

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The good news is—God is love as well as just. He's a God of second chances and He would rather forgive you than condemn you.
- God is greater and more loving than we are.
- The main thing is to keep on keeping on. If and when you fail, get up, confess and live in the light the Heavenly Father sheds on your pathway.

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The Hard Questions

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

Dear Joy,

I am a Christian but am having doubts now because a close woman friend, also a Christian, and I had sex without meaning to. Now I feel guilty and unworthy of God's love. I confessed to my pastor and was given an unpublicized punishment. First, we thought we'd marry, then she told me she doesn't love me any more. I am crushed, feeling guilty and feel I'm leading a double life. What should I do in this so-called relationship?

I understand your guilt and confusion and feelings of unworthiness. I suppose there's not a Christian among any of us that hasn't sinned intentionally or unintentionally and then felt as you do.

The good news is—God is love as well as just. He's a God of second chances and He would rather forgive you than condemn you. (See John 3:17.) It seems too simple and too easy and I think sometimes we feel He should be harder on us and make us suffer but we do that to ourselves. All that is required is to ask God to forgive you and you are forgiven. Forgiveness simply means He will not hold your sins against you and in His eyes it's as though you've never sinned.

You asked His forgiveness when you were saved now believe Him for forgiveness of this sin. Sometimes even well meaning believers slip up, fail, misjudge or even sin. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Now here's a place for a shout of praise! All we have to do is believe He forgives and we are forgiven. He says He will, so it's true. But, the hard part is forgiving ourselves. We hate that we were weak and sinned and disappointed God, grieved the Holy Spirit and failed our fellow Christians. However, if the God of the universe chooses to forgive us, how then can we refuse to forgive ourselves? He is greater and more loving than we are.

I urge you to take this step of forgiving yourself and accept that you are back in a right relationship with God. Otherwise you are accepting Satan's lies that you are unworthy of forgiveness.



By the way, none of us are worthy in the least for all God wants to bestow upon us but if we believe Him, He sees us as worthy as we are covered by the blood of Jesus.

Now, about your relationship with the young woman. From what you wrote, it appears to me that the relationship has ended. This is the consequence of your wrong action. Accepting that you were wrong and choosing to live God's way from now on is the best course of action. Sometimes we lose what we want most when we are out of God's will as He won't bless impurity. This is where your relationship with her went wrong. Learning from your failure and moving on with God's help and strength will make you a stronger Christian in the long run. This may very well be a blessing in disguise as God knows your future and marrying her could very well be totally wrong for either of you. For you because it's never a good thing to marry someone who is not as committed to following God.



Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18



Your marriage might have ended in divorce or your trying to make a marriage work when you are unequally yoked. Neither of these is a good choice.

When you think about it, accepting our responsibilities and the temptations that come at every one of us each and every day are part of the Christian experience. Learning from the pain of this situation will help you resist temptation in the future—and temptation of all sorts **will** come. The main thing is to keep on keeping on. If and when you fail, get up, confess and live in the light the Heavenly Father sheds on your pathway. He will never lead you astray and He will always give you the strength and ability to resist temptation and follow Him.

Now, about your relationship with God. This is where your focus must be. Your relationship with God is the most important one you'll ever have. When you get this right and maintain it (John 15:4: "Remain in me and I will remain in you.") then you have His help with all other relationships. At some point He will bring the right Christian woman into your life—I know,

now it's hard to think of someone else taking her place—but it must and will happen. Your job in the meantime is to become the man of God He wants you to be and live every day for Him. We here at Genuine Joy Ministries will continue to pray for you.



¹ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[The DNA of Relationships: Relationship Revolution Part 1](#) by Michael Smalley
[The DNA of Relationships: A pattern of all relationships – Part 2](#) by Gary Smalley
[The DNA of Relationships: The joy can be yours – Part 3](#) by Gary Smalley
[The DNA of Relationships: You were created to love – Part 4](#) by Gary Smalley
[What's the real problem in your relationship? DNA Series Part 5](#) by Gary Smalley

Books:

[Caring Enough to Confront](#) by David Augsburger

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

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Editor/Publisher: Beverly Ann Bender

E-mail: info@genuinejoyministries.org

Visit us at: www.genuinejoyministries.org



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.

Show & Tell

Just For Fun

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Nazarene, and this is a casserole."



And now here is my secret, a very simple secret; it is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.

-- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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?