

Dear Owen,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You stated that you and your wife who are Christians are currently separated but are in the process of working on saving your marriage. You wanted to know that since you are both “walking with Jesus and not turning away from him,” if you were still leading godly lives even though you are separated with divorce as a possibility. You also asked if you and your wife should give up the “ministry” (the great commission to preach the gospel) because you are separated or move forward with it as is stated in 2 Timothy 4:5-8.

Even though you are separated, you stated that you are still “walking with Jesus.” To us that implies that you definitely are seeking to lead godly lives. It is commendable that you are actively working on saving your marriage and following the advice of Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11. “To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.” Although we realize that both of you have personal struggles at the moment, those struggles are no reason to stop doing the good work of preaching the gospel.

If, on the other hand, either your wife or you embark on a sinful lifestyle while separated, the person sinning should stop his or her ministry, because to continue would be a contradiction of “practicing what we preach.” If your separation eventually ends in divorce for reasons other than those scripturally stated (adultery by one or both parties, Matthew 5:32, 19:9), then you will not be following the scriptural guidelines for divorce that have been laid out for the Christian and will need to stop your ministry.

We wish you well with your ongoing efforts at reconciliation as you seek the Lord’s guidance in all your actions. We hope we have answered your questions. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio