

A publication of  
Genuine Joy Ministries

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- There are many aspects of this situation that you need to think through carefully.
- In our day divorce is becoming as common for Christians as for non-Christians.
- My challenge to you then is to give yourself six months to work on your marriage.

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# The Hard Questions

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

Dear Joy,

Dear Joy,

**My husband pays little attention to me any more. We're both Christians but I'm starved for some love, affection and attention. I'm tempted to go out with this guy in my workplace who's interested in me. I know it's wrong. But this guy seems to really care about me...**

I once knew a woman named Alison (name changed) who spent approximately thirty years in a loveless marriage. She was a Christian; her husband was not. She tried, oh, how she tried to make it work. It did improve her prayer life as she prayed consistently for his salvation. God provided for her a close church family and some dear Christian friends as well as children to love and raise.

She took a part time job in an office and found there a divorced man who, as their friendship grew over several years, she came to love. He showered her with attention, affection, caring and all the things she'd missed all those years. She was like a sponge, soaking it all up and holding it close. The result was she divorced her husband and married her co-worker. Most of the church friends dropped away in disapproval so she and her new husband attended his church and they have steadily grown in their faith.

I have another friend who faced a similar situation. Her husband showed attention

and affection sporadically, mostly when he wanted sex. His job took him away from home often and he became involved in several affairs over the years. This friend however, chose to stay with him hoping to work things out and bring him to Christ. She stayed with him until he passed away. He did accept Christ toward the end of his life. She chose this path because, to her, it was what God called her to do. Her life was not easy or what she'd once envisioned it would be but she decided that doing what she felt was God's will for her, was more important than anything else.

Now, which one of these women did the right thing? I'm not sure I can tell you but I am sure there are those believers who feel strongly one way or the other and would be glad to express their conviction to you. What I would like to do is give you some things to think about and consider thoughtfully and prayerfully. There are many aspects of this situation you need to think through carefully. Such as, if your husband found out, he could be capable of killing one or both of you. This is happening more

and more.

Then, have you considered the ramifications of dating someone you work with? Would you be breaking a company policy regarding this? Could that result in your dismissal? When we're starved for love and affection, the first one who comes along and offers that—it's like being offered a drink of water after a trek across the hot sands—we are prone to throw caution to the wind and accept it, no questions asked. But beware; it could be contaminated water. You might find yourself in a worse situation than you have now.

Also, if this attentive person is your superior, have you thought of what might happen if you broke up somewhere along the way? Could he fire you or have you fired? Even if that were not possible, since he's someone you work with, it could be quite awkward or really difficult to work together following a break up.





*Love cannot endure indifference. It needs to be wanted. Like a lamp, it needs to be fed out of the oil of another's heart, or its flame burns low.*

*Henry Ward Beecher*

"In a recent survey by vault.com, a job and career website, 58 percent of respondents said they had been in an office romance, up 6 percentage points for just two years ago. That's no surprise, With more women in the work place, and people working longer hours, our officemates have become key member of our social network" according to [www.usnews.com/usnews/biztech/articles/060206/6love\\_career.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/biztech/articles/060206/6love_career.htm). Further, "Some companies are now requiring dating or potentially dating employees to sign a 'love contract' in order to head off any charges of sexual harassment in the event of a breakup of the couple" as cited in [hr.blr.com](http://hr.blr.com).

We must assume a divorce will result from your dating or more with another man. How would you support yourself? Did you know that many of our poorest population are divorced women especially those with children? It's very hard to find excellent child care, pay for that child care, and be a single mom.

This brings us to another consideration. You didn't mention if you have children or if you do, their ages. But if you do, you need to do some serious thinking about your children. There has been an ongoing debate about whether children do better in a two-parent home even if it's troubled or a divorced home with perhaps happier parents. A divorce, to a child, is like an earthquake that rips their world apart. Which parent should a child love more—the custodial parent? The non-custodial parent? Many times parents develop a competition to see who can win the love of a child. When this happens, nobody wins but single moms probably get the short end of the stick. Also, children of divorce are statistically more likely to divorce.

Are you prepared to be both mother and father to your children? Yes, they would still have a father but he may or may not remain involved in their lives. The common scenario is the mother becomes the custodial parent with father paying child support. Sounds good on paper but reality can be quite different. Since the children aren't with their father daily, he may lose interest especially if he finds another woman friend or even remarries. He may find he has more mouths to feed, his money doesn't stretch far enough and his ex (you) has a male companion, so he decides he doesn't need to send child support any more. Or he has a new family and loses all interest in his former family that he may feel has been ripped away from him for no apparent reason.

You say you and your husband both are Christians. In our day divorce is becoming as common for Christians as for non-Christians.

This should not be but it's a fact of life. I'd like you to consider a few thoughts about this. There must have been some reason that you married this man in the first place. Does he provide for you? Is he a good and loving father if you have children? Does he show he cares about you even though it might not be through the affection you crave? Is he a decent, upright man who follows God as best he knows how? Perhaps, too, you should seriously think about forming a relationship with a man who has no regard for a woman's marital situation. You would both become cheaters, liars and just plain wrong. Do you want that? Love can be rekindled. Perhaps you need to concentrate on that instead of thinking the grass is greener elsewhere. New love can be exciting, titillating and delicious but is it right in God's eyes? Only you and God can answer that.

In his book, *His Need, Her Needs*, author Dr. Willard Harley lists five needs of a husband. They are: 1) sexual fulfillment; 2) recreational companionship; 3) an attractive (to him) spouse; 4) domestic support; 5) admiration. He lists the five needs of wives as well but right now we're looking at meeting a husband's needs. Yes, you might say, "When he meets my needs, I'll meet his." Somebody—and in this case it's you since you feel there's a problem—has to change. As you change he will change. Could be for better; could be for worse, but he will change so first you need to give up any contact, unless work related, with the other man.

My challenge to you then is to give yourself six months to work on your marriage. Concentrate on the five areas that Dr. Harley insists are important in a man's life. You might decide to work first on being an attractive spouse. This doesn't mean that you are glamorous and look like a beauty queen. Most of us don't. It does mean you dress attractively for your height and weight, you have your hair styled to complement your face shape, cultivate good personal hygiene and maintain a good attitude, etc.

Then you might choose to try being a recreational companion. You notice this is Number Two in a husband's wish list. In the courtship phase we women many times steadfastly watch sports with our man or show keen interest in his hobbies but after the "I do's" are said, our interest may wane. I heard of a man who said to his bride of three weeks, "Honey, let's get tickets to the football game this weekend."

She said, "Oh, Honey, you go by yourself. I don't want to go."

"But you always went with me while we were dating," he replied.

"I know," she said, "But I've never understood football and just went to be with you. We live together now so I don't need to go."

He needs you beside him for these activities.

Go through the list, do your best and pray for a heart of love for him and a revived marriage. Give it a try for six months and see what rewards you reap. If after this time and a great deal of effort, divorce might be an option but remember the most often used wedding scripture:

*Love is patient, love is kind...*



"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..."

I Corinthians 13: 4-8.

## 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

### WEB SITES:

[Leadership U](#)

[The Marriage Institution Or The Marriage Partners?](#)



***<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.***

*James 1: 5*

*The most successful marriages, even if they begin in romantic love, often become friendships. It's the ones that become the friendships that last.*

*Andrew Sullivan*

# Genuine Joy Ministries

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Editor/Publisher: Beverly Ann Bender  
(formerly Beverly Money Luke)

P. O. Box 19982  
Denver, CO 80219

E-mail: [info@genuinejoyministries.org](mailto:info@genuinejoyministries.org)

## Helping you find genuine joy!

Scripture quotations taken from the *New International Version*.  
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## Just for Fun

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other."

He addressed the man, "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?"

Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's self-rising, isn't it?"

The rest of the story gets rather ugly, so I'll stop right there.

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](mailto:info@genuinejoyministries.org)

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.

Write us—Email us



Men marry women with the hope they will never change.  
Women marry men with the hope they will change.  
Invariably they are both disappointed.

--Albert Einstein

