

Letter to an Unfaithful Husband

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by Betty

I'm going to get right to the point and share my heart with you.

I am so disappointed when I look at what you are doing with your life. By your choices and actions, it is clear to me that after all of these years of walking with the Lord, you are totally oblivious to who you really are in Him. If you really knew, you would not be heading in the direction you are going.

I don't know exactly what was communicated to you regarding your personhood when you were growing up, but I do know that much of it wasn't positive. Still after all this time, you're buying into it and setting such low expectations for yourself. I believe it is true that we tend to live according to the way we actually see ourselves and what we believe are our capabilities. Your actions tell me that you see yourself as someone unable to keep a commitment, one who places his hope and value in his possessions, and one who knowingly uses others to his own advantage.

You are living so very far below your true calling. I do not believe your destiny is found in the characteristics I've just described. Most people are accused of living above their means, but you are living BELOW! 1 Peter 2:9 says that you are a part of a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that you might set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

What does that have in common with the way you are living now? In Max Lucado's book, *In The Grip of Grace*, he talks about God's anger at evil. I think that is also a part of what I'm feeling right now.

I quote: "Love is always angry at evil. Many don't understand God's anger because they confuse the wrath of God with the wrath of man. The two have little in common. Human anger is typically self-driven and prone to explosions of temper and violent deeds. We get ticked off because we've been overlooked, neglected, or cheated. This is the anger of man. It is not, however the anger of God. God doesn't get angry because He doesn't get His way. He gets angry because disobedience always results in self-destruction. What kind of father sits by and watches his child hurt himself."

Living in Christ, in our destiny of purity and wholeness in relationship with the Eternal Godhead, does not work by the suppression of evil in ourselves. It is lived out because of the awareness of who He has destined us to be. We're called UP! We're encouraged and motivated because we get a glimpse of our true calling in Him and are amazed, astounded, humbled, and grateful that we are called "the children of God" – sons and daughters who are to reflect the family likeness because of His Grace and Mercy.

When we see ourselves through the distorted lenses that the Father of Lies gives us, we are living up (or perhaps I should say 'down') to that image. And, oh, how he delights in that – to kill, and steal and destroy the image of God in us. Since he cannot destroy God, he does the next best thing. He destroys the "family likeness" in God's kids.

It is though a loving Father went on a picnic with his son. He had prepared his son's favorite foods so they could enjoy lunch together. But while the father was busy spreading out their "feast" under a sheltering tree, his son went exploring down a path in the woods. There he met a Stranger who enticed him with another picnic 'spread' that looked even better. The son indulged himself in all there was until he could hold no more. Then he heard his father calling to him, "Come and get it!" But the son had no desire to go back to his father's "table." He was quite satiated. What he didn't know was the Stranger's food was laced with a drug that would soon render him unconscious so that the Stranger could kidnap the boy.

I am baffled that you are eating the Stranger's food when there is a wholesome, life-giving feast prepared for you

with your Father. It appears that the “drugs” have already taken effect and you are on your way to oblivion – your conscience benumbed by the feast of the moment. I am acutely aware that there are eternal consequences to your choices, yet I know I cannot forcibly drag you away from danger.

But I hear the words from Jude, “Refute so as to convict some who dispute with you, and on some have mercy who waiver and doubt, strive to save others, snatching them out from the fire, on others, take pity but with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality.”

This is why I have written. Maybe there is still a chance that you might hear above the deafening voices of your desires. This is my prayer.