



General Topics :: HELP - Am I still Married????

HELP - Am I still Married???? - posted by melindaj0819 (), on: 2008/4/9 14:22

I have been divorced from my x-husband for 9 months now. Reason for divorce was he was verbally abusive. I now see (since being in a women's bible study) many things that I did to cause some of his anger, like lack of respect, controlling, my anger. He has come back into my life and now when I go to church, preachers (3 to be exact) have said that in the eyes of God we are still married. Neither of us have been with anyone else since our divorce but I find it hard to believe that we are still married since I filed for the divorce and it was final. But, the convictions are setting in... am I still married to this man?? In the eyes of God??

Re: HELP - Am I still Married???? - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/4/9 14:37

I can't imagine anyone objecting to you reconciling with your x-husband. But, you aren't married as far as the government sees it. I think if you reconcile you should show it legally.

EDIT: Just curious, but is he a Christian?

Re: HELP - Am I still Married???? - posted by melindaj0819 (), on: 2008/4/9 14:40

Yes, he is a Christian, we both are. He was a new Christian when we were married.

Re: - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2008/4/9 14:54

If you were a Christian when you married, the vows that you made before God are sacred and binding. Your husband may need help with managing his anger, but if he will yield to God's leading, he will grow to understand he should love you as Christ loved the church. This is my hope and my prayer for you!!

Re:, on: 2008/4/9 15:00

Well... according to scripture, since there was no adultery, then if you remarried someone else you would be committing adultery. So by the definition of adultery, I would say that you're still "married" in the eyes of God. I do agree with Preach, it's proper to make things legal in the eyes of the government tho. If you're going to give it another go then I would recommend you get married "legally" before you resume "husband and wife" relations. I think that would be proper and godly.

But so what? The fact is, since you're both believers, then you have an obligation before God to get things right between you and with His strength make your marriage work. This might involve a lot of counseling, etc... prayer and fasting... whatever it takes.

You might think it would be easier to just find someone new, but frankly it would only be a matter of time before you end up in the same boat with Mr. New Guy... except now scripture says you're in an adulterous relationship.

The right thing is usually the hard thing. But in the spirit of forgiveness and love, and in light of your newly God revealed revelations about your own contributions to the break up... I think you can make this thing work.

Krispy

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/4/9 15:35

Here is a verse you might like to think about.

1Cr 7:10 And unto the married I command, not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from husband:

1Cr 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to husband: and let not the husband put away wife.

Re: HELP - Am I still Married????, on: 2008/4/9 15:45

Verbal abusive?? Thats it?

Some had it worse like being physically abused and mentally abused, many have stuck with it. You should have just gotten separated until you were able to find out what his problem was and come to find out that you were part of the problem.

According to the word of God and since there was no fornication, regardless of a legal document stating that you are divorced, your actually still married. And since you both aren't sexually seeing anyone, you should make arrangements to be legally married again.

Quote:
-----Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commiteth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Don't jump back into this right away, give yourselves some time to think things through. And this is a perfect opportunity to talk about these things together. If he opens up and shares his problem, be understanding and offer him your humility as a privy to the problem ie; what your learning in bible study, never allow it be one sided.

So in the meantime you should spend some quality time together, and continue with your bible study. The only thing that will stand in your way is your pride, and the simple fact that your probably enjoying your freedom as a single person, that too can be a hinderance.

If you have friends that counsel you say "ditch him", you've got bad friends, it's time to ditch them.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2008/4/9 15:51

Hi PreachParsly...

Quote:

PreachParsly wrote:

Here is a verse you might like to think about.

1Cr 7:10 And unto the married I command, not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from husband:

1Cr 7:11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to husband: and let not the husband put away wife.

Very good advice from the Scriptures.

Melinda, I will be praying for you and this situation. Be encouraged in Christ.

:-)

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/4/9 16:21

Quote:

-----Verbal abusive?? Thats it?

Some had it worse like being physically abused and mentally abused, many have stuck with it. You should have just gotten separated until you were able to find out what his problem was and come to find out that you were part of the problem.

I'm sorry, but this comment does absolutely no good. Maybe it's just coming off wrong from my computer screen. I don't

mean to just go on an emotional rampage but I can't believe you just said that. If I knew you a little better would it be hard for me to say, "you shouldn't have done that! Some were tempted so much more than that!"?

There are a whole lot of things I can now see that I did in the past that I shouldn't have, but me stating the obvious about my past doesn't help me deal with today.

Re: - posted by Miccah (), on: 2008/4/9 16:44

Numbers 30:3-16 (NKJV)

4 "Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth, 5 and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand. 6 But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.

7 "If indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself, 8 and her husband hears it, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand. 9 But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears it, he shall make void her vow which she took and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the LORD will release her.

10 "Also any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.

11 "If she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an agreement with an oath, 12 and her husband heard it, and made no response to her and did not overrule her, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement by which she bound herself shall stand. 13 But if her husband truly made them void on the day he heard them, then whatever proceeded from her lips concerning her vows or concerning the agreement binding her, it shall not stand; her husband has made them void, and the LORD will release her. 14 Every vow and every binding oath to afflict her soul, her husband may confirm it, or her husband may make it void. 15 Now if her husband makes no response whatever to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all the agreements that bind her; he confirms them, because he made no response to her on the day that he heard them. 16 But if he does make them void after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."

17 These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father's house.

Re: HELP - Am I still Married???? - posted by melindaj0819 (), on: 2008/4/9 16:48

Verbally abusive, is that it? On a daily basis I was being called a whore, a slut, my ex-wife is a better lover than you, my ex-wife is a better wife than you... And it did get physical a couple of times minor things. Trust me when I say, I tried to make it work.

In the process of this divorce and going through The Road Adventure (life changing seminar) and the women's bible study I learned that I contributed to his anger, was it ok for him to call me names? NO, but I know that I could have done some things to prevent it.

I just want to be right in the eyes of God!! I want so badly to serve him and be what he has called me to be. If this is holding me back, I want to know! I have prayed about it and continue to pray about it!

Mark and I are taking things slow, but I don't want to rush back into a marriage until I know for sure that Mark has truly given his life to GOD and he is truly serving HIM - not just words, but action. You will know them by their fruits!!

Please pray for us, Mark & Melinda! For GOD's will to be done!

Thanks everyone for your response!

Re: - posted by MSeaman (), on: 2008/4/9 17:01

Quote:
-----On a daily basis I was being called a whore, a slut, my ex-wife is a better lover than you, my ex-wife is a better wife than you...

so is this your ex-husband's second marriage?

Re: - posted by melindaj0819 (), on: 2008/4/9 17:10

Yes, but she cheated on him, he was released from that marriage.

Re:, on: 2008/4/9 17:19

Quote:
-----I'm sorry, but this comment does absolutely no good

Well take it from another angle, my Mother was punched, slapped, called stupid, thrown around, dragged by the hair, and I say to Melinda, is that it?? I wasn't putting her down, I was merely making a point that other women have gone thru more hell and survived and they didn't divorce.

Verbal abuse can be just as bad and I know what that's like being called stupid by my Dad and saying I'll never amount to anything. Well, he was wrong, I did amount to something, and I am not stupid. My Mother didn't know who she was after my Dad died, she wasn't even a woman. She had to learn what being a woman was, she was touchy, overly sensitive. She had her own anger issues that needed to be addressed.

But I don't recant what I said to Melinda, because her response was well worth it. I will be praying for you and Mark, Melinda and thank you for sharing. I am glad to hear that your taking things slow, because my Dad never gave the LORD that opportunity, and he WAS a believer that had carried his anger over from his relationship with his father.

Mark also needs to learn to let go of his ex wife and stop comparing her to you.

Re: - posted by HomeFree89 (), on: 2008/4/9 17:40

Hi,

I'd highly recommend reading the following articles on divorce/remarriage.

(<http://www.charityministries.org/theremnant/2007/May/theremnant-May2007-covenant.a5w>) One Flesh, One Covenant

(<http://www.charityministries.org/theremnant/2007/July/theremnant-July2007-one-flesh.a5w>) One Flesh, One Covenant p.2

(<http://www.charityministries.org/theremnant/theremnant-2008-1Q-exception-clause.a5w>) The Exception Clause

Jordan

Re:, on: 2008/4/9 19:39

I will pray for you and Mark, Melinda. I have heard a lot of stories of some of the things that women go through being married. I could never tell anyone what to do when it comes to staying with your spouse or leaving, it's a hard decision to make. I will say this though, I feel like marriage depending on how bad it is can almost be described as a prison to some. If you feel like the Lord wants you to stay than that is your prison. Christians all over the world are in prison just for being Christians but God will reward you for it. Just for some encouragement, God is ultimately in control of this situation. You may have to obey your husband but your husband also has a higher authority over him. I have seen instances where a lot of men have died prematurely because they were abusive. There is always a price to pay for abusing your spouse and if you fear God you will think twice before doing it.

A lot of women are going through the very same thing you are. I know this woman who went to a funeral with her husband and her husband decided that he wanted to leave so he just left her there. He treats her like that everyday. She is a God fearing woman though and she is a prayer warrior.

Hopefully though Mark will turn into a God fearing man and you can spend your time being persecuted for being a Christian rather than being persecuted for marrying someone who is abusive.

Re:, on: 2008/4/9 21:21

I also wanted to tell you about this website that might bless you, it's called (<http://www.reviveourhearts.com/>) Revive Our Hearts by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. You may have already heard of it but just in case. There are some very powerful messages here for women and from women who have been through some of the very things you are going through.

Re: HELP - Am I still Married????, on: 2008/4/10 6:47

Hi Melinda,

There are a number of very long threads on marriage and divorce, which you could pick your way through, if you want a very full understanding of biblical advice that has been given in a variety of situations.

But really, I decided to post because of this which you said, which didn't appear on the first page of this thread (as far as I can see), and which is extremely relevant, namely

Quote:

-----my ex-wife is a better lover than you, my ex-wife is a better wife than you...

You married a divorced man?

Don't you think this has a bearing on his situation, and you, being a woman, are not necessarily coming under conviction of the Holy Ghost, but condemnation - the condemnation of legalism?

By 'being a woman' I mean, that you have been created to accommodate the man you marry. Everything in you wants to be conformed to your husband's desire. He, on the other hand, wants the world to accommodate him, in particular, his wife. But there are boundaries in the way God has created us, which help to keep us in healthy relationships, and there is His word, which directs us towards healthy relationships.

I also was married to someone who called me those things, but he was battling with EDITED (at the general request of moderator PaulWest on the next page from this): personality disorders - the results of childhood trauma - end EDIT, and had not been honest with me about his spiritual condition - as I had not been honest with him about mine - although for both of us, there was much we had not recognised as relevant; if a person doesn't recognise their own childhood as traumatic, then every word of preaching about healing is lost on the hearer.

From what you have shared (and please don't feel to have to share stuff on open forum which later you will regret having revealed), your primary concern is to be pleasing to God. Amen.

I can testify that I also grappled with whether my salvation was somehow affected by having divorced, and God had to take me on a very long journey to show me that it isn't. The crowning moment of this journey, was when He healed me from twelve years of grieving over not having been able to make the marriage work.

I had left in faith towards God, for the sake of my children, and it slowly became apparent their father would never be well enough to fulfil his role safely, while they were still children. Breaking abusive cycles is very important for the next generation, and none of the privations we went through (like a very low food budget), would I exchange for more money in

hat abusive household.

Now, in the last year, the father of my children has been able to own up in a simple way (for the first time), to many of the things he denied during the decade of our marriage, and since. God gave me what I needed to carry on believing Him. In fact, my relationship with Him became much more real, once I was not looking to a man who was unsubmitted to God, for leadership.

So, I have come to believe there is forgiveness for marrying the wrong person. I do not believe God's definition of marriage includes being abused *at all*. I know relationships can have their bad moments, but when the abuse is a lifestyle, no matter what - with hindsight - you could have done differently, the solution to your lone situation now, is repentance. You do not have to return to an abusive marriage. God will wash you clean of all the things you now see as sins, and He will set your feet on a rock, and from this vantage point, you can seek His will.

Certainly, your ex-husband as a Christian has also to go through this same process with regard to his first marriage, and both of you have to refocus your lives on Christ, before you should risk another relationship - even with your ex-husband.

If you are meant to get together again, there is any amount of time for that to become clear to both of you, but while you are both legally unmarried again, this is how you should behave towards each other, and, in the sight of God.

This is getting long... so... another post follows.

Re: HELP - Am I still Married????, on: 2008/4/10 6:50

There is a belief amongst some, that the marriage vows are made *to God*. As far as I can tell, this idea stems from the confusion brought upon marriage by the Council of Trent (a 16th century Roman Catholic three-year gathering which made pronouncements on many subjects, including eventually, matrimony), which changed it from an arrangement between families into a so-called sacrament. I believe though, that marriage vows are still made between the two people being married, which always was, (in Jewish weddings), *in the presence of God*.

The Council of Trent is the origin of the false doctrine of *perpetual matrimony*, where they misinterpret Genesis, even though it's clear they had the whole New Testament, and Jesus clarifies the confusion in Matthew. Then they go on to change 'mystery' in Ephesians 5, to 'sacrament'. There has been much unnecessary pain for many men and women since then; although, I do believe that two people who are right with God can make a marriage passable, and God has made us all to love peace and enjoyment, which can help the process along.

I am not **for** divorce, but now that you are divorced, you can take as long as you like to work out what to do. The most important thing here is your continuing to sink yourself into the will of God. You are complete in Him.

All the while I'm writing this, I'm aware your ex-husband may think he loves you. But, none of us moves into the renewing of our minds, without some honest introspection in the presence of God, both for healing, and repentance. We have to see what was wrong, before we can be different, and often we can't be different unless we see that difference in others, or, the Lord gives us a glimpse by the Holy Spirit. We all need His word speaking to us all the time, and to be feeding on it in our spirits, in truth.

Mental and physical effort may well be necessary, for Him to believe we are co-operating with Him, but the fact is, unless He changes us, we are stuck. We are incapable of changing ourselves, at the depth of being which is required. In fact, we need His resurrection life, and that only comes to us when we understand how to be grafted into His death.

Some healing (from one's own sin/s) may happen automatically, but recovering from being sinned against is a separate matter for healing. And, for adults who were traumatised in childhood, this healing is more complex and takes longer (perhaps *much* longer), than if the first serious emotional trauma happened in adulthood.

There are some things about the way God made us, that don't change. Beware of Christian myth, which doesn't acknowledge the image of God in man, or, His ability to restore it, but rather focuses on the fallen nature, and constantly asks us to jump through doctrinal hoops to prove we are on the saved side of the fence. God hates that. Redemption is all about the restoration of the soul and the renewing of the mind, through the ministrations of the Holy Spirit.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2008/4/10 8:43

Quote:

-----Yes, but she cheated on him, he was released from that marriage.

Was this a covenant marriage? Meaning: was this a first marriage for both of them?

Blessings,
ginnyrose

Re:, on: 2008/4/10 8:46

Here's today's radio program on Revive Our Hearts ministry and I thought of you when I saw this.

(<http://www.reviveourhearts.com/radio/roh/today.php>) What Do Men Need?

Here's an excerpt:

"I went to the Lord, and I said, 'Lord, this isn't working. I don't like how I feel about him by focusing on what's wrong—or what I think is wrong.' God may not even think it's wrong, but I had come to the conclusion that it was wrong. And I said, 'God, I'm going to give him to You. I'm going to tear this list up, and I'm not ever going to pray about things that need to be changed in his life again. If You want to change his life, it's Your business, not mine. I'm going to instead focus on the things that are good.'"

It's a really practical way that we as wives can show respect to our husbands—by focusing on the things that are good, the things that he does do right. Thank him for those, praise him for those, encourage him for those things. And as Shanti just said, watch him light up when we do give him respect for what is good and what is honorable and what is respectable in his life...."

I'm sure she is talking about not concentrating on certain characteristics here that she does not like about him but we should pray if they are struggling with sin in any area of their life.

Peter 3:1-4

1Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

2While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

3Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,

which is in the sight of God of great price.

Re:, on: 2008/4/10 13:55

If your husband is guilty of these things, then perhaps he needs to be saved... because this is not the behavior of someone who has been born again and has had a renewing of his mind and heart.

You may wish to investigate a little further into his previous marriage too. Men cheat because we're basically dogs (when not walking with God). But when a woman cheats that's a pretty clear indication that there is a problem with the man. Not excusing what she did, but if she was being verbally abused as you were, the result was her adultery.

Without knowing him, I can't make this judgement, but if what you are saying about him is true... then I don't believe he has ever truly been born again. This doesn't release you from your vows... but may help in knowing how to address this whole situation.

Krispy

Re:, on: 2008/4/10 15:00

This thread has a familiar ring to it...

Krispy

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/4/10 15:05

Brothers and Sisters,

It needs to be said once again that this forum is not a place for online marriage counseling, and I would strongly discourage anyone from using it as such. All too often these conversations have a tendency to drift into areas that should only be discussed behind closed doors, perhaps with a pastor or someone you personally know and can confide in. It is uncomfortable and offensive for some (myself included) to read about references to marital intimacy and infidelity, and, frankly, I believe some of the things being mentioned in this thread are inappropriate for a public forum.

I would humbly ask those participating in this thread to exercise discretion in both giving and receiving information. Failure to do so will result in this thread being locked.

Brother Paul

Re: HELP - Am I still married????, on: 2008/4/10 17:08

Hello Paul,

I'm not sure if you're just uncomfortable that the truth about some things is so rank. I agree. It makes me feel yucky also.

Okay. So we are the onlookers.

How yucky does the person seeking help feel?

More or less than us?

Why does anyone post on an internet forum amongst deeply committed Bible believing Christians, if they are surrounded by good people in their own local church, all of whom know the Lord personally, and are full of Godly counsel? Is this a mystery? Or is a local church full of Godly people who know the Lord personally, just a figment of our imagination?

You said

Quote:

-----I believe some of the things being mentioned in this thread are inappropriate for a public forum.

I agree - from my natural man - until I remember the light of scripture, and all that God has revealed there.

I am shocked at some of the things He called Israel and her relatives, and worse, that He even punished them so aggressively for their sins, sending cruel invaders to kill them, or pestilence or famine. He abhorred that they didn't want a relationship with Him; one which would mean giving up their idols and all the sin involved in worshipping them.

Another thing that bothers me about the situation which sparked this thread, and your response to it, is that we are demonstrating so little nerve and expertise in this (and other fields of human experience), which it is very reasonable for a poster to hope is represented here. And we like to think that we are as much 'the Church' as anyone else - maybe even more serious about God than they (those outside the forum) are - and yet - are we truly representing Him when we cannot abide to listen to another person's woe? Or bear with them in their confusion?

This (forum) may well not be the place for the ultimate solution to this situation to be settled, but surely it can be a place of *emotional safety* (not being criticised for the nature of one's need) and of *fellowship in Christ* - " 'scaped from the world, redeemed from sin ..." as it is put in the hymn, without anyone feeling *spiritually* compromised in the process?

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/4/10 21:12

Quote:

-----Another thing that bothers me about the situation which sparked this thread, and your response to it, is that we are demonstrating so little nerve and expertise in this

This is not a psychology office; this is a revival forum. If you are bothered by my response, please contact Greg Gordon. We go through this each and every time I moderate on a thread. No one else but you, Linn. The truth is, apart from the sexual things being discussed openly here, another reason this thread is about to be locked is to stop the further spread of your godless "teaching" and personal views concerning wedding vows and the sanctity of marriage...before things get even worse.

Quite simply, the intimate things being discussed in this thread are *inappropriate* for public discussion - and it has nothing to do with the natural man versus the spiritual man - it is a matter of discernment and not political-correctness or psychotherapy or wresting certain scriptures to fit our experiences in life. I know Greg and Mike share the same conviction as I do. Some of the advice and views on marriage expressed here have been quite objectionable, but above all, there is content here not suitable to be discussed publicly.

Paul

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2008/4/10 22:56

Greeting Brother Paul

I agree completely with what you said in your post concerning this thread. I to as a sister in Christ am not comfortable having this discussed in such a public way.

God Bless you
MJ

Re: HELP - Am I still Married???? - posted by Zionshield (), on: 2008/4/10 23:13

Melinda,

There are too many Christians that speak on this issue without having thoroughly researched the topic. Its too important for you not to be completely informed and if they haven't been through it, loved someone who has or studied it intensely don't take their word for it. There's context, culture and so many verses involved in this. Its deeper than people may initially understand and because its not an issue in their life its probably not something they are going to go after with all their heart. Be very sensitive to the Lord.

In my opinion, and that's all it is. No, you are not married to him. Be very careful that the enemy isn't leading you to live with him as though you were married. Am I someone who knows from experience? My wife went through the exact same thing. HOSEA HAD TO REMARRY GOMER AFTER THEIR DIVORCE. WHAT IS BOUND ON EARTH IS BOUND IN HEAVEN. WHAT IS LOOSED ON EARTH IS LOOSED IN HEAVEN. The divorce contract is just as binding as the marriage. Please, be very careful where you get your counsel on this matter.

Re: Nonsense - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/4/12 13:51

Paul is absolutely correct here. The glaring and grievous aspect that is most intolerable is this pouring of one's own notions into somebody's situation that are not stated.

Quote:
-----Another thing that bothers me about the situation which sparked this thread, and your response to it, is that we are demonstrating so little nerve and expertise in this (and other fields of human experience), which it is very reasonable for a poster to hope is represented here. And we like to think that we are as much 'the Church' as anyone else - maybe even more serious about God than they (those outside the forum) are - and yet - are we truly representing Him when we cannot abide to listen to another person's woe? Or bear with them in their confusion?

You are demonstrating much nerve and audacity with those same presumptions that you actually know what is going on when nothing has been stated specifically one way or the other. Others here have done likewise. This becomes some sort of "opinion central" with presumed questions on the order of "If this is what he or she is thinking then ____" Or "In my case ____". Read through all this and see how much presumption is at hand. This idea that we can pour our experiences or notions into everybody's circumstances is beyond foolhardy. I am well sick and tired of seeing notions from the self-styled experts turning out so-called advice.

This is not the Christian equivalent of Ann Landers here. Paul's admonishment stands. This thread will be locked.

Food for thought. If we are incapable of asking questions rather than presuming and cannot see how foolish it is to offer advice based on presumption, woe to us. Anyone of us thinking we are helping matters by doing such is seriously deceived. It is not the fault of the original poster here to ask an honest question though again this is not a proper place for counseling in these matters. I have a greater indignation at the sheer foolishness and readiness to just spout out whatever comes to mind without consideration of the ramifications.

Don't bother with the PM's or emails if you don't like it, they will be ignored.