should respect the advice and wisdom of our parents—who often know us better than we know ourselves—but the practices and structure of our society are very different.



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Even so, we still need to be as selective in our choice of partners as the Hebrews were. Determine exactly what it is that you want and need in a relationship partner. Then, set a standard on which you will not compromise. In addition, know that timing and patience are everything in the success of a relationship. The ideal person for you will come in due season.

## QUESTION 8

**I am a single woman who wants to be married one day. When dating, what qualifications or characteristics should I look for in a man in order to know whether he should be my spouse?**



## ANSWER

**F**irst of all, be realistic. There is no such thing as “the perfect spouse,” and if there are any major concerns present that you are not pleased with while dating, don’t assume that those things will change after marriage.

Also, never marry based solely on vain qualifications or characteristics in any person. Superficial attraction never lasts, and will therefore lead to an unhappy marriage after the initial attraction has worn off. Be led by the Lord and never rush into a relationship or allow yourself to be pressured into marriage. Marriage is honorable and pleasing to God, and “*he who*

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*finds a wife finds a good thing*” (Proverbs 18:22). Apply godly principles and judgment in addition to any personal preferences or ideas that you may have regarding your vision of what you would like your marriage to be.

## QUESTION 9

**I'm a former homosexual who is now living a life of deliverance from my past sexual sins. Can I now begin to pursue members of the opposite sex, or should I remain single and celibate?**



## ANSWER

**N**o, I believe that it is fine for you to begin to pursue members of the opposite sex. Just make sure that your deliverance is certain and complete so that you don't cause a young person to fall in love with you, only for him or her to later discover that a life with you is impossible.

## QUESTION 10

**After months of witnessing to and fellowshiping with an incarcerated man, I have fallen in love with him. Since he has repented of his sins and professes to love me, too, I see no reason why I shouldn't commit to him until he is out of prison, when we will get married. My church and my family are opposed to our relationship, however. How, then, should I proceed?**



## ANSWER

**P**roceed with extreme caution. I do not want to question the authenticity of another's faith or conversion, but my experience teaches me that people who are incarcerated often use religion as a crutch or a con scheme. What I have to say to you is this: be wise, beware, be careful, be sure, and be prayerful!

## QUESTION 11

**Does every individual have a soul mate, and if so, is this the design of God or of nature? Could there possibly be more than one “perfect person” for some individuals? Finally, if for some reason a person never meets up with that one “perfect person,” is the course of his or her life somehow set off balance, causing him or her to live short of its intended destiny?**



## ANSWER

*This answer has three parts...*

1. Yes, I believe that every person does have a “soul mate,” which is the design of both God and nature, because God is the author of nature.
2. I absolutely believe that there can be more than one “perfect person” for some individuals, because successful relationships are based upon similar

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backgrounds, shared interests, mutual attraction, and compatibility, and many people have all of these things in common with more than one person in the world. My suggestion, nevertheless, is that you stick with the person whom you consider “perfect” enough to marry, if at all possible, for this is the will of God. And if you haven’t yet found that ideal someone, acknowledge God as a relationship establisher and builder and allow Him to lead and direct you to your perfect mate so that you get it right the first time and won’t have to look again.

3. The course of one’s life can be offset if a “better half” is never found, but only if he or she bases the success of his or her life upon relationships. This practice is a tragic and severe mistake. It may be difficult for some of you to understand, but there is more to life than marriage and relationships, so don’t think the success of your life depends on them!

## QUESTION 12

**What is the proper interpretation of the Scripture that speaks of being “*unequally yoked with unbelievers*”?**



## ANSWER

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*  
(2 Corinthians 6:14)

**T**he emphasis of this Scripture is on the *yoke*, not on the relationship with the unbeliever. This suggests that there can be imbalance and inequality in all areas of a “yoking,” or relationship, and this is due to the incompatibility of unsuccessful couples. For two people who plan to spend the rest of their lives together, I suggest that there be multiple commonalities between them.

For Christian singles, the first of these should be salvation and a love for Jesus Christ. When two people



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who come together are God-fearing and have fundamental likes, dislikes, and experiences in common, they are better able to stick together when the seasons of marriage make their inevitable changes and the passion has waned.

## QUESTION 13

**Since falling in love can be deceiving,  
as it makes one emotionally  
vulnerable, how does one distinguish  
the sensation of passion from that  
of true love to ensure that he or she  
marries for the right reasons?**



## ANSWER

**Y**ou are right to want to know the difference between passion and true love, but unfortunately, the answer is not one I can give you with a clear definition. I could look up these words in the dictionary to see what it has to say about them, but I'd rather not. This is because both passion and love are feelings, and they are experienced on different levels and on an individual basis. And while the Bible speaks at length about love, the spiritual variety of love (always desiring good for the other person) is what the Bible typically refers to, and your question clearly addresses the romantic type of love.

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We can all experience passion frequently, but from what I've heard and experienced, true love is not as easy to find. Supposedly, it is rare and so unique that it is evidenced only by the behavior of the affected individual. It's so exclusive, in fact, that the only way to interpret or recognize it is to "know" that it is indeed what is happening to you. It's probably safe to say, then, that if you find yourself questioning whether or not love exists in your relationship, it more than likely doesn't.

## QUESTION 14

**I am the survivor of incest and emotional abuse, and I still bear serious emotional scars that prevent me from getting close to any man. For this reason, I am seeking counseling because I want to be married but fear that even after therapy and prayer I'll never be completely whole. I'm worried that I will ultimately prove dissatisfying to my future mate. Is there any real hope for my having a successful and lasting relationship?**



## ANSWER

*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.* (1 John 4:18)

**N**o, there isn't any real hope for you for a successful relationship...if you hold on to fear, that is. Your question is full of the spirit of fear, and you must let it go. Doubt is understandable as a natural, human

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emotion, and what you have endured is enough to make anyone wonder about future possibilities. But at the same time, fear and doubt are ungodly, and it will take God to deliver you from this questioning, wondering, disbelieving spirit.

Be comforted by the knowledge that you are not alone. Others have gone through similar ordeals and have overcome them. What's more, God is there with you, and He sees your pain and confusion. As you seek a closer walk with Him, He will help you develop positive, successful relationships with others.

## QUESTION 15

**I have a great relationship with the young man I am seeing, but I'm having a slight problem with his public displays of affection. While it is common knowledge in our church and community that we are seeing each other, and while I don't mind kissing him in private, I feel that it is somehow inappropriate for us to kiss and hold one another too much in public since we are not yet married. Is this right, or am I just being hypersensitive?**



## ANSWER

**I**t sounds to me like you are a respectable young lady, and I advise you not to compromise your convictions. I think you are right—there is no reason, regardless of how passionate we may feel, for any of us to expose our private life to the public. Socially speaking, it's rather tacky; spiritually speaking, it's indecent and out of order.

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This is not to say that you can't be openly affectionate with your mate when you are married, but there are limits on how your affection is to be demonstrated in the company of strangers. Also, as the two of you are unmarried Christians, you need to be mindful that you don't give the impression that you already do what married folks do. Inform your mate that intimacy can be sacred, but that it's up to the two of you to guard it and keep it sacred.

Questions 16–29

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# ENGAGEMENT





## QUESTION 16

**While it may be true that opposites attract, do opposites really make good marriage partners, or are more similar personalities better suited for long-term relationships?**



## ANSWER

**C**ompatibility is an essential component of successful relationships, but “opposites,” I have found, can be equally as compatible. Mr. or Mrs. Right, then, could very well be someone quite different from yourself. There are unhappy, unstable marriages where the partners are incompatible but have very much in common! So compatibility and commonalities are clearly second to...

Commitment. More important than having like personalities, interests, goals, and backgrounds, or being total opposites, it is absolutely essential for current and potential marriage partners to be truly committed

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to each other. Eventually, there will come a time in the marriage relationship when physical attraction fades and the passion subsides. This means that were it not for the committed attitudes of some dedicated spouses who choose to uphold their vows, even when the going gets tough, marriages would never last long enough for the wonder years to turn into the golden years.

## QUESTION 17

**Should a man allow himself to trust and consider marrying a woman with a “reputation”?**



## ANSWER

*When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the Lord.” (Hosea 1:2)*

**T**his is without question a personal call. God had the prophet Hosea marry a known harlot, Gomer, and when she cheated on Hosea, God instructed Hosea to take her back. (See Hosea 3.) While Hosea and Gomer’s relationship was instituted for symbolic purposes, illustrating the adulterous relationship between God and the unfaithful nation of Israel, it was still a literal case of marital infidelity between the prophet and his wife. Yet the two of them were able to abide together.

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Sometimes a woman of unfavorable reputation needs a man with a decent background to come into her life and apply his good name to her bad one, thus legitimizing her. Sometimes, too, a man can lose out on what would have been an excellent companion because he won't marry a woman with a past—a past that might have been established in unguided youth or ignorance.

It is, of course, important to know what you're getting into, and remember that ultimately you can't change another person—only God can. At the same time, everyone makes mistakes and needs second chances. If you're a believer, seek God's confirmation and approval for any individual you want to consider for a serious relationship. He'll let you know whether that person is worth your time and effort.

## QUESTION 18

**How long should a Christian couple date before getting married? Is there a time after which an engagement becomes too long?**



## ANSWER

**T**his topic is addressed more thoroughly in Question 19, but I sense that the attitude of your inquiry is a little different from that of the person to come, so I will give you my opinion now. Each couple must determine how long their courtship or engagement should last. They should make sure that it is neither too short nor too long; they need to find a balanced time frame. The longer you remain close friends with a person, the more you get to know him or her—who he or she is, what makes him or her tick, and what is unfavorable about him or her.

Not only do you begin to see what you like in this person, but you also start to realize what you don't

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like. Of course, when you are dating someone, especially with the intent to marry, you really should get to know how much or how little you like him or her. The truth about people in relationships is that the longer they stay together, the more likely they are to start nit-picking one another. If you're finding out what really turns you off about an individual before you've actually turned on the commitment and married that person (where you can't just pick up and leave when things are rough), you're not being fair to him or her and you're doing yourself a disservice.

Marriage is a discovery, a journey, an act of faith, and a commitment. If you hold things off for too long and start criticizing before you commit, it's very likely that you won't ever settle on or settle down with that person—and he or she might just be the very best choice for you.

## QUESTION 19

**I've been in a relationship for quite some time now, and things are going fine. Why should I get married?**



## ANSWER

*Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.* (1 Corinthians 7:2)

**L**ong lasting courtships have become commonly tolerated in Christendom today, but I consider them to be dangerous. As anyone can see, fornication, diseases, and pregnancies out of wedlock are all too common, both outside and inside the church community. I see this as evidence that folks are playing around for too long with the fires of passion and are eventually getting burned!

But according to Scripture, marrying is better than burning. (See 1 Corinthians 7:9.) I am convinced that the flames of fornication are indeed avoidable if we would



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all just do as God's Word commands. Some courtships and romantic relationships simply become unofficial marriages, and if you're in one for too long, the temptation becomes extremely great to start enjoying the sexual benefits of the institution of marriage without the actual commitment of marriage. Why tempt yourself? If you've been in a relationship for awhile and all is going well, you've probably come upon a person with whom you could spend even more time after you've made a public vow of commitment.

If you are unsure, or if you know that the individual you're with is not for you, or that marriage isn't for you, end the relationship. Don't waste time by remaining with someone with whom you know you could not abide permanently. Don't date casually if you realize you're not the marrying type.

## QUESTION 20

**Is it contrary to Christian principles for me to refuse to change my surname to that of my husband? What if I choose to include his name in a hyphenated combination with my own last name?**



## ANSWER

**T**his issue comes down to personal discretion. I'm not going to drag Christianity or the Bible into it. It's something that you need to discuss with your fiancé or husband, and the two of you should work it out together.

As you discuss the issue with your partner, however, examine your motives for not wanting to change your last name. If it is simply a matter of personal preference, my advice ends here. If, on the other hand, you sense an inner desire for independence or rebellion that is manifesting itself through your hesitance to change your name, carefully consider whether or not you are

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prepared for the mutual submission demanded by the institution of marriage. It could be that God still has some work to do in your life before you are ready for the commitment that comes with tying the knot.

## QUESTION 21

**I am in love with a Christian man who is HIV-positive. Is it okay for me to marry him?**



## ANSWER

**B**ecause I don't know of any Scripture passage that speaks against marrying ill or diseased persons, I must say that, biblically speaking, there is nothing that specifically forbids it.

It is a serious matter, however—one that will require your absolute certainty and commitment, should you decide to become this man's wife. Realize that you will have to protect not only your own health but, for a great part of the relationship, the health of your husband. Most likely, you also will have to give up any desire you might have for children.

In the end, know that you might be more of a nurse to this man than a wife.

## QUESTION 22

**The man I'm preparing to marry is having problems earning the respect of my three children from a past relationship, because they see his presence as my betrayal of their father. Since we are all going to be living together, how do I help establish a comfortable arrangement in which my kids are more understanding of my need to remarry and are accepting of the new man in my life?**



## ANSWER

**T**his will take some time, plain and simple, so slow things down. Don't force the relationship, and don't lose your children over it—it's not worth it. Children are a blessing from God, and you'll have to answer to Him if you don't do right by them—even if this means not remarrying until they are older. Pray and have patience. God sees your need, but He knows your children's needs as well and He wants to see you put them first.

## QUESTION 23

**I've waited for so long to get married,  
and I've finally met a nice guy.  
Unfortunately, he isn't saved. Should I  
turn down his marriage proposal until  
he gives his life to Christ?**



## ANSWER

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.  
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawless-  
ness? And what communion has light with darkness?  
(2 Corinthians 6:14)*

**W**ell, you should know that I am a traditional Christian. As such, I have a traditional answer: yes. You should wait until your friend is saved; if he won't be saved, you should find someone else who is.

The Bible forewarns those who choose to marry that there will be “*trouble in the flesh*” (1 Corinthians 7:28), even if both partners are believers in Christ. But problems are only prolonged and magnified if one

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spouse is a Christian and the other is not—in fact, this type of situation might provoke more problems than a marriage of two unsaved people!

The simple fact of the matter is that while the two of you probably could love one another in the context of marriage, because you wouldn't both love Christ, troubles would surely come to your relationship. So heed the Word of God and don't walk into a hurricane when you are warned that it's there.

## QUESTION 24

**For many years now, I've been "shacking up," so to speak, with the man I love. Together with our children, we've been living happily as if we were husband and wife. Now that I've accepted Christ into my life, I feel that it is important for us to become officially married and to have our union legalized, but my partner can't see the necessity of a ceremony when we've already been living as a committed couple. What, then, should I do about the status of our relationship?**



## ANSWER

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*  
(Hebrews 13:4)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (2 Corinthians 5:17)



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Really, you have no Christian choice but to leave this man until he comes to the knowledge of God. Your new commitment to your heavenly Father is too strong and too sacred for you to remain unlawfully committed to this man and to the “old way.”

Pray for your partner, that he, too, will surrender his life to the will of God, but also let him know the ultimatum: either marriage or permanent separation.

## QUESTION 25

**I want to be married, but I am reluctant to give up my successful, independent lifestyle. Is it possible for me to have a husband and retain my self-sufficiency?**



## ANSWER

*For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*  
(1 Corinthians 7:7–9)

**T**he marriage issue can be complex for single women who have already provided for themselves the most fundamental of the elements that make marriage attractive to women: financial stability. Whether or not you like my saying so, the nature of a female, as designed by God, is to seek natural provisions from

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men, though modern society has evolved and made exceptions. This means that, typically, when a woman has an education, a fulfilling career, personal goals, and healthy self-esteem, she is less likely to see the “need” for a man in her life. Worldly success makes such a woman independent in mind and spirit, and excludes her from the common feminine need for a physical caretaker.

Nevertheless, the truth is that women also need emotional provision—provision unattainable by money and success alike. So for single, female professionals who are Christians, the attraction of marriage primarily pertains to the missing components of companionship and sexual intimacy (and potentially the desire for children).

For the independent career woman who finds that she requires these missing elements in her life for total fulfillment, discipline becomes key. Without question, growing accustomed to a second voice of authority in the household requires discipline. Acting in the best interest of two, and not just one, requires discipline. Being humble and submissive when these qualities are called for requires discipline. And learning dedication and commitment—virtues essential to the sustaining of any marriage—will certainly require discipline. In a nutshell, marriage is a commitment.

## Engagement

None of this is to say that your future husband won't be supportive of your career and ambitions—the two of you would need to work out all of the important details before actually tying the knot—but it is simply to say that there is a certain level of discipline, as well as a certain degree of lost independence, that being successfully married will demand of you.

If the relationship is right for you, however, the “demands” won't be strenuous; rather, you'll see them as necessary and worthwhile, and they will be far outweighed by the benefits of a loving relationship. The fact of the matter is that when honor and commitment are there, and when both partners are doing their part, marriage is a blessing.

## QUESTION 26

**Is it okay for Christians to elope?**



## ANSWER

**Y**es, if that is what they desire to do. Other ministers might disagree with me on this one, especially if they value more traditional church ceremonies, but I recognize that there are individuals for whom eloping is more convenient.

Two people may desire to marry in virtual secrecy for the sake of expedience, privacy, frugality, or the need to keep feuding family members away from one another. Whatever the reasons, I say that each couple has the right to decide whether to elope or to have a large ceremony.

Ether way, however, marriage represents a responsibility and commitment that should not be taken lightly. I suggest that couples who choose to marry in a civil ceremony still seek out biblical counseling from a local church.

## QUESTION 27

**I'm a young "today's woman" in hot pursuit of my Mr. Right. What does the Bible say about proposing to him when I find him?**



## ANSWER

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.* (Proverbs 18:22)

**I** know you just finished reading it, but please take another careful look at the Scripture verse above. Have you done it? Good. Now, notice that the Word says, "*he who finds a wife finds a good thing*"—not "*she who finds a husband*." As a Bible-believing Christian and a traditional man, I am inclined to believe this verse at face value.

Personally, I feel that it is out of order—the order of nature, the order of God, and the order of traditional society—for women to chase men. On the contrary, it is more natural for men to pursue women, which is

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why this passage makes reference only to someone who would be searching for a wife—in short, a man. I believe that present-day men still enjoy practicing old-fashioned chivalry—buying dinner, opening doors, and making provisions for their wives and families—when it comes to romance. I also believe that most women still enjoy receiving this chivalrous treatment.

This doesn't mean, however, that as a young woman desirous of permanent companionship, you shouldn't position yourself in proper, becoming attire, with a positive, pleasant attitude, and within the right circles and environments to help Mr. Right find you. In fact, to discourage you from continuing your hot pursuit, I will encourage you to do this: get in the proper place and position so that Mr. Right can pursue you.

Again, there are two ways for you to go about doing this. The first is to develop patience and faith in God—an attitude that trusts your future mate will discover and propose to you when the time is right.

Second, it is important that you abide where you don't mind being “found,” meaning that you need to prepare yourself mentally, spiritually, and physically for companionship, as well as to make sure that your environment, if it isn't sound, does not dictate your relationship potential. If you don't want to marry someone who always hangs around in bars, for

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example, you shouldn't hang around in bars looking for the right man! If you change your perspective on relationships, and, if necessary, the physical location where your potential companions originate, you will attract to yourself the best man for you. Only then can you say that your Mr. Right has been found in the right way.



## QUESTION 28

**For the couple who has dated seriously for quite some time with the intention of marrying, how well should they seek to know one another (excluding sexually) before they tie the knot? Is there such a thing as being too nosy, or too informed, concerning one's potential life mate?**



## ANSWER

**N**o, I don't think legitimate concerns about a potential mate are wrong. After all, this is the person with whom you intend to spend the rest of your life—if ever there was a time to be informed about him or her, the time is now! Go ahead and delve into that person's history, that person's present, and what he or she plans for the future.

## QUESTION 29

**I'm a modern-day career woman in love with a man who has traditional ideas about marriage and family. Should I put my personal ambitions on hold for a short time in order to marry, become a housewife, and raise a family for this man about whom I care so deeply?**



## ANSWER

**I**can't stress this enough: never do anything to get a person that you won't always be willing to do to keep him! The question you must ask yourself is, "How much am I willing to give up for what I will receive?" If your answer is, for example, "Not my personal goals," then don't marry someone who will demand that you give up your personal goals—not even if he tells you that it will only be for a short time!

Marriage is a commitment, and you want to start out with the lifestyle that you're willing to keep for

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the long haul. As a general rule, never allow yourself to be manipulated into giving up too much. (What is that other individual going to give up? That's the question!)

For more information on this important topic, refer to Question 25, where the general question of changing or giving up your lifestyle for marriage is discussed more thoroughly.

Questions 30–46

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# MARRIAGE



## QUESTION 30

**Are interracial marriages sanctioned by God, and can marriages between members of different races be as successful as those between people of the same race?**



## ANSWER

*Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. (Numbers 12:1)*

**A**bsolutely. According to Scripture, Moses, a Hebrew, married a black woman, and there is no record of him having problems with that relationship—except where a close-minded family was involved. My experience teaches me that just as Moses and his wife got along, and King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba (who were of different races) loved each other, interracial relationships can be highly successful and blessed.

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The question is: will society allow them to be? Going back to the story of Moses and his wife, it was Miriam and Aaron, the people looking at the relationship from the outside, who experienced problems with it. Because they spoke critically of Moses, God dealt with them harshly. Today, unions between persons of different races are becoming increasingly popular, successful, and acceptable all over the world. This pleases God; it is what He intended.

Note that while there are passages in the Bible that appear to suggest that only like races should be together, the “races” these Scriptures refer to have nothing to do with skin color or ethnicity; these admonitions are about the religious differences between nations mentioned in the Bible. Don’t accept the racist teaching that suggests God is against interracial unions!

## QUESTION 31

**How do I uphold an order I have  
received from the Lord that my  
unbelieving spouse opposes?**



## ANSWER

*For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife,  
and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband;  
otherwise your children would be unclean, but now  
they are holy.* (1 Corinthians 7:14)

**P**rayerfully. For this issue, you need to consult God for the speedy conversion or compliance of your spouse because of the obstacle he or she poses to your spiritual walk and obedience to God. Trust God and have faith that change will soon come, and continue to live a sanctified life before your mate. This is all that you can do until the Lord intervenes and moves him or her out of your way, out of your life, or into His fold.



## QUESTION 32

**My wife and I have a nontraditional arrangement: I stay at home to care for the kids and manage the household while she works outside the home. Is there anything wrong with our system?**



## ANSWER

**N**ot as far as I can tell, sir. Role reversal in modern-day society is discussed in Question 33, but the point is that what you and your wife do for the proper function and smooth operation of your household is your own business.

The Bible says nothing against the husband or father being the nurturer/caretaker, nor does it speak against the wife or mother being the primary breadwinner of her household. It sounds as if the arrangement is by mutual agreement and consent, so carry on! A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do. And so does his woman.

## QUESTION 33

**Is the gender characterization accurate that says that women are more suited to domesticity and raising children, while men are more suited to climbing the social ladder and being breadwinners, or are these shallow stereotypes?**



## ANSWER

**I**would have to say that most gender characterizing is stereotypical, but that stereotypes often do have a bit of validity. In other words, stereotypes don't just appear from nowhere, regardless of how ignorant or inaccurate they may be. Many women are better suited to a domestic occupation than most males, and likewise, most men are a bit more driven to pursue successful careers and to provide for their families than are most women. But again, the inverse is also true. Even as we speak, modern society is changing the way we view men and women, how we categorize them, and how we define and assign their roles.

## *Love, Dating, and Marriage*

Who each of us becomes is almost totally dependent upon the environments in which we were raised, how our mentalities were nurtured and developed, and how society dictates what we must do to survive. For example, particularly in America, there is a growing abundance of mom-like dads and dad-like moms. This plainly illustrates to us the necessity of role reversal and hints to us that even the gender stereotypes themselves will be transformed.

Personally, I don't see anything inherently wrong with the way men and women are changing, as long as our sexuality and the essence of gender character remains true to nature. Christians ought to remain true to their spiritual callings and remain steadfast in place, position, and duty to the God who never changes.

## QUESTION 34

**Some people say that married couples and single folks shouldn't hang out together; for example, a married woman shouldn't have a single woman for her best friend because the single woman's lifestyle of freedom and independence might distract the married woman from her marital duties. Is this an unreasonable position?**



## ANSWER

**N**o, I wouldn't say that it is unreasonable. In many cases, a single woman will unwittingly flaunt her freedom before her married girlfriend to the point that the married woman begins to feel like she's losing out on life. The sad thing is that in many instances, the married woman is losing out because she got married too soon, is married to the wrong person, or finds her husband unpleasant to live with. Of course, the same can be true for a married man who has a bunch

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of bachelor buddies. The main thing is to stick with the choice you've made, whether it be to marry or stay single, and to adhere to the commitment entailed.

If you are a single person, don't point out to your married friends how wonderful your independent lifestyle is in comparison to the burdens of marriage. By the same token, if you are already married, it's probably okay to try to encourage your unattached friends to find life partners, especially if they can see that your own marriage is happy and successful. Don't gripe to your single friends that you wish you had never married so-and-so. If you are in a marriage relationship and change is what you desire (and if you have a legitimate reason to desire it), seek the wise counsel of God, not the uninformed advice of your swinging-single associates.

## QUESTION 35

**The Bible speaks of the man as being a “covering” for the woman, but I feel that my husband leaves me exposed by not defending or fully supporting me in times of crisis. Isn’t this his duty?**



## ANSWER

**N**ot all men are strong enough to give their wives what they need. It sounds to me like the two of you are unequally yoked in the areas of emotional understanding and support.

Pray to God, asking Him for a solution, and include in your supplication a request for revelatory knowledge concerning the man you have married. When you receive an answer, if you can possibly live with it, you will be blessed for accepting your man for who he is.

## QUESTION 36

**My wife accuses me of being  
“unromantic.” How can I learn to  
become a Casanova?**



## ANSWER

**Q**uite frankly, your goal shouldn't be to become a Casanova. It should be to become a pleasing husband to your wife, and the only way for you to do this—the only way for you to be satisfying to her—is to stop trying to figure out what it is that turns her on and simply ask her!

Then, ask God to help you make the necessary changes.

## QUESTION 37

**My husband and I haven't been able to agree on attending the same church, yet the two ministries where we fellowship separately are so different from one another that they cause us to disagree and argue about spiritual issues. Should I simply become a member of my husband's church in order to bring some peace into our relationship?**



## ANSWER

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.* (Matthew 5:9)

**P**ace is indeed what your relationship needs at this point, so my advice to you is to become a peacemaker. Actually, peace is about having patience when you're under pressure. There is a way for you to possibly relieve yourself of the pressure under which you are currently living due to the spiritual conflict



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between you and your spouse: you must seriously consider attending his place of worship. I know that's difficult to hear and to do, but there's really no other way for me to advise you on this one.

And you can be certain that if your husband had first sought my advice on this issue, I would have told him to consider leaving his church for yours.

## QUESTION 38

**I'm in a church where the spiritual teaching is godly and on target, but the pastor clearly does not practice what he preaches as far as his own marriage is concerned. Should this affect whether I continue to hear him? Should it determine whether I remain a member of his church?**



## ANSWER

*Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.*

(2 Corinthians 5:16)

**M**ake no mistake about it: if you've got a mind to live rightly, your minister's hypocrisy will affect how you hear him. For while the Scripture does tell us to "*regard no one according to the flesh*" (2 Corinthians 5:16), your pastor is set before you to be a godly example, not

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just to preach godly topics. Seek God about how to proceed. He may just answer you by leading you to a new place of worship.

## QUESTION 39

**I married a man who has incredibly strong family ties, and I can't seem to get him to have as much fun with me as he appears to have when visiting his parents or siblings. Is it ridiculous for me to be so concerned about this?**



## ANSWER

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*  
(Matthew 19:5)

**I**don't think so. You are right to want your husband to enjoy your company as much as—and even more than—he enjoys his family's company. If you are certain that it's not something you're doing (or not doing) to make him run for the comforts of home so happily and so frequently, pray to find out what it is that you're dealing with.

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It could be that there are emotional ties between your husband and his family that are all too powerful. Is there spiritual warfare involved here that requires special attention? Ask God for insight into how to help your husband break these unhealthy bonds (if that is indeed what they are) so that he can reconnect with you.

## QUESTION 40

**My husband is a Christian man who is having problems breaking the cycle of domestic abuse established by his parents when he was a child. What can I do to effect immediate change in his life and behavior so that he can stop hurting me and our children?**



## ANSWER

**A**cknowledging his problem is the first step to overcoming it, but at the same time, he needs to stop blaming his present, unacceptable, unmanly behavior on his past! In many cases, I think it's a lame excuse to say, "Since my dad beat on my mom, I can't help but beat on my wife." Though this may be true as it relates to generational curses and how our childhood environments influence our adult behavior, the fact remains that if your husband is indeed a Christian, at some point during those times when he wants to raise his hand to strike you, some type of alarm or

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warning bell should go off in his heart and conscience to prevent him from being abusive again.

Ask him to ponder the following question: “Do I love this woman to whom I am married, or do I hate or resent her in some way?” If he harbors some hidden resentment toward you, he’ll never be able to deal properly with his problem. It’s been my observation that in many cases, a man has to like a woman first, then love her, then fall in love with her, and then like her all over again.

A short note to your husband: If you love your wife, then you will want to stop hurting her. If you find that you don’t love her, you need to remove yourself from her life, unless and until you find that you can abide with her and your children peaceably without being abusive to them. Learn to apply the discipline of self-control in your life so that you can stop the violent behavior, and ask God for a complete and thorough deliverance.

## QUESTION 41

**Before I met my husband, I shared a great, platonic relationship with another wonderful man. Now that I am married, am I somehow obligated to end my conversation and camaraderie with this other man, even if my husband doesn't object to our closeness?**



## ANSWER

*And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:13)*

**T**he Scripture verse was chosen not to suggest that your platonic friend is a snake, but to alert you to the possibility and likelihood that your relationship with him will poison your marriage. It is time to distance yourself from this man. It matters not if your husband has no objection to your friendship—break off this friendship. You owe it to your husband, yourself,



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and your friend, who doesn't deserve to be led down a potentially romantic path with a married woman. You need to make clear your single-minded commitment to the marriage relationship to which you have avowed yourself.

There's an old rap song whose revelatory lyrics describe an unfaithful partner in a relationship: "You, you've got what I need. But you say he's just a friend. You say he's just a friend," the betrayed lover laments. The very probable outcome of your situation is illustrated by these potent words, and your husband will eventually be the one singing them! Quit this business of having one marriage in two locations. While your passion may be at home with your husband, your emotional and psychological support are coming from across the street. Before you know it, all of you will have moved to a different block! It's the Eve-and-the-Serpent syndrome, hands down, and you're only moments away from biting the forbidden fruit!

## QUESTION 42

**Who has the final say:  
the husband or the wife?**



## ANSWER

*[Submit] to one another in the fear of God.*

*(Ephesians 5:21)*

**I**n a day and time when preachers are using the pulpit as a platform to bully and browbeat women into unquestioning acquiescence to the will of men, the Bible breathes a breath of fresh air. It advocates mutual submission. Submission doesn't have a potentate. It's not a dictatorship; instead, it includes a shared throne of authority.

God did appoint the male to be the head of the household, but the female, his wife, is meant to reign alongside her husband. According to the Bible, the woman is a “*help meet*” (Genesis 2:18 kjv) for the man; she helps him meet his family's obligations, helps him meet the bills, and helps him meet their mutual goals.

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Men, it is time for us to return to humbling ourselves and being ministered to through our wives' innate ministries of help. Let us stop trying to wield absolute rule and instead help our wives by supporting their ideas, assertions, and goals as we peacefully lay down the wound-inflicting weaponry of male chauvinism and unregulated egos.

## QUESTION 43

**I love my husband, but I hate the fact  
that his mother is ruling our household.  
What should I do?**



## ANSWER

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one  
flesh.* (Matthew 19:5)

**M**any parents don't realize it, but there must be a cutting away of two umbilical cords that extend from themselves to their children. The first is the obvious, physical cord, severed by a doctor when a child is born.

The second is the emotional tie, to be broken years later, when a child has found a mate with whom to make a new, permanent connection. This does not mean that the parents and child can no longer love one another or communicate with one another; rather, it means that the bonds of control and influence that

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stretched between them were intended by God to be broken and reattached elsewhere. By “elsewhere,” I mean to a spouse.

In many instances, however, overly involved and excessively controlling parents prevent the proper detachment and reattachment from ever occurring. They selfishly refuse to relinquish their emotional ties to their children. Usually, this tragedy plays out in the development of a tumultuous, resentful relationship between a new wife and her husband’s mother, or between a husband and his wife’s mother, mainly because females generally make the strongest emotional and psychological connections between themselves and those they love, and find it difficult to break those ties.

In spite of science and gender, though, the Bible is clear on what the order of things ought to be. It commands husbands and wives to rediscover the nurturing and support that once came from mother and father within the loving relationship with their spouses.

## QUESTION 44

**Is love a stipulation for a successful marriage, or can two people get married and remain together without it?**



## ANSWER

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.*

(Ephesians 5:25)

**I**t's a fact that different people define *love* in different ways. What some might consider passion, obsession, infatuation, attraction, or even dependency, those experiencing the emotions might identify as love. My suggestion is that you love—and be in love with—your partner, however the two of you can healthily define this controversial emotion.

But before you establish a permanent relationship, make sure that you also like one another and have things in common. Not every person whom we love is someone with whom we are able or willing to live.

## *Love, Dating, and Marriage*

This proves to us the validity of the fact that the key component to successful marriages, more so than love, like, shared interests, or any other relationship necessity, is good, old-fashioned commitment.

## QUESTION 45

**Supposedly, a lot of men are attracted to, and choose as wives, women who remind them of their own mothers.**

**Why is this so?**



## ANSWER

**I**t is true that a significant number of men find attractive, and eventually marry, women who are similar to their mothers. The reasons behind this are generally healthy. It's no secret that mothers are typically the most visible figures in the home. They are the primary role models for their children, and they tend to have greater and more lasting influence in the lives of their offspring than their husbands. It makes sense, then, that when men search for their "ideal" woman, they look for the traits and characteristics exhibited by the first and most important woman in their lives—their mom. This same form of mate selection can be true for women who admire or idolize their fathers.



## *Love, Dating, and Marriage*

Of course, there are many exceptions to this rule, because not every mother—or father—is someone worth emulating. In some cases, because of emotional resentment, some individuals may go about deliberately seeking partners who are completely unlike their parents.

There are also situations in which psychological tragedy occurs, and individuals who have been strongly influenced in negative ways by their parents will gravitate toward—and have relationships with—people who are mean, abusive, unsupportive, or neglectful, just like the parents they despise. Because this pattern is deep-rooted, these people sometimes enter the same types of relationships over and over again, even when they know their partners to be the wrong kind of people for them. In such cases, the mind-healing power of God is needed to come and break the binding authority of a generational curse.

## QUESTION 46

**I am an elderly widow who has discovered that after years of being alone, I am actually lonely. Is this reason enough for me to consider marrying again?**



## ANSWER

**C**ertainly. Marriage is a blessing of companionship, fellowship, and support, necessary to people in all walks of life and stages of existence. Seek God, and your Mr. Right will surely come.



Questions 47–61

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SEX



## QUESTION 47

**Is the purpose of marriage defeated if a couple decides not to have children but marries exclusively for sexual fulfillment?**



## ANSWER

*Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*

*(1 Corinthians 7:1–2)*

**N**o, it is not wrong to get married for the purpose of having sexual fulfillment, or to avoid having sexual relations outside of marriage, but it probably is wrong to marry an individual just because you feel a sexual attraction toward him or her. God recognized a problem in Adam's being all alone in the garden of Eden—He saw that it was “*not good*”—so He created a “*help meet*” for him. (See Genesis 2:18 kjv.) Adam's

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sexuality and need for companionship were not ignored by God. He saw the importance of these things, and marriage is an institution designed to satisfy sexual need.

But at the same time, the woman God provided for Adam was tailor-made for him because she came from him, being fashioned from one of his ribs. Eve was a woman “meet,” or appropriate, for Adam, we can assume, in all areas—not just the romantic or intimate area. So when choosing life partners, it is important that we look for higher commonalities than mutual passion. A marriage that is going to last must be based on more than just sex.

I also believe that if a couple doesn't like or love children, and if they aren't inclined to deal with and rear them properly, they absolutely shouldn't have them. Children are blessings from God to be offered up to Him. When God sees them mistreated or loved insufficiently, the faulty parents become accursed in His eyes. So don't enter the realm of parenthood if you aren't qualified. Also, know that marriage and family are two separate entities: the former involves the committed couple exclusively, while the latter is the combination of parents and children. Regardless of whether you bring little ones into the picture, always acknowledge the independence of your marriage union from all other associations.

## QUESTION 48

**Is it true, in a sense, that  
“all men are dogs”?**



## ANSWER

**Y**es. And we must also understand that women are, too! There is indeed a sexual quality to all of us that is animalistic. It is a part of our human nature, incidentally, and if it is not tamed and brought under subjection through the power of spirituality and discipline, it can lead the most pious of us into perverted activity that we never previously imagined.

Most people aren't aware of the second half to the popular proverbial saying, "Curiosity killed the cat." The moral lies in the conclusion of the story: "But satisfaction brought him back." This means that untamed curiosity and perverted interest can lead one into activities and behavior previously considered taboo. (This topic of perversion is discussed more thoroughly in the next question, number 49.) As a result, he finds



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that he can no longer live with himself, and he dies or is “killed” because of shame and embarrassment; his mind is changed by the allure of things he knows to be impure.

Because people tend to find a lewd “satisfaction” in doing that which is forbidden, they justify their behavior to themselves and alter their convictions and beliefs, making it easier to live with themselves in the new, sinful state. The hint of shame that remains in their consciences, however, means that they can always be brought back to life after participating in forbidden things.

We should all give the “dog” in each one of us the “bone” of this moral lesson and be mindful not to become our very nemesis: the tampering, curious “cat”!

## QUESTION 49

**Is there such a thing as perversion  
in the marriage bed?**



## ANSWER

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

*(Hebrews 13:4)*

**Y**es. The most serious and common way in which the bed of a married couple is defiled or perverted is not in what the couple does together in that bed, but rather by what happens when one of the marriage partners commits mental adultery. Allow me to clarify. Under ancient Hebrew law, if a man committed the act of adultery, he was punished by death. But Jesus, who came to fulfill the law, saw the issue of adultery as beginning long before the illicit physical intimacy even took place. In Matthew 5, He said,

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that*

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*whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

(Matthew 5:27–28)

This Scripture passage speaks to the married man, for only a man with a wife can commit the “adultery”; “fornication” is the term for sexual relations between unmarried individuals.

This means that while a single man can look at various women freely and without consequence, if a married man looks on a woman other than his wife with lust, even if he never physically touches her, he has committed the sin of adultery. Then, if he goes home to be with his wife, he does further damage because he defiles their bed with his wicked imagination! Because mental adultery is so prevalent, it is not uncommon for the spirit of a third party (a past lover, an object of desire, or a love interest of one of the married partners) to possess a typical marriage bedroom, either often or from time to time, through the explicit imagination or memory of one of the spouses. It must be said that this practice is nothing less than the outgrowth of perversion, which is an unclean spirit.

Whether illicit thoughts for another are acknowledged by the spouse who thinks them, it is extremely disrespectful to the partner being downplayed by the memory of the outsider, and it is most displeasing to

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God. For Christian men and women who don't want this type of sin on their hands or in their hearts, discipline—of the flesh, and regarding the vow of commitment to one specific partner alone—must be practiced on a daily basis. It is a walk of faith and faithfulness.

## QUESTION 50

**I'm having problems getting my unsaved husband to respect my designed times of fasting unto the Lord. What should I do?**



## ANSWER

*Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

(1 Corinthians 7:5)

**A**sk for the wisdom and divine intervention of God, so that the times you plan to fast and give yourself to the Lord will be the very times when he is tired! God still performs miracles, and He's always in the prayer answering business. Without question, He will make a way for you to draw nigh unto Him.

## QUESTION 51

**Although I recently had a baby out of wedlock, I am still a confessing Christian. How do I deal with the shame of my error, particularly in the face of neighbors, relatives, and fellow church members, all of whom seem to be acting as if they now doubt my conversion and salvation?**



## ANSWER

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.* (Philippians 2:12)

**S**ometimes a little shame is good for us. In many cases, it can prevent us from repeating a mistake or help us to build character. Because you are a believer, do the right thing and repent. Then, love your child and move on with your life. Don't allow yourself to be

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shaken by the “Christians” and community who want to condemn you. Salvation is personal, and as long as you’ve accepted God’s forgiveness, your redemption is eternally sealed.

Know also that because of ignorance and high-mindedness, many believers fail to display the love and compassion of Christ. In fact, they probably believe God has authorized them to condemn you and throw stones! None of them is without blemishes of his own, however. Through all of this, I believe that you will be strengthened if you keep the faith and focus on strengthening your relationship with the Lord. You can also take comfort in the knowledge that through your testimony of perseverance and triumph, you will be able to help others who find themselves in a similar circumstance or predicament.

## QUESTION 52

**I am a young, single woman who, prior to being saved, was sexually active. Now that I am in the church and believe that fornication is a sin, how do I properly handle my lingering desire for sexual intimacy until I can find a husband?**



## ANSWER

*Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well.* (1 Corinthians 7:37)

**T**hrough discipline. Salvation and deliverance are not always one and the same. You have the former, but you still need the latter. This can be achieved by your deliberate determination to live a disciplined lifestyle of abstinence. There's no easy way to do this because discipline isn't easy, but it's something that



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you must do as a dedicated believer. At least until your change—which you hope is a husband—comes, commit yourself to abstinence.

## QUESTION 53

**My marriage partner has expressed interest in exploring certain intimate activities with which the two of us have never previously experimented. To me, however, such acts are taboo. How do we compromise without depriving one another?**



## ANSWER

**N**ow, hold on a minute! There are a lot of issues I don't mind discussing, and plenty of things I don't mind helping folks with, but this question is not one of them. I can't give you answers for *everything*! Some intimate concerns are best left to oneself; they need to be figured out privately. My advice is that you go to a church and get under some timely teaching. Then, if you still have questions, ask your pastor.

I won't authorize anyone to unleash the spirit of perversion in his bedroom—or any other spirit, for

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that matter—on the pages of this book. So, questioner, when you bring this particular concern to your own pastor, be sure to write to me and tell me his or her response.

## QUESTION 54

**My partner and I are not addicted to pornographic movies or magazines, but we do enjoy them. Is our interest in such material un-Christian?**



## ANSWER

*When they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

(Romans 1:21 KJV)

**Y**es. Pornography is “vain imagination.” Even if you are not yet “addicted,” you are certainly standing in the doorway of sexual addiction, not to mention embracing the spirit of perversion. What you consider to be a harmless viewing of others’ nakedness and intimate activities is really an abomination to the Lord.

Even society teaches us that dirty books, movies, magazines, and other such perverted paraphernalia are things to be ashamed of, or at least ones to cover up

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and enjoy in secrecy. How much more shame, then, do they bring before the Holy God? If the two of you can see the error of your ways and want to change, then confession—the process that you’ve already begun with your question—is the first step you must take. Then, after repentance, seek counseling in order to usher in your complete deliverance.

## QUESTION 55

**My husband and I are continually having babies. If the Bible says, “*be fruitful and multiply*” (Genesis 1:28), is it a sin to use birth control methods?**



## ANSWER

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

(Hosea 4:6)

**T**he issue raised by this question is one to which much controversy is attached. In my opinion, birth control is a blessing. It has nothing to do with abortion, as some try to argue, but everything to do with control, as its name suggests. This control is one that allows you to plan and build a stable, successful family unit, which is the will of God.

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If you notice, preparation usually precedes natural and spiritual blessings. Before biblical matriarchs Mary, Sarah, and Elizabeth actually conceived, God spoke to them, announcing the birth of their baby boys ahead of time, in order that these women might be prepared.

If you don't subscribe to the type of family planning and preparation that birth control provides to you, then hold fast to your personal conviction and don't use it. If this is your view, however, don't judge others who decide to avail themselves of birth control methods. If you find a method of birth control that you deem beneficial to your family, use it without condemning yourself.

## QUESTION 56

**What does the Bible say about same-sex marriages and romantic relationships? If some people are born homosexual, how do they reason this with God?**



## ANSWER

*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.* (Leviticus 18:22)

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites....* (1 Corinthians 6:9)

**H**omosexuality is a curse placed upon an individual by the spirit of perversion. The perversion spirit can attack a person with this sexual sin at any stage of life, including childhood, and even as early as conception. Perversion is a foul, unclean spirit, and all of its spawn—homosexuality included—are offensive to God. In fact, the Word tells us that same-sex



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relations, and thus same-sex marriages, are an abomination to the Lord, meaning that these are sins exceptionally hated or loathed by Him. Therefore, those so-called Christians who practice homosexuality not only defile and condemn their own spirits, but they greatly displease God.

The way for an affected individual to “reckon” his condition with God is to realize that it is not God who makes people homosexuals. God makes men and women, but Satan perverts them. The duty of men or women who are sexually perverted, then, is to acknowledge to God that their desires and practices are indeed wrong, to repent, to seek God’s deliverance from the perverted spirit, and most importantly, *to stop doing it*.

For those who don’t confess Christ, however, homosexuality is not a spiritual issue but rather a moral question. Traditionally, it is something that society has discouraged, condemned, or even outlawed. Unfortunately, however, this sexual sin—and all other types of immoral sexual activity—are becoming increasingly acceptable in America. Undoubtedly, such widespread tolerance, acceptance, and permissiveness will lead this country down a path of moral degradation, to a demise that will mirror what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah.

## QUESTION 57

**Is it true that a man's attraction to a woman, at least when he first meets her, is mostly physical?**



## ANSWER

**Y**ou must be a woman to be asking this question. The answer is: yes. Men generally tend to go by, and go after, what they see, especially as it pertains to the opposite sex. It's just one of those laws of nature. A man who is a womanizer, or a man who is not serious about committing to a relationship, will typically determine whether he likes a woman based on his physical attraction to her. He will then use whatever tactics necessary to seduce her.

After he has conquered this woman sexually, he will then take a look at who she really is. If he discovers that he doesn't like her personality or her intellectual capacities or her emotional nature, he loses interest and leaves. (Not without a fond appreciation of their intimate physical encounter, of course!)

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Certainly, this is not the way Christian men ought to behave. Those who do fornicate and use women in this manner will pay natural and spiritual consequences. But by the same token, saved men are flesh-and-blood beings, and they, too, are generally drawn to women based upon outward appearances. This is not necessarily bad or wrong; it merely means that women need to beware of men who mean them no good.

Nevertheless, a woman also needs to be aware of the fact that just because a man likes her first for who she is on the outside doesn't mean that he won't soon appreciate who she is on the inside.

## QUESTION 58

**According to the apostle Paul, “*It is good for a man not to touch a woman*” (1 Corinthians 7:1). What exactly is meant by this verse, and does it apply to women relating to men, as well?**



## ANSWER

**I**n this particular text, I believe that Paul was advising Christian individuals against having intimate relations before marriage. Though the address is made specifically to men, the apostle spoke to women as well—“*it is good for a man not to touch a woman*”—meaning that it is good for all mankind to refrain from intimate involvement with the opposite sex before making a permanent, legal commitment. This truth is made plain in the verse that follows: “*Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband*” (1 Corinthians 7:2).

## QUESTION 59

**Should men as well as women remain virgins until they are married?**



## ANSWER

*Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*

*(1 Corinthians 7:1–2)*

**A**bsolutely. It's the will—and Word—of God.

## QUESTION 60

**Does God view virgins differently  
than He views non-virgins?**



## ANSWER

*Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart,  
having no necessity, but has power over his own will,  
and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his  
virgin, does well. (1 Corinthians 7:37)*

**C**ertainly He does. Men and women who retain their virginity are undefiled by the opposite sex, and because they are untouched, they are inherently virtuous. The fact of the matter is that anytime you forgo sexual intercourse and involvement, you hear more from God—and with greater clarity. And the more you are in tune with the Almighty, the more pleased He becomes with you. Those of us who are married to Christ and a natural spouse, and who at allotted times commit ourselves to proper fasting from sexual intimacy, know this to be true.

## QUESTION 61

**Does the Bible explicitly say that sexual relations are to exist exclusively within the bounds of marriage, or is this merely a law of tradition instituted by man for the sake of order and custom?**



## ANSWER

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.*

(1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

**I**f abstaining from premarital intimacy is a tradition and custom of man's design, it's been fragrantly overlooked and ignored since creation and probably first went unheeded by the very man who invented it! Actually, it is God's will and intent that no man have sexual relations with a woman unless he is married to

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her (and vice versa). The Word of God is clear on this issue.

To highlight God's clear will about this issue, I've compiled a special list of Scriptures, the bulk of which are found in 1 Corinthians. These passages explicitly address the topic of fornication (sexual relations outside of the covenant of marriage). My prayer is that these Scriptures will help further your understanding and increase your faith. Also, look back over the past two questions (numbers 59 and 60) for discussions about the issue of virginity.

*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? (1 Corinthians 5:1–6)*



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*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites....Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

*(1 Corinthians 6:9, 13)*

*Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*(1 Corinthians 6:18–20)*

*Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*

*(1 Corinthians 7:2)*

*Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell.*

*(1 Corinthians 10:8)*

*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

*(Hebrews 13:4)*

Questions 62–79

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# COMMUNICATION



## QUESTION 62

**My husband and I never communicate like we used to. How do I encourage him to be more vocal and responsive?**



## ANSWER

*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.  
And in all your getting, get understanding.*

(Proverbs 4:7)

**W**hile it's probably true that the majority of men are not as vocal and prone to conversation as women are, the problem could be that the two of you aren't finding any topics of mutual interest to discuss. If you are attempting to discuss with your spouse things that don't really interest him, you can't reasonably expect any real, genuine communication to go on between the two of you. At the same time, you need to get to know your mate thoroughly. If he happens to be the silent type, you must learn to accept and appreciate this quality in him.

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All the same, I encourage you to find out what it is that your mate is passionate about. Know what themes and topics excite and motivate him, and see if you can share his enthusiasm on these subjects. If you learn to “speak his language,” the two of you will begin to better understand and relate to one another, and eventually, he may get back to being more verbally responsive to you by discussing your favorite topics and addressing issues that you suggest.

We can’t always expect the hour-long conversations and exchanges that we shared with our partners when we first began dating them to have the same frequency and intensity once we become married. When you begin to date someone, you have a lot to learn about that person, so much talking is normal. When you get married, however, you grow used to one another and are intimately familiar, which means you might find fewer things to talk about. We shouldn’t take our partners for granted or assume that we’ve learned all there is to know about them, for doing this might cause the relationship to stagnate. We must instead accept the fact that the dynamics of courtship and marriage are quite different from each other.

## QUESTION 63

**My partner refuses to discuss the problem areas in our marriage. How do I proceed?**



## ANSWER

**M**y advice to you is to leave it alone and pray. Timing is everything in a marriage relationship, especially when a couple has spent years together—by then, the two spouses know one another. They know the times when and when not to approach each other in certain areas or with certain concerns.

If you are not at a place in your relationship where you really know your mate, only time will bring about the necessary degree of closeness. Seek God, then, for time's gift, which is the insight into who your spouse really is, and the ways in which you can and cannot approach him or her, as well as the knowledge of the proper time to address specific issues—such as the present difficulties in your marriage.

## QUESTION 64

**My husband calls me a nagger and says that all I do is whine and complain.**

**The way I see it, *everything* I say and do is somehow annoying to him! Is the problem with me, or is it with him?**



## ANSWER

**M**y impression is that the problem is with *both* of you! I don't mean to sound irritated or cross, but really—the two of you need to stop the nonsense and grow up. You are both adults, aren't you? You did vow to love and honor one another, right? Then commit yourselves to finding out what ticks the other off—your nagging annoys him, his indifference bothers you—and stop doing it!

## QUESTION 65

**There are some things in my premarital and married past that I fear would hurt the relationship between my spouse and me if I were to confess them. Am I allowed to keep these things to myself without being guilty of dishonesty?**



## ANSWER

**W**hile confession is good for the soul, it is not always good for everybody else around us. Unwisely, many spiritual leaders and self-improvement gurus are heavily into the business of advising that things of the past be suddenly revealed in the present. Unfortunately, this is wreaking unnecessary havoc in relationships that were going just fine!

This is not to say that couples shouldn't be honest and up front with one another. Indeed, there are issues and incidents that we must share with one another (sometimes our spouses' health or lives will actually



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depend on our telling the truth), but we have to be able to distinguish between which past and present occurrences need to be disclosed and which ones are best left in the past.

My advice is that you know your spouse thoroughly, which includes knowing what information he or she can and cannot handle. This knowledge is beneficial to you, your mate, and the health of your relationship. Even if we are individuals in a relationship, some things in our lives were meant to be ours alone. “Selective confession,” then, is part of our right to privacy as individuals. It has nothing to do with being dishonest; rather, it has everything to do with being wise.

## QUESTION 66

**My wife frequently discusses the personal issues of our marriage with her girlfriends, even though she knows I don't appreciate this. What can I say to get her to stop publicizing our private business before I lose my temper?**



## ANSWER

*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath.* (Ephesians 4:26)

**I**t's understandable that this situation is making you furious, but you must continue to control your temper until you figure out a way to get through to your wife. You can begin by reminding yourself that you love your wife and that she loves you. And if she does indeed love you, and has fully committed herself to you, she must be respectful of your wishes.

For your own part, make sure that your spouse is not pouring her heart out to friends because of your

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own unwillingness to discuss these issues with her. Let her know that your listening ear is the most important one available to her. Finally, convey to your wife the seriousness of her conversations with outsiders by telling her how it makes you feel—betrayed, disrespected, unsupported, and angry. If she's truly committed to you, she will stop this inconsiderate behavior.

## QUESTION 67

**My husband complains about my housekeeping habits and cooking skills. We cannot discuss the shortcomings he perceives without getting into a big argument. He says that I am not properly fulfilling my wifely duties. How should we proceed?**



## ANSWER

**I** must say that I find your husband's attitude about your relationship rather disturbing, particularly because in my own household, the work is shared; from cleaning the house to shopping for groceries to transporting the children to and from school, my wife and I share the load of family obligations. Your husband sounds like a man who has old, traditional ideas concerning male and female roles, and most of his thinking is probably outdated. One of you must change your way of thinking, and you shouldn't necessarily be the one to change!

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My suggestion is this: if your husband would like you to prepare delicious meals, he should prepare a delicious meal for you! In other words, whatever he expects you to do, he must also be willing and able to do, as well. You have no obligation to return the favor, of course, but through a servant attitude, he will learn to consider you as his equal and his partner.

## QUESTION 68

**My husband has a tendency to forge ahead and do things without consulting me—things that a husband and wife are supposed to approach with mutual understanding and agreement. He goes ahead without my permission, later “apologizing” by buying me a new dress or taking me out to dinner. How do I get him to realize that I’d rather have him show me honor and respect by asking me beforehand rather making it up to me later with gifts?**



## ANSWER

**C**onvey to your husband that he is building what I call a “camel/straw” relationship with you by making empty promises and void apologies. In other words, there will come a time when you will reach a “last-straw” incident where he will do what he wants without your permission. At that time, no gift or

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apology will be able to prevent your “back” from breaking or your patience with him from finally running out. No matter how insignificant that last incident is, the weight or pressure of it will be just too much for you. Once it’s added to the misdeeds of the past, you’ll reach a point of no return and explode on him!

At that point, he’ll get the message and start asking your approval first if you describe to him what will happen if he doesn’t stop disrespecting you. Be firm and clear with your husband when you tell him to quit piling on all the garbage!

## QUESTION 69

**My husband tends to say and do things in front of guests that I personally find embarrassing, especially when his jokes are at my expense. When I confronted him about this tendency, he claimed that I've always been too serious and sensitive, and he accused me of trying to change his fun loving, outgoing personality. Am I being unreasonable to want him to change the aspect of himself that acts like a fool in public (and makes me look like one, too)?**



## ANSWER

**C**ertainly not—what is unreasonable is the way he is treating you! Don't ask him anything. Tell him that you simply will not tolerate his lack of consideration and the overriding of your feelings! Whether his bad behavior has to do with his personality or with the fact that he is totally insensitive to you (the more



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likely of the two reasons), you must let him know that you can no longer afford him the luxury of self-expression at your expense. If you're as "serious" as he claims, use that no-nonsense quality to be firm with him, and he will be forced to give you the public and private respect that you deserve.

## QUESTION 70

**For years, I have supported the ministry of my husband, who is a pastor. Now, however, I myself feel called to minister, but I can't get him to support my ministry. He wants to remain a behind-the-scenes supporter in the church where I've always been completely supportive and dedicated to his ministry. How can I get him to acknowledge and respect that there is a call on my own life without appearing to have stopped being in submission to him?**



## ANSWER

**I**n marriage, it is most unwise—I'd even say wrong—to do things and commit to things on behalf of your mate when you won't always remain faithful to those things. The reason that your husband is not supporting you in your new calling is most likely that he's never had to do so before. All of what you've presented

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to him is rather foreign. It is somewhat understandable that he is unsure or unwilling to accept that after all these years of your support and assistance in building him up to where he is in his ministry, you're now deciding to pursue a ministry of your own.

It is an unfortunate fact, oftentimes, that after we have given years of our lives to another and have finally become wise to the reality that our own needs, dreams, and individuality must be pursued, the support we require is not reciprocated. Sometimes we allow things to work a certain way for so long in our relationships that change becomes unwelcome and difficult to bring about.

My best advice to you, then, is to pray, pray, pray. Ask God to speak to you concerning the proper time to pursue that path to which He has called you, as well as how to execute your ministry peaceably so that it doesn't conflict with or negatively affect the ministry of your husband. Ask God to speak to your husband concerning you and what you feel you must do for the Lord, so that the inevitable transition in your relationship and in his ministry will go as smoothly as possible.

## QUESTION 71

**My spouse appears to be resentful of the recent progress I've made in several areas of my life. While I've tried to include him in my success, he still tells me that he feels left out. How do I reassure my man that it's not my intention to leave him behind, and to let him know that I can't quit achieving to accommodate his feelings?**



## ANSWER

**T**his sounds like a classic example of a controlling relationship. To me, your mistake seems to be in trying to please someone who can't be pleased or appeased! Since this is the case, there's no sense in continuing to waste your time trying to pacify your dependent spouse.

Do continue to move on in your success, nevertheless, and remember that great people do great things;

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nobodies do nothing! Pray that God will work in your husband's heart and that his spirit of envy about your success will be removed.

## QUESTION 72

**During the downtimes in marriage,  
which is less risky: to deal with heavy,  
heated issues at the time that they arise,  
when feelings are sensitive, attitudes are  
sour, and partners inevitably say hurtful  
things that they later regret, or to handle  
touchy subjects after some time has  
passed, giving space for the possibility  
that negative feelings have festered and  
reached a boiling point?**



## ANSWER

*“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down  
on your wrath.* (Ephesians 4:26)

**S**ome time ago, I visited Jamaica, West Indies, as an assigned missionary. While there, I was struck by a rather meaningful phrase that the locals had coined: “Don’t eat rice while it’s hot.” That is to say, if you touch an issue when it is too heated, it will inevitably burn you! Leave it alone until things have “cooled down,”

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and even after they have, seek God for the proper time to revisit the subject. It may be that you can avoid both the initial argument and the later explosion because, again, timing is everything.

## QUESTION 73

**I think it is extremely petty and close-minded of my husband to be upset that I now earn more money than he does. How can I help him to be less sensitive about the fact that he is no longer the primary breadwinner of our household?**



## ANSWER

**Y**ou can start by telling him to get a better job, since he's into competition! Your husband sounds like a little boy with a man's ego—he's got a lot of catching up to do! While I realize that being the chief provider of a household is important to a lot of men, it's also a rather outdated way of looking at the modern world. Men who have these controlling, traditional mentalities need to get with the program.

If your husband really cares about your feelings or your achievements, he will see your success as his own, especially since the two of you are supposed to be “one



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*flesh*” (see Genesis 2:24). Tell your husband to be happy for you, to seek better employment, or to be quiet!

## QUESTION 74

**My husband has some highly sensitive areas in his life in which I feel he could experience healing if he would only open himself up to discussing them. Should I gently nudge him to address these issues with me, through which I would assure him of my unconditional love and support, or do I allow him to hold his feelings in until he thinks he is ready to deal with them (which could mean never)?**



## ANSWER

**T**his question is not one that I am able to answer easily, simply because I don't know your husband. But you do know him. It is not up to me, then, to advise you about how to address delicate issues with your spouse, because you alone truly know the type of individual he is, and what will and will not work concerning him. The duty lies with you.

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Of course, if you're asking me for such advice, then perhaps you really don't know your companion, in which case I am able to advise you a little. Get to know him. If you don't know the fundamentals of who your husband is, then there's no way for you to help heal his sore spots.

## QUESTION 75

**There's a soul tie still intact between me and a woman with whom I shared a long, intense, and intimate relationship prior to my conversion to Christianity.**

**While I feel myself getting over her, she is still clearly obsessed with me and won't let me go. Since trying to let her down gently hasn't worked, how do I make this woman understand that we really are through without totally hurting her feelings?**



## ANSWER

**U**nfortunately, there is no way for you to get the word of finality across unless you do so very firmly. You must be up front with her and tell her, simply, to *leave you alone!*

What I have prescribed for you—a direct and decisive approach—will not work for you, however, if what you told me about being over her is not true. Get

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over her. Don't further hinder your spiritual growth and progress by encouraging the haunting of an old but familiar spirit. Indeed, when you described your relationship, it sounded like your soul is still tied to this woman's. You must untie it! If you don't, and if she senses that she still has somewhat of a hold on you, she will keep tugging at your heartstrings until you are one with her again. You must keep pulling the other way. If all else fails, get the law to intervene and have the police apply their own awesome powers of persuasion with a restraining order!

## QUESTION 76

**Although he is not abusive, my husband has such a forceful and domineering way about him that I sometimes have problems feeling like an adult in his presence. At times, in fact, he almost becomes like a father figure to me because he gives me constant advice, expects me to obey it, and is always offering me correction. How do I begin to assert some authority of my own in this relationship so that I feel less like my husband's subject and more like his equal?**



## ANSWER

**I**n your marriage relationship, there appears to be clear evidence of spiritual warfare—possibly even witchcraft. Domination, intimidation, manipulation, and control are all signs of the witching spirit, and these are what you have described to me as being dealt out by your husband. Fortunately, this is a spirit and

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curse that can be broken and demolished through the powers of prayer and fasting. Seek the Lord for some personal time alone to yourself, when you can be temporarily free from your husband's oppressive rule, and get close to God for protection. Search for Scriptures that you can properly appropriate for this spiritual war—for war is indeed what it is—and don your spiritual armor, realizing that the battle is on! (See Ephesians 6:10–18.) Because the battle is the Lord's, victory is a sure thing, and you will win!

## QUESTION 77

**My husband is a minister who's dedicated to the body of Christ but neglectful of his family. How do I bring this to his attention?**



## ANSWER

*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)*

**S**ome time ago, when I was much like the husband described in the above question, my spiritual father told me to “get alone with the Lord.” You see, I had become so involved with the work of God that I was falling out of His will, and this was becoming obvious to those around me. In order to recover my neglected family and my lost focus, I had to approach the throne of grace again and have God redirect my attention to what really mattered and what was actually required of me.



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Many ministers today are in a similar predicament: they are zealous, sincere, and dedicated to their divine appointing and anointing, but they are out of the will of Him who called them in the first place. Areas are left unattended, and the family is often the first obligation that receives inadequate attention. No question about it, brethren, these things ought not to be.

The family is at the heart of God, and a strong family is the healthy heartbeat of the properly regulated church. Ministry is not just in preaching from the pulpit but includes the rewarding task of ruling one's household well. This means the unceasing provision of financial stability, love and support, chastisement and correction, direction and guidance, conversation and companionship, and—especially important—fun.

To the wives of Christian men everywhere: whether your husband is a high-ranking bishop on the platform or a faithful benchwarmer in the pews, his first obligation is to his family. If he is neglectful of you and your children, use the Word of God to bring his duty and oversight to his attention. As a true child of God, he will certainly repent, turn, and mend his ways—sincere hearts always do.

## QUESTION 78

**Whenever I attempt to engage my wife in discussion about what it is that makes women tick, she avoids my questions instead of taking me seriously and giving direct answers. But then, she has no problem spending hours on the phone with her friends in unadulterated “girl talk”! Since I am truly interested in the psychology of women, and since I am tired of ineffectual eavesdropping, what can I do to learn more about the fascinating subject of females?**



## ANSWER

**E**vidently, your wife is a veteran member of the FBI—the Female Bonding Institute—and she probably enjoys teasing you with what, by nature, you were not intended to participate in. There are some basic strategies, however, that you can easily employ to enter the exclusive ranks of the club for

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women only, in order to learn more about these special creatures.

First, stop openly hounding your wife for clues, and instead take time to observe her silently. Watch what she does and learn who she is (emotionally, mentally, spiritually, psychologically, physically), become sensitive to her sensitivities, and protect her femininity. If you look and listen with love, you will undoubtedly learn.

Next, compare the mental notes you've gathered about your wife to those lessons life experience has taught you, as relating to previous women in your life, and discover the generalities, commonalities, and peculiarities among females. You also need to read, so I suggest you consult the Word of God, which provides plenty of information about relationships and female character.

## QUESTION 79

**My husband claims that I'm tightfisted when it comes to our personal finances, but I consider him to be too frivolous with money. How do we compromise?**



## ANSWER

**V**ery easily: establish a budget. Make an assessment of the amount of funds coming into your household. Pay your bills. Pay your commitments to the Lord. Save. With whatever is left, allot yourselves a weekly or monthly allowance. Don't ask each other how the money was spent.



Questions 80–91

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# INFIDELITY



## QUESTION 80

**I happen to be aware of another married Christian's infidelity. What are my responsibilities? In other words, should I tell the wronged spouse or the pastor?**



## ANSWER

*Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another.* (Proverbs 25:9)

**I** say *no*—not even if you are the one with whom they were unfaithful (you didn't think I knew, did you?). Seriously, though, all I can tell you is that you should mind your business and pray for this couple.

You may very well be aware that cheating took place, but what you aren't aware of are the ins and outs of the person's relationship with his or her spouse. There is no telling what undue, irreparable damage your wagging tongue might cause. Allow the individual to confess his or her own faults to God, his or her



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spouse, or the pastor, if he or she so chooses. In the end, this person must account for his or her deed, and it's his or her own soul that must answer to God.

## QUESTION 81

**Although I'm married and love my husband, I've fallen deeply in love with another man. I want to be delivered from this state because I know that I can't have both of them, but I don't know whom to choose or how to get free. Please tell me how to break the bonds that are connecting my heart to this other man's heart...if that is indeed what I need to do.**



## ANSWER

**T**his is a tough one. I'm sure you've heard all the Scriptures condemning adultery, and that you know the sinfulness of extramarital love and affairs, but you're telling me that it's just about too late for "*Thou shalt not...*" because your heart is already entangled. You're already feeling strongly and deeply for another man. Obviously, you allowed this man to get too close

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to you, and now you find yourself in a quagmire of emotional confusion that's causing you to sink.

I wish that through some strong, spiritual Scripture, I could toss you a rope and pull you out. I truly sense the urgency and seriousness of your situation. But the reality is that God alone can supply you an answer on this one, so you must ask Him to do so. Pray about the issue, try not to lose your focus, and don't in any way act upon your feelings without first submitting them to the Lord. Know that God is there for you, and that He will help you to do the right thing. Because He wants to help you, and because you want His help, your deliverance is sure to come.

## QUESTION 82

**I recently found out that some time ago, my spouse was unfaithful. Not only am I hurt that the extramarital affair even occurred, but my mate is not even the one who told me that it happened, and I'm especially wounded by the fact that he was not honest with me. How do I deal with my anger, lost trust, and feelings of betrayal?**



## ANSWER

**A**nger, betrayal, and lost trust...anger, betrayal, and lost trust. These are such deep, powerful emotions, and the issue surrounding them is such a sensitive one that the absolute first thing I must recommend before you confront your mate is that you pray. Then, after prayer, you'll have to weigh out on your emotional scales how you want to proceed with the relationship once you've asked yourself and your spouse some crucial questions, such as:

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1. Is this too sensitive an issue to address at this time?
2. How long ago did the infidelity occur?
3. How involved was he with the other woman? Was it love?
4. Was this incident really something my mate could have shared with me, and if he had, how would I have handled it?
5. What were the reasons for his concealment—his protection or mine?
6. Do I still love my husband and want him in my life, and if so, will a harsh confrontation on my part drive him back to his former lover?

Again, my advice is that you pray first, consider the issues, then pray again for direction in dealing with them. There is no simple solution, as this is not a simple problem. In fact, it's compounded because you're hurting over the infidelity and the untruth. But God is a healing specialist whose résumé includes patients with marital success after adultery. And it's been my experience that if you consult the Physician, going to Him on your knees, He will gladly take and handle your case—but on His own schedule. Be patient.

## QUESTION 83

**According to the Bible, we should forgive one another endlessly, but I think that my spouse, who's had multiple affairs, is taking me and this particular passage of Scripture too far! Do I have to keep taking him back and putting off divorce just because he apologizes every time?**



## ANSWER

*Furthermore it has been said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.* (Matthew 5:31–32)

**S**ince you do have proof of your spouse's infidelity and you're clearly tired of his empty promises and shallow apologies, you are free to do as the Scripture says and "put him away," or let him go. For him, the "seventy

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*times seven*” rule of forgiveness is obsolete, because he’s taken your kindness for weakness and, quite frankly, is endangering your life by being so promiscuous. May God grant you His peace as you make a decision to free yourself and stick to it.

## QUESTION 84

**I considered myself to be a happy and satisfied married woman until recently when, through my professional circle, I met a man to whom I feel an unshakable attraction. Since we work together every day and I can't avoid being around him, what can I do to restrain myself so that I won't get involved in a way that I'll later regret?**



## ANSWER

*Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. (Proverbs 6:25)*

**T**rust God and get another job, or ask Him to remove the man from your workplace and life. Actually, you probably need to take the most expedient route, so let's return to your trusting God for another job and getting out of the one you have!



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It's a fact of life that each of us has somebody out there whom we never need to meet, let alone get involved with, because he or she will only ensnare us. To tell you the truth, this man sounds like yours—but only in the sense that you need to flee from him, of course! So do it as soon as possible. God and your husband are depending on you to be strong enough to resist and to walk away.

## QUESTION 85

**My partner is an extremely attractive individual who gets constant attention from the opposite sex, not only because of how he looks, but also, I am convinced, because he encourages this attention from others with his flirtatious personality. Am I just being insecure, or do I have legitimate cause for concern?**



## ANSWER

**I**n this instance, the answer is, “both.” There is no question that you are insecure. The issue is whether it is indeed your mate who’s making you insecure. Examine yourself to find out whether you’re being too possessive and controlling, or if it’s possible that you resent your partner’s attractiveness. If this is the case, at least part of the problem lies with you.

This doesn’t mean, however, that your mate isn’t overly flirtatious. While he can’t help being attractive,

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he can stop flirting, if that's indeed what he's doing. If you're giving him the proper time and attention, there's no reason for flirting to go on. Then, if all is right on your part, confront your mate and have him assure you of his devotion by declaring it and by stopping the unwise prancing and romancing! Get your partner to make you secure; it's his job. There's no reason that you should have to doubt or wonder about his fondness for or faithfulness to you—and you alone.

## QUESTION 86

**If polygamy is wrong, why is it that in biblical times, some of God's most favored men were allowed to have multiple wives—even thousands of them?**



## ANSWER

*Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.* (1 Corinthians 7:2)

**S**ociety is ever changing, and it was like that even in biblical times. While the Hebrew law of the Old Testament may have permitted one man to marry many women, as you can see from the Scripture above, by the New Testament era and the advent of Christianity, two-person relationships were being strongly encouraged. Even today, in areas of the world such as Africa and Southeast Asia where polygamy has been historically noted and commonly practiced, the tradition is fading, slowly but surely. The lesson is that

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what was good yesterday is sometimes spoiled tomorrow; polygamy is one of those outdated practices.

As a side note: when a man asks about polygamy, it's sometimes because he is having extramarital affairs. Most men can't handle even one woman. What makes them think they can handle two or three or more?

## QUESTION 87

**My husband left me for another woman in our church, and I'm finding it impossible to get along with her. Am I at fault for no longer liking this woman? How do I deal with my feelings of resentment toward both her and my ex-husband?**



## ANSWER

**H**ere is another classic case of bad leadership. Church leaders should strongly discourage divorce and remarriage within the same church. They make for poor church relations, and they set a poor example for the unsaved community. (For further discussion on this important subject, see Question 96 in the next section.) While we Christians would like to think that as spiritual, Christlike beings, we can handle anything, the truth is that we are still flesh. The natural reality is that when trying times and devastating incidents affect our lives, we can't always control

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our emotions and actions, or pray our negative feelings away. Therefore, I sympathize with your situation, and I understand your feelings of resentment.

But the only way that I can see these angry emotions subsiding is if you leave the church. Unless your ex-husband and his new wife somehow decide to go themselves, there's probably no hope of peace for you in that highly sensitive, potentially hostile environment. Not only will you be hurt and angry every time you see these two people together, or even apart, but your worship itself will be hindered by your thoughts concerning them. So talk to your pastor, if you are able, and seek the direction of God concerning where you can start fellowshiping anew.

## QUESTION 88

**To what extent should illegitimate children born outside of the current marriage relationship be involved in that union?**



## ANSWER

*Therefore she said to Abraham, “Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac.”*

(Genesis 21:10)

**I**n many instances, illegitimate children bring a curse upon the marriage relationship. It is important to understand that there are two separate units abiding within a typical household: the marriage and the family. According to biblical principles, the illegitimate child is a part of neither unit. In modern relationships, children born outside of the current marriage union are no longer an exception. When things are not handled properly, these children often act as, or



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are treated as, household misfits, upsetting the family peace by being a frequent source of arguments, negative feelings, and financial strain. This is why Sarah, the wife of Abraham, ordered her husband to get his unlawful son, Ishmael, out of her house!

On the other hand, if a husband and wife desire to include the child born out of wedlock as an active member of the family, or if they choose to establish a regular visitation schedule with the child, as long as such plans are accompanied by prayer and some spiritual guidance, things need not be problematic. Just remember that the marriage and the family are indeed separate entities, and make sure that the relationship between you and your spouse is never adversely affected by issues involving your children, legitimate or illegitimate.

## QUESTION 89

**I recently married a man, only to find out that he is still legally married to someone else. Does this mean I am no longer his wife?**



## ANSWER

*But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.* (Matthew 5:32)

**T**here's no getting around it: yours is a cut-and-dried case of adultery. It is most unfortunate that the truth of your husband's marital status was kept hidden from you, but ignorance of the law is no excuse and the illegality of your union with this man remains a reality.

The Bible commands that when we hear the truth, we “*walk therein*” (Jeremiah 6:16 KJV). This means that because you are a believer, in order to be restored to

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the favor of God, you must let your “husband” go. Do so immediately, and repent for the adulterous relationship. Afterward, seek God. He will comfort you in your loss, heal your hurting heart, and give you peace of mind.

## QUESTION 90

**God showed me my husband, but he's already married. Is this possible?**



## ANSWER

*You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's. (Exodus 20:17)*

**I**t's sad that the emphasis being placed upon marriage in the church today causes many single women to become obsessed with the hope and desire of tying the knot with someone...anyone. Through this unhealthy obsession, Satan is steadily bringing about mass deception. Disguising himself as an angel of light, foul-mouthed Lucifer is imitating the sacred voice of God and leading many believers—women and men alike—into covetousness and unsanctioned romantic attractions. Get this straight: God is not in the business of breaking up households and marriages and

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giving parts of them—or partners of them—to outsiders. Close your ears to Satan's seductive lies, and quit entertaining his lewd suggestions.

Marrying is not a commandment of God, nor is it a necessity; rather, it's a privilege. It's not something you're required to do, but if it's what you desire, you need to find out what it requires of you. Happy unions are shared between two individuals of like interests and passions who have compatible personalities and are committed to the institution of marriage. So if you desire to be in a relationship, allow God to lead you to the individual who is ideal for you. Make sure that it is God directing you to that person to whom you feel attracted, and that the two of you have multiple things in common—not least of which should be your unmarried status!

## QUESTION 91

**The Scriptures tell us that “*the eyes of man are never satisfied*” (Proverbs 27:20).**

**Does this mean that I shouldn’t be  
furious with my man if and when he  
looks at other women?**



## ANSWER

**T**he Scriptures also tell us, “*if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out*” (Matthew 18:9), so absolutely not! You should be furious with him if you catch his gaze straying from you to other women. Life and marriage are a discipline, and mutual respect is crucial to the longevity of your relationship. If you demand respect, he will love you more.



Questions 92–101

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# DIVORCE





## QUESTION 92

### Is divorce ungodly?



## ANSWER

*Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: a wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:10–11)*

**Y**es. God never intended for divorce to become a part of our vocabularies, let alone a common, dividing factor in the majority of our marriage experiences. I believe divorce breaks the heart of God. He intended for couples to stay together—the Scripture tells us so. Know that when God first instituted marriage, divorce was not a part of His plan. Because of the hardness of men’s hearts, however, He has permitted it.

I certainly do believe that there are cases in which married couples need to divorce, and after looking at

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a wide variety of circumstances and situations, I occasionally advise certain couples to go ahead with their intended divorces and get on with their lives, enjoying the time they have left on this earth.

The truth of the matter is that some individuals were never meant to be married in the first place, as many of them haven't learned how to abide peaceably as singles. Even so, they'll get married and wreak havoc in the lives of other individuals, never learning the lessons of successful marriage before they go off and tie the knot with other people.

## QUESTION 93

**The only reason my partner and I are still together is because of our children. Is this a legitimate obligation to stay together?**



## ANSWER

**T**he answer depends on whether your situation is tolerable. If there is a problem of emotional or physical abuse between you and your partner, or any equally extreme situation or circumstance dividing the two of you, my advice is for you to separate. It would be better for both you and the children.

On the other hand, if minor disagreements, petty disputes, and even bigger conflicts are making you less than amiable toward each other, and if you do have young children, I would probably say, “Yes, you are obligated to stick it out as long as possible, for the sake of your children.” So pray and trust God for the proper solution to your particular situation.

## QUESTION 94

**What are the primary causes  
of marital breakups?**



## ANSWER

**L**ack of communication and financial instability.  
So talk and go to work!

## QUESTION 95

**How many times is too many  
for remarriage?**



## ANSWER

**F**or people who find themselves marrying time and time again, I must say that it is evident they are not dealing with reality. Neither are they learning anything from each of their serial relationships! I have found that in most cases where a man has been married three, four, or more times, from his third wife on, there was usually an extremely short courtship (no more than four to five months of dating). This often happens because the man is under pressure from the woman to commit, or because he is so used to living with a woman who cares for him that he refuses to slow down, wait, and really get to know his fiancée properly before tying the knot. His personal needs and weaknesses cause him to act too soon. This is often the problem with women who find themselves marrying more than twice, as well.

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Men and women who remarry many times are victims of the “changing socks” syndrome. There’s a problematic “hole” in all of their relationships with members of the opposite sex. Instead of recognizing a problem as something serious that needs to be addressed and dealt with, they choose to throw away the current mate, or “sock.” They think that the offense lies in someone other than themselves, and they set out quickly to select a new one. But this ought not to happen.

Here is some advice: it is impossible to get different results when you do something the same way over and over again. For the wise, I trust that this explanation will suffice.

## QUESTION 96

**I am a pastor. Recently, two church members who had been married got a divorce, but both are still active members. Should they be allowed to date and eventually remarry other single individuals within our congregation?**



## ANSWER

**I**f your church permits divorce, then technically, these two individuals have the right to date and remarry within the church. I would not encourage them to do so, however. And I would have to say that they should not if either one of them was a minister. Spiritual leaders are public examples to both the church congregation and the outside community.

Here is an extra piece of advice: the number-one thing a pastor, preacher, minister, or other church leader should do when he or she finds a marriage going sour is to make sure that every possible avenue of



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reconciliation has been pursued. This is also my advice to divorce-seeking couples who are not church leaders, but it is especially important that God's appointed and anointed individuals act in godly ways.

The sad truth is that in nearly every case of potential breakup that I have counseled, there has been an avenue by which the couple could have remained together, but they refused to take advantage of it.

## QUESTION 97

**My spouse is unsaved and our relationship is not stable. Since my mate won't suggest divorce or initiate the process, am I allowed to do so, even though I'm the Christian in the relationship?**



## ANSWER

*And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.* (1 Corinthians 7:13–14)

**T**here is no getting around the Word of God, so the answer to your question is a simple *no*. The soul of your mate is what's most important, and your staying with him or her could mean the difference between his or her salvation and eternal damnation. Ask God for deliverance from within, so that you will have

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relative peace while you remain in the relationship. If He doesn't see fit to bring reconciliation to your relationship, He will have your spouse depart or will provide you with a means of escape—one that you will not have to initiate. Wait on the Lord.

## QUESTION 98

**The person to whom I am married has admitted to having “homosexual urges.”**

**Should I consider leaving him, or do I need to wait and see if he actually acts upon these impulses, or even try to find out whether he has already done so?**



## ANSWER

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites....* (1 Corinthians 6:9)

**A**ll of the above. The Bible tells us, “*in all your getting, get understanding*” (Proverbs 4:7), so you need to find out from your mate exactly what is going on; then, you need to make some crucial decisions. Homosexuality is an abomination to God (see Question 56 for further discussion). It is a sin that absolutely cannot

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be tolerated, particularly in this age of AIDS and other deadly sexually transmitted diseases.

So protect yourself in all areas and seek God for a solution to your situation, if indeed the “urges” of your mate develop into permanent desires or actual tendencies. If not, know that reconciliation and forgiveness should be the order of the day in every Christian’s life. Communicate your concerns to your spouse, hear him out, and determine together what is to be the future of your relationship.

## QUESTION 99

**I was a sinner when I married and divorced, but now I am saved. Am I allowed to remarry?**



## ANSWER

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**T**his is one of those questions to which the answer varies depending upon which Christian you ask. There are orthodox believers who simply don't recognize divorce as the official severing of a marital tie. Those who hold this view believe that once you marry an individual, you are married to that person until you die or he dies.

Yet Jesus Himself said that because of adultery, divorce is sometimes necessary and appropriate, and Scripture assures us that once the legal separation has been made, you are no longer bound. If you're not

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bound, then you are free—free to remarry, as well as to determine whether you believe you mustn't remarry, if you are still convinced of the validity of your original marriage union.

This is a personal call. Seek God for the spiritual answer that will provide you a clear, sure solution to your condition.

## QUESTION 100

**Why are there so many unhappy marriages and divorces within the body of Christ?**



## ANSWER

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.* (Psalm 1:1)

**W**hen Christian people seek counsel from ungodly sources, curses inevitably come into their lives. The unholy guidance and advice of psychics, astrologers, motivational speakers, self-help groups, and New Age institutions have caused the blessings of God to be revoked from the marriages and relationships of those people who claim to believe in Jesus yet put their faith in men of satanic spirits. It is for this reason, along with Christian couples' growing intolerance for one another and unwillingness to stick to the choices they make, that there is rampant dissatisfaction and fruitlessness in our romantic unions.



## *Love, Dating, and Marriage*

I also believe that the advice of the apostle Paul—*“it is better to marry than to burn with passion”* (1 Corinthians 7:9)—has been perverted in the minds of certain believers by the enemy, Satan. Many members of the body of Christ are getting married for the sole purpose of fulfilling their sexual desires. Marriage wasn’t instituted by God for the legalization of sex, however, and marriages based exclusively on physical passion and attraction will inevitably grow cold.

It is my conviction that if we return to abiding by the moral laws of righteousness and reinstitute the most essential of the traditional values of the church into our lives, the favor of God will shine once again upon us, blessing and brightening both our spiritual walks and our natural relationships.

## QUESTION 101

**If you marry someone, only to realize later on that he is not who God intended for you, how do you rectify the situation?**



## ANSWER

**Y**ou don't. Pray and stick with your choice. If you are to be separated from your partner, the Lord will work it out for you, but don't attempt to do the severing yourself. Make sure that you haven't just realized that your mate is "not who God intended" because you've recently seen someone else whom you prefer!



## About the Author

**B**ishop George Bloomer is the founder and senior pastor of Bethel Family Worship Center, a multi-cultural congregation in Durham, North Carolina, and The Life Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He can be seen weekly on his nationally broadcast program, *Spiritual Authority*.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Bloomer overcame difficult personal challenges, as well as a destructive environment of poverty and drugs, and he uses those learning experiences as priceless tools for empowering others to excel beyond their seeming limitations. He travels extensively as a conference speaker, and he conducts many seminars dealing with relationships, finances, stress management, and spiritual warfare.

Bloomer is the author of a number of books, such as *Authority Abusers*, *Looking for Love*, *More of Him*, and the national best seller, *Witchcraft in the Pews*. He has also collaborated with Mary K. Baxter on *A Divine Revelation of Deliverance* and *A Divine Revelation of Prayer*.

He has appeared as a guest on television, radio, and media outlets nationwide, including CNN's *Faces*

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*of Faith*, *The Harvest Show* (LeSEA Broadcasting), *The 700 Club* (Christian Broadcasting Network), and the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Bloomer was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Christian Outreach Bible Institute. He resides in Durham with his wife and two daughters.



# LOVE AND RESPECT

No matter where you are in life, Bloomer's hard-hitting, down-to-earth style will provide practical and biblically based wisdom to make the right decisions, honor God, and enjoy the relationships that He has brought into your life.

Explore relational issues such as dating and marriage, infidelity and divorce, children and family, homosexuality, gender roles, authority in the household, and much more.

Discover answers to important questions such as:

- What if my partner refuses to confront our problems?
- Should I put my career on hold to raise a family?
- Do opposites really attract?
- What should I do if I know someone who's had an affair?
- What if my partner encourages attention from the opposite sex?

From age-old relationship problems to contemporary issues, Bishop Bloomer answers your questions directly and with spiritual insight.



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