

SPIRITUAL SPOUSE

Many addicts struggle to think of their spouse, to remember they are married in dreams, to do the things their spouse asks them to do, or to want to romance and take care of their spouse. They also may struggle to even be attracted to their spouse and will also struggle with wandering eyes, looking at other women, fantasizing, viewing pornography, not thinking objectification is bad or may even find it funny or arousing. Many addicts have enmeshed relationships with their mothers and do not struggle to make their mother a priority, do the things that she asks, take her opinions and view on things, and even find her beautiful or attractive. They also tend to find it easy to put their affair partners (real or imaginary), or friends priority and to do things they feel will make them feel special. The spouse ends up feeling they are the only one the addict does not love and is always the one the addict is in opposition with or the one the addict always finds issues with. The Bible states that when two people have sex they become “one flesh” (spiritually, and physically). Becoming “one flesh” in the Bible is synonymous with getting married. The Bible is also clear that lusting after a woman (or man) is committing adultery or fornication with them already in your heart and is the same as if you had physically engaged. We believe that when someone engages in sexual activity with someone physically, through fantasy, or being abused, they are engaging sexually and becoming “one flesh” with this person (spiritually and physically). When addicts are constantly “becoming one” with other people it is impossible for them to “be one” with their spouse. Many times the addict became “one” with someone as a child when they were sexually abused, or when they discovered pornography, or through sleeping around, and thus sex has become just a physical act, a means to an end (orgasm) for them rather than a spiritual and loving engagement with their spouse. When there have been multiple marriages this is also the case. How can someone be fully one with their new wife after having been married and attempting to become “one” with multiple other people on top of their addictions and secrets. God calls for us to be married to one person and to flee from sexual immorality and adultery. Of course we will struggle to be “one” with our spouse when we have actively gone against God’s commands.

Marriage was created by God for the husband and wife to become “one flesh” spiritually and physically. God designed for us to be united in thought, emotions, physically, and for our desires to be aligned. For us to WANT to please our spouse, to make our spouse feel loved and special, and to be solely attracted to them. A house divided cannot stand and God created marriage to be a house united! We believe that with God all things are possible and for most addicts there will need to be prayer and fasting, demons cast out, a disclosure of all lies, secrets, attraction templates, and past behaviors in order for there to be freedom from the sins, addictions, and spiritual spouse(s). God designed for individuals in a marriage to be attracted to each other and for unfaithfulness to their spouse to feel horrible. In a marriage where we are truly married to our spouse we will want to be faithful. When we have a spiritual spouse, faithfulness to the spiritual spouse is adultery on our flesh and blood spouse. Many times addicts will feel disgusted by the idea of having sex, being romantic, or pursuing their flesh and blood spouse. They prefer their fantasy, porn addiction, affair partners, or one night stands and are not able to maintain an erection when engaging with their flesh and blood spouse. Erectile dysfunction (inability to maintain an erection, become erect, or fully erect) is a common sign of a spiritual spouse and an inability to be attracted to the flesh and blood spouse. They have spent so long pursuing and being married to their spiritual spouse, affair partners, pornography, attraction templates that this is the only thing they are aroused by or can be “faithful” to, the flesh and blood spouse never measures up. When there is true attraction our heart starts racing, our body temperature increases, and all our organs work properly which causes a full and hard erection. A true erection requires three parts: emotional, mental, and physical arousal. There is an attraction to appearance, a love for that person, and a mental, physical, and emotional desire to be connected with them, and to pleasure them. When there is no true attraction to the flesh and blood spouse it is hard to maintain an erection or even become aroused because all three parts that are required for an erection are not in play. Many addicts try to hide this and don’t want to admit that they are not attracted to their spouse because this would lead to questions and a revealing of their secrets. Commonly, the only way they are able to maintain an erection with their flesh and blood spouse is if they are actively in fantasy while engaging, playing out their fantasies, or arousing themselves beforehand to be able to perform sexually with their flesh and blood spouse. Most spouses can sense that the lack of arousal or ability to maintain an erection is because the addict is not attracted to them and feels rejected. This is commonly the truth but the addict does not want to admit it. We are designed to only be aroused by our spouse and addicts behaviors generally align with this biblical truth and show it in their behaviors towards their spiritual spouse/addictions and in their lack of desire for their flesh and

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blood spouse..

We desire for all marriages to succeed and we believe that God can provide this and break all spiritual ties and addictions. Satan seeks to destroy marriages but God wants them to succeed. This requires confession, repentance, prayer, fasting and in most cases demons being cast out, and delusions being broken.

NIGHT EMISSION/WET DREAMS

Not only do we want our clients to have freedom from sexual addiction in their waking hours but also in their sleep. It's common for most addicts to experience orgasm and sexual dreams at night. As Christians, we believe that we need to have spiritual freedom from this even in our sleep because not only does it perpetuate immorality but also takes away attention and sexual desire for the spouse. This is called a "spiritual spouse" and has typically been invited into the addict's life through their choices, sexual addiction, and sometimes because it was passed down from their parents. Despite the common belief of not having control over our dreams, once there has been prayer and deliverance, the addict is able to say "no" to engaging sexually in dreams and choose to prevent future ones from happening. We believe that we should be able to have full control over our thoughts at all times, including dreams, and take them captive. We believe it is important for the spouse and addict to pray for freedom from the sexualized dreams/spiritual spouse every night until full deliverance.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.(Matthew 15:19)

But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.(Matthew 5:28)

The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. (Proverbs 6:32)

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery. (Matthew 19:9)

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. (Matthew 5:32)

The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous. (Proverbs 15:29)

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Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9)

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong,^[c] and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. (James 12:1-15)

Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. (Malachi 2:15)

Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." (1 Corinthians 6:16)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:25-30)

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

And said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matthew 19:5-6)

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

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We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. (John 9:31)

To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:1-40)

Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring.[d] So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth. "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect,"[e] says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful. (Malachi 2:13-16)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25)

Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. (Colossians 3:19)

So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (Ephesians 5:28)

Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. (Proverbs 5:18)

But one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, (1 Corinthians 7:33)

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Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:1-30)

A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:39)

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. (1 John 3:4-9)

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death. (Revelations 21:8)

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. (Luke 6:45)

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'. (Matthew 7:13-23)

"When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. 10 But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer[a] yet indulges in sexual

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sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4)

My son, pay attention to my wisdom; listen carefully to my wise counsel. Then you will show discernment, and your lips will express what you've learned. For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. But in the end she is as bitter as poison, as dangerous as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. For she cares nothing about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it. So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: Stay away from her!

Don't go near the door of her house! If you do, you will lose your honor and will lose to merciless people all you have achieved. Strangers will consume your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor.

In the end you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body. You will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all the warnings! Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to my instructors? I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace." Drink water from your own well— share your love only with your wife. Why spill the water of your springs in the streets, having sex with just anyone? You should reserve it for yourselves. Never share it with strangers. Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an immoral woman, or fondle the breasts of a promiscuous woman? For the Lord sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him.

He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his great foolishness. (Proverbs 5)