

HOW A NORTHERNER WON THE HEART OF A SOUTHERNER

In my early years, when gals were coming to me for help, I didn't know what to tell them. But God saw my need and sent my mother-in-law, Georgia, to share her life's experiences with me. She gave me permission to share her story. You will be blessed as I introduce you to my 'mother-in-love'.

HERE IS GEORGIA'S STORY:

They had been married five years when he began "playing around". He was handsome and charming and the girls wanted him, married or not. Sadly, he had no problem responding to them. When Georgia found out, she told him in no uncertain terms, "If you don't stop playing around, I will leave, take the children and go home to my mother".

"If you leave," he replied coldly, "don't expect me to take you back." She had a decision to make, go or stay.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TOLD HER?

1. Would you have told her, "he isn't worth it? You don't have to put up with that. Divorce him and find a man who will love you and be good to you. Besides, if he is unfaithful once, he will be again".

2. Would you have told her to seek professional counseling?

3. Would you have helped her find where she might be part of the problem? Would you give her some encouragement? Would you give her some Biblical, practical, common sense advice on where she might change her actions?

I can hear your frustration as you read my last statement. You say, "You are putting the blame on the woman. It was not her fault her husband was having affairs".

But wait let's look at the situation a little bit closer.

HER DECISION:

She had to make a decision, go or stay? She loved him and wasn't about to let him go that easily. What could she do? "If he won't change". she thought, "...I'll change!!!".

AND SHE DID!

Wisely, she asked herself, "Why would he go to other women? Why would he prefer them to me?" The answer wasn't hard for her to figure out. He had told her, now she would listen. She knew he was speaking the truth. God had his hand on this young marriage.

She thought of three things he had asked her to do. Three things she didn't really think were that important, before!!

WHAT DID SHE CHANGE?

1. THEIR LOVE LIFE

He had often expressed the importance of their love life. He had complained to her about her disinterest. She really didn't enjoy making love. She avoided it as much as possible. She had no desire to make love and the rare times they did, she put nothing into it. "Making love to you is like making love to a log". he told her. "Why shouldn't I look elsewhere for love?" he asked. She felt she was too busy and too tired keeping up with the children and the home. She realized she had put everything before him. In the past, she had been hurt by these unkind remarks, but she knew they were true.

She decided to enjoy making love, even though she really hated it. Decided? Amazingly, her body followed her mind. In the past, she had waited for her body to have the desire. It has been said, "The brain is the woman's most important sex organ." If we have decided "not" to enjoy it, there is very little, if anything, the husband can do to change our mind or 'turn us on.' On the other hand, if we decide we want to make love and want to be the best lover in the whole world, our bodies will respond, maybe slowly at first, but there is hope. She began enjoying making love to her husband. Their friends envied their closeness. Not only did he appreciate the wonderful changes, but she also felt a new joy as a wife and mother.

If we deny physical love to our mate, he (or you) may be tempted to go elsewhere.

2. HER COOKING

"I only knew how to boil water and make fudge," she had told her friends when she married. Her cooking left a lot to be desired. He was a southerner and loved spicy foods, grits, okra, hominy and fried chicken. She was a Northerner and used basically only salt and pepper in her cooking.

Again, she made up her mind she was going to learn to be the best cook. She sought out an older woman who lived down the street. She knew her to be an excellent cook. Georgia was a quick learner, and became an excellent cook, which pleased her husband greatly. Didn't someone say, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach?"

3. HER PERSON (wasn't working on two problems enough?)

It was obvious her husband was attracted to the lovely young women in town, and she had "let herself go." After all, she had her man and was a busy homemaker and mother. What else could he want? She had felt she didn't have time to fix up for him.

She decided there wasn't anyone around any better looking than her. She began fixing her hair, putting on makeup, and dressing nicely, before her husband came home from work. She looked lovely for him. She even smelled good and began wearing high heels. At noon each day she took lunch to his place of business and they ate together. (It doesn't hurt to let the other women know, he's my man!!)

There were only three changes, and they worked! He not only appreciated the wonderful changes, but she also felt a new joy and fulfillment as a wife and mother. They fell in love all over again. For the rest of their twenty seven years together they were sweethearts. She often spoke of the night before his death, how they sat on the porch swing, his arm around her and her head on his shoulder...lovers to the end.

WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY?

1. When you desire to see your mate change, look at yourself. See if there is anything he has asked you to do, do that first. He will see you are willing to change and he will almost always respond lovingly to your "new" love.

2. Even if you have no one to talk to, keep a teachable and creative spirit.

Three changes and they worked!