



Christian Questions

Think about the Bible like you never have before

Dear Shunell,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions. You told us that your 13-year marriage has been a “roller coaster” ride for years. You are a believer, but your husband has little belief. This predicament has impacted the raising of your children. You want to raise them by the word of God, while your husband wants to raise them in the same manner he was raised, which has caused turmoil between your husband and yourself. The two of you have tried counseling a few times, but the situation has not changed over the years. Additionally, you are continually trying to work, be the “breadwinner” of the family, mentor and wife. You said you are “constantly unhappy and can’t be an effective mother and child of God [because you are] unhappy all the time.” You asked for our help.

Since we are not marriage counselors and do not know the whole story, we can only give you scriptural advice. As you know the Bible warns against marrying an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14-15) because the challenges of such a union can be very difficult, to which you have attested. You said that because you were unhappy your mind and spirit were tired, and therefore you were finding it increasingly difficult to be both an effective mother and child of God. What do we advise?

As Christians we need to rise above our challenging circumstances so that we may bring glory to God. The Bible specifically addresses those married to unbelievers in 1 Corinthians 7:12-14. “If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.” With these Scriptures in mind, you need to pray about your situation and raise your children by applying Christ’s principles in conjunction with your husband. You can be a blessing to him by letting your light shine. The Apostle Peter gives good advice. “Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment . . . Rather, it 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.” (1 Peter 3:1-4)

Being married to an unbeliever does not alter the sacredness of the union, so it should be a priority to pray for your husband and set a good example, allowing Christ's light to shine brightly through you. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." (Philippians 2:14-15) May the hope found in 1 Peter 3:1 – that an unbelieving spouse is "won over" – be your hope as well as you strive to please God by your example.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.com. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio