

Over the years I counseled Christian men and women in disastrous marriages, some with spouses so miserable the saint even considered suicide. Some were alcoholic, promiscuous, drug addicted (the problems varied), but in one sense the problems were all the same: The offending spouse did not belong to the Lord, despite their continued church attendance.

Being a Christian has nothing to do with what a person says, but everything to do with having a changed heart. No changed heart, no Christian. Here is how you know that to be true:

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."

No new heart - no Christian. Trying to convince lost people they're saved because they said the sinners prayer is one of the worst errors in the Church. When a person really comes to the Lord, he has a changed life! That doesn't mean Christians don't sin and make many terrible mistakes in life (we all do and I've made my share), but a real Christian doesn't LIVE in sin, he repents.

Marriages don't fall apart over night. He/she demands a divorce because for months, or even years, he/she has walked in rebellion to God.

This is what I have seen: If a godly husband or wife truly walks before the Lord with a whole heart, within a year, or thereabouts, the unbelieving spouse is so convicted by the Holy Spirit that he/she does one of three things:

1. Repents . . . 2. Leaves . . . 3. or Dies . . . and I have seen all three!

Yes, God hates divorce, but He also commands, 2 Cor 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

So from my experience, God allows the sin of the unbeliever to free the believer from an ungodly spouse. I now counsel divorced saints to thank God for delivering them and to get on with their lives. In every case I have counseled so far, God eventually sent the believer someone to love and marry, in which condition they all still happily remain.