

Dear Tim,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You stated that you gave your life to Christ a few months ago and are willing to do anything to uphold the word of God. You also told us that you have been in an eleven-year relationship with your girlfriend who is a non-Christian and does not support the choice you made to give your life to Christ. You and your girlfriend have a three-year-old son and another child on the way. You further commented that you understood what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7:14 about the unbelieving wife being sanctified through her believing husband. But since you and your girlfriend never married, you wondered if it would be right to marry her now and be unequally yoked.

Your situation is quite different from someone who has given himself to the Lord and is looking for a Christian mate. Such a person has a responsibility to choose someone who is walking down that same Christian path. When two Christians that have given their hearts to the Lord marry, they are equally yoked spiritually. Because of this spiritual unity they rely on the Lord for strength during difficult times. You, on the other hand, by reason of your present circumstances, are not in the position to look for a Christian mate, as you already have one. Even though you and your girlfriend are not legally married, you have been in a committed relationship for eleven years, long before you became a Christian, and have produced two children. That kind of relationship is tantamount to marriage, which, as you know, is highly regarded in the eyes of the Lord. Should you, then, formally marry the mother of your children and be unequally yoked? We believe the answer is yes.

As a Christian, you are responsible for your actions. Even though you will be unequally yoked by marrying your girlfriend, you have a responsibility to her and your children. Furthermore, now that you are a Christian, you cannot continue to have sexual relations with your girlfriend without the formal commitment of marriage. By being a good husband and father and by letting your Christian light shine, your wife will come to discern how different you are from what you once were and, over time, you may win her over. Actions really do speak louder than words. You said you were “on fire for God” and were willing to “do anything” to line up with God’s word. If what you say is true, then you need to honor God’s sacred institution of marriage. “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” (Hebrews 13:4)

We hope we have answered your question. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio