

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- It doesn't matter who he's cheated with, the response remains the same.
- "Revenge is sweet". Be careful, though, as it turns bitter once accomplished.
- You will want to think long and hard before making any decisions
- A wise woman looks at both sides of the story

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The Hard Questions

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

Dear Joy,

I don't know what to do or where to turn. I discovered yesterday that my husband is cheating on me. He's having an affair with my best friend who's married to his best friend. Her husband is the one who told me. Now he thinks we should have an affair to show them how it feels. None of this is right or Christian but I'm so angry and upset, I'm almost tempted to do what he suggests. Help!

What a can of worms! I'm glad you wrote me as it tells me you desire the right solution to your problem not necessarily revenge. I commend you for that.

I believe first, you need to separate yourself from his "best friend". You both have a problem but your problems aren't connected, even if it seems so. We'll examine your dilemma and what to do about an unfaithful husband. It doesn't matter who he's cheated with, the response remains the same.

According to Scripture, Matthew 5:31, 32, adultery is grounds for divorce. So do you want a divorce? Divorce brings with it a whole new set of difficulties. Are you ready to tackle these? Divorce or not, anger, revenge, hate, ugly thoughts and temptation all result when a spouse cheats. This kind of baggage is not good to carry around. It gets heavy, difficult and leads to behaviors none of us would be proud of.

It's natural to be angry when you've been betrayed by the

one you thought loved you the most. Hate is even a natural response, too. Hate produces ugly thoughts and ugly thoughts lead to ugly actions or at least ugly temptations surface for you to contemplate them. Revenge, you see, is a temptation right out of the Devil's bag of tricks. It's said, "Revenge is sweet". Be careful, though, as it turns bitter once accomplished. Revenge leads us into sinful acts of our own followed by remorse. "But I want him to see what it's like to be betrayed," women in your position say. "It serves him right, in fact, he deserves worse," is another reaction.

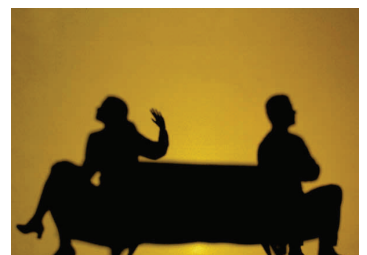
Yeah, maybe he does. So what? The real question remains, "How do you want to survive this betrayal?" Giving in to temptation, as I said, only leads to sinful acts. You need God's help to get through this, not revenge.

You have some options, none very easy. You can forgive him. We resist forgiveness in situations like these as we think it condones or approves of

their sin. However, forgiveness results in a peaceful spirit for you meaning you don't hold the sin against the sinner but it does not condone or approve of his actions.

You can divorce him and make a life for yourself without him but with God leading the way. Relying on God, good, supportive Christian friends and God's Word leads to a peaceful, satisfied mind. You will want to think long and hard before making any decisions like this, however, as they will affect you for the rest of your life.

You can seek reconciliation with him. This, of course, depends on your husband as much as on you. Is he repentant? Is he seeking God and His help in making things right with you?





Does he acknowledge your deep hurt and affirm your feelings? Seeking Christian counseling could be a step in the right direction. Sometimes this results in a stronger marriage after infidelity if both parties cooperate in working on their problems and if so, it will be worth any cost.

One last thing. I know this is hard but you need to examine how you might have contributed to his unfaithfulness. Not that you're to blame for his sin, but perhaps some changes in you are necessary. A husband's greatest needs from his wife are: honor, respect and admiration. Try a reality check right now and ask God to examine you.

The husband of a friend of mine had an affair. She later admitted to me that she had resisted the sexual part of marriage, since she didn't find enjoyment in it. This never excuses adultery but a wise woman looks at both sides of the story and asks God for help in areas she finds she needs help. None of us are perfect as God continues to work on all of us. And those who think they are perfect are the most difficult to live with. So it's important to confess our own shortcomings and ask God to make us genuine. And we must always fully rely on God.

RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[What if your spouse cheats?](#)

[A Hope for Broken Marriages](#)

Books:

[Redemption](#) a novel by Karen Kingsbury and Gary Smalley

[Unfaithful: Hope and Healing After Infidelity](#) by Gary and Mona Shriver

A Side Note:

It's not always easy to understand why God sends us on the journey that He does. I have learned from walking with the Lord that the path contains many different types of adventures, some are amazing and wonderful; some are tough and really challenging; and at other times the road is smooth and even maybe a little boring.

What's important to remember is that at the heart of it all stands Jesus, ready, willing and lovingly waiting for the moment we run to Him crying, "help me", "hold me" and "love me". You know what the best part is? That He will.

You don't even need to wait for bad times. you can run to Him anytime.
You can run to Him now, why wait?

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

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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

As the bus stopped and it was her turn to get on, she became aware that her skirt was too tight to allow her leg to come up to the height of the first step of the bus.

Slightly embarrassed and with a quick smile to the bus driver, she reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little, thinking that this would give her enough slack to raise her leg. She tried to take the step, only to discover that she couldn't.

So, a little more embarrassed, she once again reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little more, and for the second time attempted the step.

Once again, much to her chagrin, she could not raise her leg. With a little smile to the driver, she again reached behind to unzip a little more and again was unable to take the step.

About this time, a large Texan who was standing behind her picked her up easily by the waist and placed her gently on the step of the bus.

She went ballistic and turned to the would-be Samaritan and yelled, 'How dare you touch my body! I don't even know who you are!'

The Texan smiled and drawled, 'Well, ma'am, normally I would agree with you, but after you unzipped my fly three times, I kinda figured we was friends.'

"Sometimes I wish I were a little kid again, skinned knees are easier to fix than broken hearts."

Author Unknown

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