

Recovery from Mormonism (RfM) discussion forum.

**Recovery Board : RfM**

**...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: edzachery ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 12:29PM

As my TBM wife continues to come to grips with my RfM, I now have this little nugget thrown my direction:

"You knew when we got married that it had to be in the temple. That was a deal-breaker for me. Now that you aren't believing it anymore, I feel like you have betrayed me...your actions are a betrayal..."

First, I did marry her in the temple.

Second, I drank the morg kool-aid for 20+ years.

Third, it was the Essays that led me to non-belief...I was just doing as I was told (i.e. everyone associated with CES should read and know the information found in the Essays...from M. Russell Ballard).

So, I'M GUILTY of betrayal? How about TSCC betraying the trust and faith of so many people through the years? Oh, and one more thing I brought up during our latest discussion: the quote by BKP about "just because something's true doesn't mean it's useful" (or something like that).

She just stared at me. I asked her: "What?!"

"I agree with that," she said.

Gawd help me...

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: Darren Steers ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 12:39PM

All I know is that debating the rights and wrongs of Mormonism with your wife is NOT helping your cause.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **baura** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 02:33PM

What he said ^^

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **peculiargifts** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 12:55PM

Well, edz, you certainly have my respect for sticking with this problem. I hope that all of your wife's protestations and accusations are really a sign of her own inner struggle to break free of TSCC.

With any luck, she's going around, silently asking herself if she really believes that truth is not useful. And exactly to whom falsehood would be more useful than truth....

In the meanwhile, I don't go along with those who would claim that the problems are all your fault/responsibility, since you are the one who changed the rules. I suspect that that idea is only useful in terms of remembering to try to work gently and kindly with the true believer.

Otherwise, as far as I can tell, people are designed to learn and grow throughout life. We're all programmed to be curious and to want to find out more and more --- including, in a big way, more and more truth. Anyone and anything which tries to subvert that inclination is certainly guilty of betrayal --- betrayal of one of the most valuable and essential characteristics of humanity.

"The truth will set you free." Always one good quote to remember.

Also this set of quotes, kindly supplied by Richard Packham, could come in handy, someday:

<http://exmormon.org/phorum/read.php?2,1832969,1832969#msg-1832969>

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **baura** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 02:34PM

peculiargifts Wrote:

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- > "The truth will set you free." Always one good
- > quote to remember.

"The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off."  
--Gloria Steinem

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Pooped ( )**  
Date: September 08, 2016 12:37PM

Gloria S. must have met me after I learned that Mormonism was a fraud. That's EXACTLY how I felt.

It's true that not everything true is necessarily useful. I never eat at McDonalds so the fact that there are more than one size of drink may be true but it's not terribly useful for me. However, the FACT that Mormonism is a fraud is an important truth because it is saving me thousands of dollars and helping me repair the strained relations between me and my non-Mormon friends and family members who thought I was an idiot for the years I was a Mormon.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Pooped ( )**  
Date: September 08, 2016 12:48PM

Have you asked the all important question: "If Mormonism isn't true would you want to know?" If her answer is "No" then you know what to do. When someone doesn't want to know the truth you have to accept you are just throwing pearls before swine. (No reflection her on your wife's appearance).

You are wasting your breathe if she doesn't want/respect truth. You might point out that Jesus described himself as "The way, the truth, and the light" and if she isn't interested in truth then the topic of anything religious or related in any way to Jesus is off the table. She doesn't want truth then those topics are no longer part of your dialogue with her. At the very least it might be relaxing to have a reason to stop her from talking about anything Mormon

when she is with you. If it isn't true, and she doesn't care, then no more discussion, period.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **edzachery** ( )

Date: September 08, 2016 01:19PM

Excellent point, Pooped. Thanks.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Babyloncansuckit** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 12:56PM

Ah, the old "You broke my heart, Fredo" scene. She could have at least kissed you.

In a sense, she's right. You didn't just marry her, you married her goofy attachments. You are totally guilty of not sucking. What can you do? I'd say compartmentalize. You seem to think being true to yourself means saving her from her delusions. It doesn't. It does, unfortunately, require you to lie to keep her happy. However, this seems to be what she wants.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **NeverMoJohn** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 01:03PM

People change. People grow. Nobody is going to be the same person that they were many years ago. That happens regardless of whether you remained a Mormon or not.

She is never going to be married to the same person that she was many many years ago. The real question is can she accept the person you are now or not. It really is that simple.

Oh, and by the way, the same question applies to you. Good luck.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **elderolddog** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 01:11PM

It'll be a shame if it goes so far that the following line might be useful:

"I can't believe that I was so willfully misguided, and that you still are!"

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of  
"betrayal"**

Posted by: **jacob** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 01:36PM

This is my two cents, not that it helped me with my soon to be ex.

For you it is now a matter of integrity. You cannot live a life of integrity by pretending to be or do something that you are not. You must not compromise your principals. I'm guessing.

I think you should sit down with your wife and explain that one of the many excellent things you learned from Mormonism is to stand strong in the face of adversity. You are at the point where it would be unethical to act differently than you feel. This is how she conducts herself and it is to her credit. Turn your rejection of Mormonism into a stance on integrity.

Oh and call a truce on the right wrong discussions. Another item that you learned from Mormonism is that men can err while truth cannot. If you endlessly speak about the evils of polygamy or institutionalized racism than you are not hitting on the reasons why Mormonism is wrong just the symptoms of it's wrongness. It's like arguing about a runny nose. If you must discuss Mormonism stick to the things that are not dependent on people being stupid. The two that have been most successful are the Plan of Salvation and the Temple.

The POS, as we affectionately refer to it, defies logic. Why must a god who is all powerful choose such a strange way to save his children? Why do his children need to be saved at all? What is the point? The whole thing is nonsensical.

The temple is in the same category. Does any Mormon reasonably believe that a worthy person who has not had temple ordinances done will be denied salvation? Why is it that an all powerful god decided that passwords and handshakes would be the gate keeper of heaven?

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **logged out today** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 01:50PM

By putting the church before you, it's your wife that's guilty of betrayal.

It's futile to employ logic with an irrational person. Use flat declaratives like "I don't agree with that" or even "No, that's wrong." Then shrug your shoulders and leave it there.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **scaredhusband** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 02:18PM

You and me both, dude. Or that I was lying when I dated and then married her only to now leave the church.

It is impossible to try and convince someone of logic when they threw out the logic to get where they are now.

I myself am tempted to be a right fighter with my wife at times. I have come to find that it is a useless and very energy demanding effort. I now just try to be understood.

I would try and come up with an analogy where someone agrees to a contract. After discovering that a lot of pertinent information was left out before agreeing to the contract the person feels that the contract is void. Someone then accuses the person of betrayal after he lives like the contract is void, because it is. Something like that.

Can you see her position? She hasn't discovered the information that voids the contract yet. Can she see your position? You have additional information and the contract has always been void because it was based on half truths and misinformation.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **surprenant** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 02:57PM

"You and me both, dude. Or that I was lying when I dated and then married her only to now leave the church."

Or when I promised my wife that I would read the BoM; which I did, just not prayerfully, otherwise I'd be Mormon now. Or so she thought.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **notojo** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 02:25PM

Be careful Ed

I went through almost the exact same conversation and within the month I had divorce papers.

"you're not going to ruin my exaltation"  
or something like that was her reply.  
And I was married over 40 years.

be careful

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **imaworkinonit** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 03:42PM

Why is it up to HIM to be careful? She's treating him like crap.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **danboyle** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 02:40PM

What I said in this situation...summary version:

I am not the liar here, I married YOU and am 100% all-in on the marriage. I have been and will always be 100% faithful.

The liar here is the church, not me. So if you want to get mad at someone for being dishonest or betraying your trust, go see the guys in downtown SLC, they are the liars, not me. The church has lied to us about almost everything, they are the ones you should be mad at, not me.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **MCR** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 03:37PM

Great point.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **imaworkinonit** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 03:41PM

I don't know how you live with this.

Is she trying to manipulate/guilt you into going back? Or does she really think you betrayed her? Personally, I think she has betrayed your love and trust by blaming you, and making veiled threats about ending the marriage. She's equating leaving the church with breaking the marriage vows.

Of course there is an adjustment period when one spouse stops believing. It's shocking and scary, and disheartening to the believer. But I think when it moves to blames and threats over an extended period of time (more than a couple months), it's just deepening the pain to stay with her. I'm trying to think if that has ever worked out in the end for people I've known or read about here on the board. For the most part, I don't think it does. And for those I know who finally moved on (usually men), they found love and great happiness than what they had with their ex. I'm sorry if that's blunt. But a spouse with a loving, non-controlling nature wouldn't act the way she has.

I could be wrong, but my first thought when I read this was: she needs to either choose love and acceptance (and stop blaming), or choose to leave. It sounds like she's trying to badger you into submission, or maybe she's in the anger or bargaining stage of grieving. I think you need to be super clear that you WON'T go back to the church, and you are DONE being treated like this.

And you won't change her, either. If she won't read or think about this stuff, that's her choice. But you can decide how you expect to be treated by someone who is supposed to love you and have your back.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **summer** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 03:52PM

I would say that you changed your mind about Mormonism, but that YOU haven't changed. The same good qualities that she (hopefully) valued in you when you got married are still there, i.e. kindness, responsibility, generosity, etc. I would be blunt with her and ask her if she still values those traits in you, because if not, SHE is the one who has changed.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **surprenant** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 03:59PM

Ed, my heart goes out to you.

I'm not quite in the same situation as you, but maybe a fear that my TBM wife has voiced may be relevant to your wife.

I'm nevermo. I married my TBM wife almost four years ago. She though that I would come running to the church once I was fed the milk with promises of the meat soon to follow.

That didn't happen. Instead, the full court press from my wife and missionaries and the bishopric led me to do my own research. Only recently have I shared with my wife most of what I learned.

Her fear now is that she can't see how I can love and respect her knowing what I know (or "think" I know) about the church. She's afraid I will leave her because I think she's stupid; which is the furthest thing from my mind and something I've never said to her. However, her fear is something I must factor into every conversation we have about the church.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **liesarenotuseful** ( )

Date: September 07, 2016 04:02PM

this is all difficult to read, and helpful at the same time. Some of us are going through something similar. :(

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **bluebutterfly** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 04:17PM

One of the many f'd up reasons that I loathe tssc. A marriage and family are doomed unless both spouses are all-in.

One of my BILs was converted by my sister shortly before they got married in the temple (so yea, he had one of those shocking wtf wedding days) and had no idea what he was getting himself into. He was seduced by tssc at a young age and in love with my sis. Now they have kids and have been married for awhile and he's about to face what you're facing cause he has one foot out the door (of tssc). But I know he's sticking it out to keep the family together. And they really do love each other. I just hope my sis doesn't pick the religion over him.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **elderolddog** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 09:40PM

A slight disagreement, about the 'both must be all in'...

SusieQ on this board and a very nice lady on another board were happily married to TBMs. The lady on the other board was married to a bishop when her eyes were opened. They both made it work.

There's a basic 'truth' espoused by mormonism, "you'll get what you deserve." The husbands of the two women (men being so damned more lazy than women) 'knew' they would get their exaltation, no matter what their wives earned. They knew they had good wives and it was no big deal to them.

The angry spouses who prattle on about 'you broke the promise you made in the temple' are ignoring the basic tenet that ghawd will give them their just reward. Instead, in my mind, they want the world to give them accolades. And by 'world' I mean the people they know.

I would be tempted to say, "Jesus, woman, you're just going to be a fuckin' COW in the CK! I'm going to have your cellphone number but whether it's me or some other prickhood holder, you ain't gonna have mine or his phone number."

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **gatorman** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 04:27PM

Ed

Have read all the above. Danboyle sums up my feelings to the letter. Stop arguing and keep loving. If she eventually makes a bad decision then so be it....

Much love and respect

Gatorman

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **edzachery** ( )  
Date: September 08, 2016 01:21PM

Thanks, gator. I appreciate you and all my friends on RfM.  
-edzachery

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Bruce A Holt** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 04:48PM

Here's what I did. YMMV, of course!

After telling my wife about the things I had learned by studying church history from approved sources and coming to a new state of disbelief in said church, I talked with my Bishop.

That eventually lead to a chat with my SP. He was accompanied by an Area Seventy, but that (the A-70) isn't a requirement! LOL

Biding my time and augmenting my study lead to the solidifying of my stance that JS was a fraud. I so posted this on FB with strong caveats to prevent the weak from reading further. (\*snicker\* didn't work - a lot read on anyway!)

This lead to the A-70 nudging my SP who nudged my Bishop to call me in and ask me to remove the post.

I politely declined.

SP called me in to ask me to remove the post.

I politely declined.

A DC was held and I was excommunicated.

Why do I tell you my story? Because you might be in a similar circumstance, in a way. Then again, you might not. Hence the caveat at the top regarding your mileage...take all this for what it's worth to you.

My wife knows I was blindsided by what I had studied, having been TBM the whole course of our marriage. If I had resigned because of that, it would have been an action I took, myself. I could, therefore, be guilty of "giving up" or some other such thing. Being excommunicated was an action the church took and, therefore, the church was the target of any blame my wife wanted to throw. In fact, she told me afterwards that if anyone gave me grief over being excommunicated I should send them to her and she'd straighten them out!

I gained an ally, somewhat (although she's still TBM) rather than an antagonist. She is disappointed in the church, rather than me.

Of course, again, YMMV and you certainly have to know well your wife and how she would likely respond.

Lastly, I am still as supportive and loving to her as I have ever been. I'm still the same guy she married. I'm just not a church partner.

Best wishes!

Edited to correct autocorrect.

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 09/07/2016 04:50PM by Bruce A Holt.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **AmIDarkNow?** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 04:53PM

"I agree with that," she said.

"Jesus would not agree, ever!"

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Brother Of Jerry** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 05:10PM

TSCC betrayed you, not the reverse.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **Lurker 1** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 05:15PM

The main question to ask yourself is the same question your wife needs to answer – is your marriage more important than the Church? You can't make your wife answer the question but if your answer is Yes, then continue going (you said your marriage is more important, right). At the local level there is a lot of good in the church. That is what I do.

The bishop will put you to work in the Cub Scouts or some other benign organization but where you can set a good example and help others. Pay some tithing (I pay 10% to the church on the money my wife spends out of our budget and I pay 10% to community organizations out of our excess money after our true needs are met) but don't pay 10% of gross or net to the church. Put the money into an organization where you know what they are doing with it.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **edzachery** ( )  
Date: September 08, 2016 08:58AM

Lurker 1,

The quick answer is: No...my wife doesn't believe that the marriage is more important than tsc. She has mumbled this a few times, even years ago when we knew couples where one of them had gone rogue. Mrs. Ed would say something like: "Well, you'd have to ask yourself: Is the marriage even worth saving (if it was

originally a temple marriage and then one partner stopped believing)?"

I appreciate your input, but I'm not being assigned to a Cub Scout pack, or to clean toilets again (that has already been discussed on this board), and tsc will SURE AS HELL not get another penny of my money.

-edzachery

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **jacob** ( )

Date: September 08, 2016 09:34AM

Lurker 1 Wrote:

- 
- > The main question to ask yourself is the same
  - > question your wife needs to answer – is your
  - > marriage more important than the Church?

False dichotomy. If the marriage is the most important thing than there wouldn't be a discussion. If it isn't than what you gonna do?

- > You can't make your wife answer the question but if
- > your answer is Yes, then continue going (you said
- > your marriage is more important, right).

Ah but hasn't she already answered it? And like I said above, if the marriage was more important than the church than attendance at church wouldn't be a requirement to start with.

- > At the local level there is a lot of good in the church.
- > That is what I do.

I hope it works well for you but don't delude yourself that you are doing the right thing because "at the local level there is a lot of good in the church." You know full well that at the local level "the church" divides families like it is in this case and in yours. If it's a zero sum game than you're playing the wrong game. Why live in a world where one person has to sacrifice happiness or integrity for the happiness of another?

- >
- > The bishop will put you to work in the Cub Scouts
- > or some other benign organization but where you
- > can set a good example and help others.

Benign? Ha.

Set a good example? Like living a lie. Some example.

- > Pay some tithing (I pay 10% to the church on the money my
- > wife spends out of our budget and I pay 10% to
- > community organizations out of our excess money
- > after our true needs are met) but don't pay 10% of
- > gross or net to the church. Put the money into an
- > organization where you know what they are doing
- > with it.

Worst idea ever. Why support that organization.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: Lurker 1 ( )

Date: September 08, 2016 02:30PM

Your right Jacob, I could dig my heels in, show I have integrity, refuse to live a lie, and destroy my marriage. Instead, I go to church with my wife, support her in her callings, pay \$50 per week tithing out of the \$500 per week she gets in her budget (and if she spends more than \$450 per week it comes out of the tithing so she has an incentive to stick to her budget), and work in cub scouts. Our pack has about 24 kids in it of which about 6 are mormon. There are two out of 10 leaders that are LDS, the rest are non-mormon. One of my webelos (non-mormon) has two moms who are there every week supporting the pack. Two weeks ago the cub master who is in his 70's, has been a bishop, in a stake presidency, on the high council, and been a missionary with his wife in Africa remarked to me that he didn't understand the two mom situation but they were both such great people and doing a great job raising their son. A person can make a difference and it's not selling out to continue supporting the wife that I love very much.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **presleyfactsrock** ( )  
Date: September 07, 2016 08:50PM

Her stance seems to be that when someone changes it can only be in a morg approved way.

My observation about the dilemma you are in is to stand firm in your position of both loving her and of not loving the church.

People do change in a marriage and to not accept that fact is to put blinders on. If this is the only thing she seems to fixate on, your position on the church, I would keep firm in saying I have stated where I stand and am unwilling to discuss this any further.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **logged out today** ( )  
Date: September 08, 2016 10:38AM

Ed, your wife doesn't even seem to know her own church's doctrine. Maybe this is a good time to teach her. According to the church, your unbelief is not going to hurt her in the long run.

Joseph Fielding Smith, "Answers to Gospel Questions," Vol. 3, pp. 23-24:

"THE LORD REWARDS ACCORDING TO FAITH AND DEVOTION

"Here we have a case where there is a faithful mother who has by her integrity kept her children in the faith, but who is married to an unbelieving husband. Naturally she is worried and wonders how she may retain her family in the eternity to come. The Lord has made this matter perfectly clear, and in answer to this sister's question we can say to her, and to the many others in like circumstances: If you remain faithful and true, the Lord will take your faith and devotion into account and reward you according to your works.

"...When the wife is faithful and desires to obey the divine law and the husband is rebellious, or unwilling to obey the will of the Lord, if she maintains her integrity to the best of her ability, she will be given to another husband in eternity and will receive all the blessings of the celestial kingdom. "

You and I know this is all BS, of course, but the important thing is that \*she\* believes it. If being reminded of this doctrine can calm her down, she might be more inclined to stick it out with you, believing her rewards will come in the next life. Meanwhile, you can still be with her "for time" which is what counts right now. Best of luck.

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **baura** ( )

Date: September 08, 2016 01:18PM

edzachery Wrote:

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> "You knew when we got married that it had to be in  
> the temple.

It WAS in the Temple. She has done her part. Your apostasy can't take away her blessings etc.

But don't forget to remind her of the scriptures that she supposedly believes in:

"13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

"14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy."

1 Corinthians 7:13-14

**Re: ...the saga continues...Now I'm guilty of "betrayal"**

Posted by: **CTRringturnsmyfingergreen** ( )

Date: September 08, 2016 01:33PM

Well, we all know Mormons believe in KJV "so far as it is translated correctly."

Clearly, this is an example of a corrupted portion of the scriptures.