



God's Instructions for the Religiously Mixed Marriage

God's Instructions for the Religiously Mixed Marriage

- “Something has got to go, either my marriage or my faith. I can't stand the constant conflict. I feel so low all of the time: at home where I am put down for trying to do right, and at church because I am forced to be a loner.”
- She said that four months before abandoning the Lord and His church.

God's Instructions for the Religiously Mixed Marriage

- I am not going to preach on the merits of marrying a faithful Christian, nor on the burdens that come to those who do not.
- This lesson is for those who are already in a religiously mixed marriage.
- Your marriage vows to non-Christians are just as binding as if they were made to devout children of God. Your responsibilities to your mate are in no wise diminished because they are not Christians.
- Nor may you leave your marriage simply because your mate has yet to obey the Gospel. There is only one scriptural cause for divorce, and a religiously mixed marriage is not scriptural grounds.

God's Instructions for the Religiously Mixed Marriage

- Matt. 19:9 - “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery...”
- 1Cor. 7:10-13, 15-16 - “Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”

How Can One Avoid Discouragement?

- First, maintain right relationship with God.
- Second, maintain right relationship with your mate.
- Third, look for means and opportunities to serve God alone.
- Fourth, live a faithful example that will provide you with opportunities to teach and save your mate.

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Strengthen your resolve to remain with the Lord regardless.
 - Heb. 10:23-25 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Heb. 3:12-14 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end”
- 1Cor. 7:35 - “And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Strengthen your resolve to remain with the Lord regardless.
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
 - Luke 14:26 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”
- You are under eternal obligation to put God first; your obligation to your mate is limited to this life only.

God Comes First!

- Matt. 22:34-40 - “But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Prepare yourself for the possibility of being abandoned or divorced.
 - Matt. 5:32 - “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”
 - 1Cor. 7:10-11 - “Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Determine that you will meet your Divine obligation of raising children in Christ.
 - Eph. 6:4 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
 - 2Tim. 1:5 - “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”
 - 2Tim. 3:15 - “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Always set the right example, as you may be the only one doing it.
 - Titus 2:7-8 - “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, & sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Your unbelieving mate may be a bad example for your offspring.
 - 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
 - 2Cor. 7:1 - “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Maintain Right Relationship With God

- Your unbelieving mate may teach your children a false religion.
 - Matt. 15:13-14 - “But He answered and said, Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”
- You must daily, fervently fight the temptation to compromise the faith in order to maintain peace with a non-Christian mate.

B Street Church of Christ, Miami, OK - 1957-77

- Christian to Non Christian
 - 76 marriages
 - 57 left faith
 - 25 divorces
 - 19 faithful
- Christian to Christian
 - 64 marriages
 - 5 left faith
 - 2 divorces
 - 59 faithful

Bridge Street Church of Christ, Wynne, AR - 1962-1981

- Christian to Non Christian
 - 76 marriages
 - 61 left faith
 - 23 divorces
 - 15 faithful
- Christian to Christian
 - 28 marriages
 - 4 left faith
 - 4 divorces
 - 24 faithful

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate

- Communicate

- Prov. 25:11 - “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.”
- Prov. 18:21 - “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”
- Prov. 12:18 - “There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.”
- Prov. 15:23 - “A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate

- Listen
 - Prov. 18:2 - “A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart.”
 - 1John 4:18 - “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate

- Eph. 4:31-32 applies to your marriage, too!
 - “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate

- Maintain your God assigned role.
 - “Do I have to submit to him if he is not a Christian? How far must submission go?”
 - “As a Christian man, do I have a right to require submission of my non-Christian wife?”

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate


- Maintain your God assigned role.
 - God instituted marriage before the church, before the Law of Moses, and before the patriarchs - Gen. 2:18-24, 3:16-19
 - His law in marriage is for Christian and non-Christian alike - Eph. 5:21-33

Maintain The Right Relationship With Your Mate

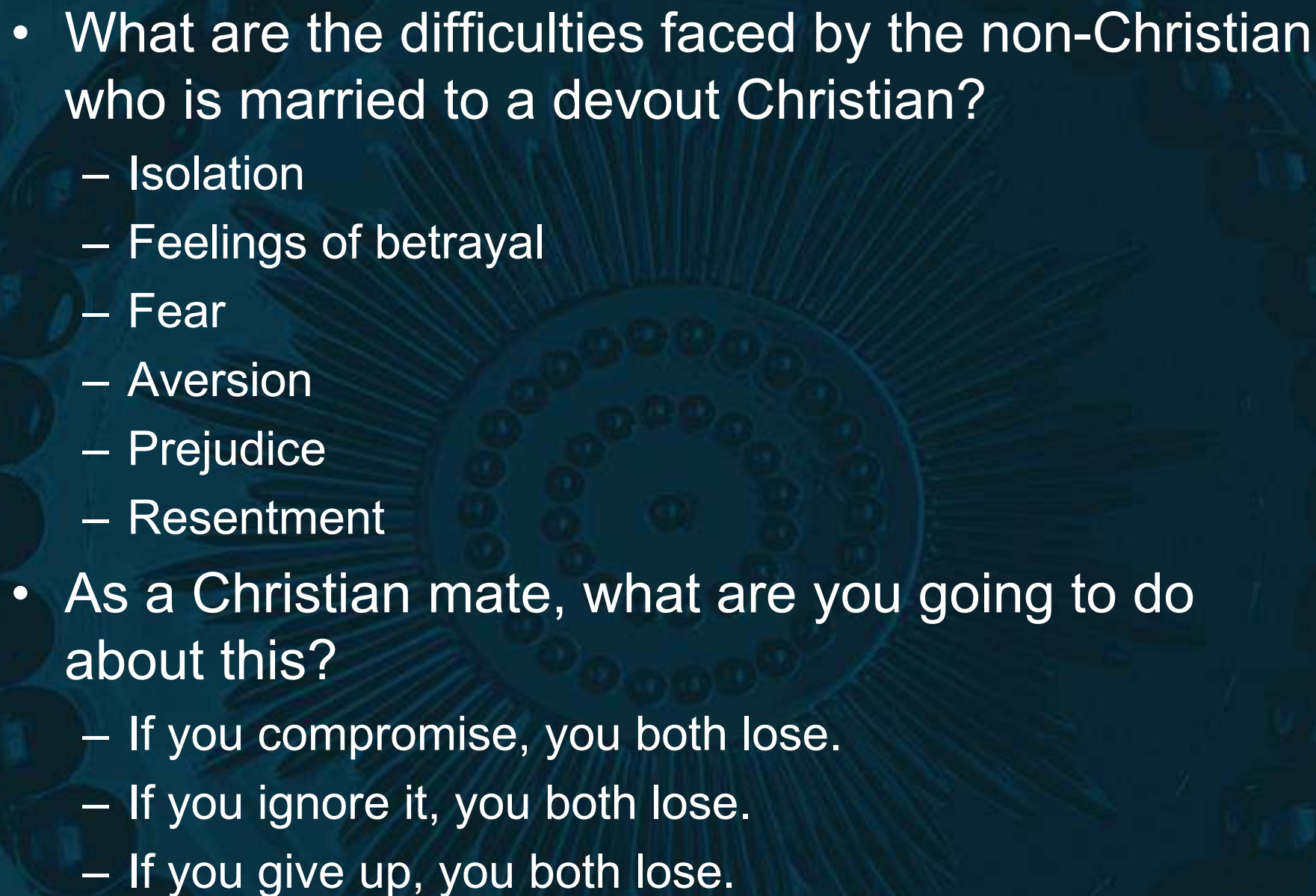
- Maintain your God assigned role.
 - Submission without sin
 - Acts 4:19 - “But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.”
 - Leadership without dictatorship
 - 1Peter 3:7 - “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Look For Means And Opportunities To Serve God Alone

- 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”



Live A Faithful Example That
Will Provide You With
Opportunities To Teach And
Save Your Mate

- 
- What are the difficulties faced by the non-Christian who is married to a devout Christian?
 - Isolation
 - Feelings of betrayal
 - Fear
 - Aversion
 - Prejudice
 - Resentment
 - As a Christian mate, what are you going to do about this?
 - If you compromise, you both lose.
 - If you ignore it, you both lose.
 - If you give up, you both lose.

- The only chance you have for a successful marriage is to do what Peter said.
 - 1Peter 3:1-7 - “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”

