

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Examine your relationship with your spouse for common interests.
- Praise him for the right stuff he does rather than focus on his faults.
- (Fortunately, we have a God who always loves us no matter what and unceasingly forgives us when we run to Him.)
- Hmm, forgiveness, forgiving others, loving others, being loved...something to think about.

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Dear Joy	1
References & Info	2
February Quote	3
Just for Fun	3

The Hard Questions

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy...

I'm in a bad marriage. My husband and I don't have anything in common. I long for a Christian husband and am feeling a strong attraction to a friend's husband. They are both believers. I'm heartbroken and conflicted over this. Could this strong attraction be from God? God wants me to be happy doesn't He?

First of all, I'm sorry that you find yourself in such a difficult place. I can imagine how much you must be hurting and I'm glad that you have asked us your question. You'll be glad to know that there is an answer though it may not be exactly what you want to hear.

The short and quick answer is, no, I don't think the strong attraction you have for another man is from God. More than being happy, God wants His children to find joy. From what scripture tells us, being attracted to another woman's husband isn't a plan that God has in mind for any of us. God is more interested in developing our character than in our momentary happiness and through following Him we will find genuine joy.

In looking closely at your situation, you say your husband doesn't profess to be a believer so you feel you have no common interests. Your

friend's husband says he's a Christian and, I'm sure, you watch how he treats his wife and you long for the same kind of husband.

Examine your relationship with your spouse for common interests. If you have children together, you should have their interests at heart. Look again at what drew you two together at first; there you may find common ground. I don't know how long you've been married but in spending time with a person both before and after marriage you usually discover you like the same food, or the same TV shows, or similar activities like hiking or biking.

You see, I think what you're doing is concentrating on all your dissimilarities and all his (in your eyes) faults and he has come up short in your estimation. The antidote for that is to find his assets. Write them down, memorize them and appreciate him for those

things. Is he good with children? Does he handle finances well? Does he provide for you and your children? Is he faithful? Does he make you laugh? These are all pluses and it would be helpful if you praised him for the right stuff he does rather than focus on his faults.



I know, our tendency is to see the other's faults and the longer we look at them, remind ourselves of them and concentrate on them the larger they become in our mind. Pretty soon, all we see are faults and bad points. Something good to remember at this point is that we all have faults, faults that our friends, family members and yes, even our spouse, hopefully accept and forgive us



The Way of Love

³⁻⁷ ...no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

⁸Love never dies.

1 Corinthians 13
(The Message)



...along the rough roads of life...

us for. (Fortunately, we have a God who always loves us no matter what and unceasingly forgives us when we run to Him.)

Hmmm, forgiveness, forgiving others, loving others, being loved...something to think about.

Now, let's consider the Christian aspect of your relationship. I know you long for a Christian husband and wish your husband treated you in the same way your friend's spouse treats her. But, you can't see behind closed doors. None of us knows what goes on when two people are in a private place. He may not be as consistently gracious and kind as you want to think he is. Or maybe he is, it doesn't really matter because he belongs to someone else.

Some tough love... You say you are the Christian in your marriage then you need to start acting like one. God has provided, through His word, numerous ways a believing wife is to act towards her husband. Rather than finding a friend's husband attractive and pining for him, your longing should be for the salvation of your spouse.

1 Peter 3:4 states, "...*(your beauty) should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and a quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*"

1 Peter 3:1-17 is an excellent passage for any wife with an unsaved spouse. There are more passages that address this and reading all of them would be helpful. I recommend Ephesians 5:21-3 and 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 12-16.

If the Christian in the marriage is not acting like a Christian then what help are they to their unsaved loved one? We're called to act like a Christian **all of the time** but especially when life is difficult and uncomfortable and not just when it's convenient and effortless.

More tough love... Being critical of someone is easy. But be careful, criticism can become your second nature and a critical person is not an attractive or loving person. I can hear you say, "He needs the criticism so he will become a better person and if I don't tell him, who will?" Harsh criticism doesn't usually make someone become a better person. It usually makes them angry, resentful and bitter. Think about how criticism affects you.

I will admit sometimes constructive criticism is warranted. It helps, though, if you stop and think about how it can be said in positive way, such as: "I really appreciate it when you help me around the house," rather than, "You never help me around the house." The first is encouraging and positive while the latter is griping and complaining. We all fall into critical mode every so often. It's easier than not; we hear it a lot and somehow we hope it will make a difference in someone's life. However, the loving thing to do is to be encouraging, hopeful and helpful. This gives the other person a hand up along the rough roads of life and shows our love, respect and appreciation for them. And who knows, one of these days, you might just find that the Christian husband you're attracted to is your own.

Resources & Info

BOOKS:

Not "Just Friends" by Shirley P. Glass and Jean Coppock Staehell

His Needs Her Needs by Dr Willard Harley

The Five Love Languages by Dr Gary Chapman

Becoming One by Joe Beam

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

Genuine Joy Ministries

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QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Just for Fun

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



Women are angels

And when someone breaks our wings.....

We simply continue to fly.....

On a broomstick...

We're flexible.....

Those that go searching for love, only manifest their own loveless ness. And the loveless never find love, only the loving find love. And they never have to seek for it.

D.H. Lawrence

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list.

Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org



THE HARD QUESTIONS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?