



God has **SPACE** FOR **YOU**

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QUESTION: I'm a Christian, a married woman in love with a married man, not my husband. What do I do?

I'm a Christian, a married woman in a marriage that died long ago and I now find myself in love with a married man who loves me in return. Even though the solution may seem obvious to others, this has a hold on me that I can't let go. What do I do?

ANSWER: This is not an advice to the lovelorn column and I'm not "Dear Abby" but since this is a real question from a real person I will try to address the issue. Also, there may be others out there struggling with a similar situation.

My first reaction is to say run as fast as you can but that's the simple, easy answer and most "love" situations have more complex layers that need to be addressed. If I could sit down with you, my dear, I would say: stop, pray and think before you go any further. You say your current marriage died long ago, however your first responsibility as a Christian is to the marriage you're a part of. If you haven't done so already, you need to search out and find any and every avenue available that might revive your marriage and at the same time you need to insist your married lover do the same.

I don't know if he's a Christian or not, but if he is, he had no business allowing your feelings to get this far. If he's not, you have to decide whom you want in your life, God or this man. Since it's an illicit love relationship, you can't have both. God takes second place to no one. But I can hear you protesting that you love him and you love God, too. Hang onto that love for God. He's reaching out to you right now or you wouldn't be asking this question.

Reading scriptures on marriage can be helpful, too. Those I suggest are: I Corinthians 7: 1-7; Ephesians 5: 21-33; I Peter 3:1-7.

Being in a loveless marriage produces wandering thoughts and eyes, looking toward someone to solve your dilemma. You didn't mention divorce, so I assume neither you nor the other man are considering that avenue. But all of this puts you in an impossible bind. When the pain gets too much, you will do something, probably leave your husband to be with the man you believe loves you.

Before you take such a drastic step I'd like you to consider what real love is. Genuine love always gives more than it gets. It does not give to get love back. Genuine love is not sex nor is that the real intimacy you crave. True love always seeks to protect and nurture the loved one rather than causing them pain and anguish. And most important of all, it is an action not a feeling. Please look at your current "love" in this light.

Finally, as I mentioned before, it really comes down to whom you want in your life more, God or this man. When you make that decision—really make it, you should then pray asking God for his light on scripture, his guidance each day in all you do, and his help in your present marriage. Accepting what God has placed in your life is the first step to following Him wherever He leads, finding the leading of the Holy Spirit and committing yourself to what He wants for you. I pray you will make the right decision.

Your beauty... should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. I Peter 3:4, 5



QUOTE SPACE

But neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt. He therefore is the truest friend to the liberty of his country who tries most to promote its virtue, and who, so far as his power and influence extend will not suffer a man to be chosen into any office of power and trust who is not a wise and virtuous man.

Samuel Adams in *Life of Samuel Adams* by Wells 1:22

THE FUNNY SPACE

The following are explanations for various automobile accidents, which were taken from insurance claims from a car rental agency in Canada:

Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.

The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.

A pedestrian I did not see, hit me, then went sliding under my car.

I first saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman when he bounced off the hood of my car.

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law in the other seat and headed over the embankment.

The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck my front end.



TIPS FOR LIVING

On Thursday, December 14, 2005 the front page story of the *San Francisco Chronicle* featured a story about a female humpback whale who had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body—her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth. A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallone Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help. Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her—a very dangerous proposition. One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around—thanking them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

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