

To Love the Lord Thy God - Spiritually, part 13 quotes

1 The Emotion of Love - in its Sexual Form - Dealing With Problems in Marriages

Problem #4 - An Unbelieving Spouse in the Marriage

“If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy....For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?”
1 Corinthians 7:12-14, 16.

These verses reveal that if you are married to an unbeliever, you do not have any Biblical right or justification to divorce and end the marriage.

2 When your spouse will not convert to your faith, then you must make the best of the situation. Pray to God to forgive you for getting yourself bound in such an unequal marriage, and then plead with Him to provide you with all the extra grace and strength to endure and live up to the full stature of a man or woman in Christ Jesus. This is because God stated that “the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the (believing) wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the (believing) husband”.

The Greek word for “sanctified” used in this passage is “hagiazō”, which translates and means “to make holy, purify, consecrate, sanctify” (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, word #37). Your Godly actions and life may gradually work to influence the unbelieving spouse to become more holy and purified in their life as well and finally become converted.

“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.” Galatians 5:9.

“And again he (Christ) said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.” Luke 13:20-21.

3 What should you do if your unbelieving spouse does not allow you to keep your faith and remain obedient to God, or they make life so difficult that it is impossible for you to do so? This would come under the situation of abuse in the marriage, and as we learned earlier in problem #2, God does not require any of His followers to remain living with such an abusive spouse.

4 What if the unbelieving spouse chooses to leave, or even divorces you?

“But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.” 1 Corinthians 7:15.

The Greek word for “depart” used here is “ehoreo”, which translates and means “to be given space” (Strong’s, word #5562). In this unfortunate situation, you are not to prevent them leaving, no matter how emotionally painful this separation might be.

“A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases”. And why? Because “God hath called us to peace”. The Greek word for “bondage” used here is “douloo”, and it translates and means “to enslave, be under bondage, become a servant” (Strong’s, word #1402).

If your unbelieving spouse leaves you, you are not to prevent them departing and living elsewhere. This is because you are not a slave or servant under bondage to the point that you are forced against your will to continue living with them under such unfavorable conditions to your spirituality. This is why God plainly declared that He “hath called us to peace”, and in order to achieve this peace in this particular situation, God plainly states that none of His followers are forced as a slave to have to endure living in turmoil with an unbelieving spouse. But if the unbelieving spouse leaves and departs from you, then your marriage is still binding and you are not free to remarry until they either commit adultery or should die.