

WITH CAROLE B. RICKS



# Carole's Corner



Carole

## My Girlfriend Is Black And I Am White

Dear Carole,

My girlfriend is black and I am white. We love each other deeply. You may as well say we have grown up together because we have gone to all the same schools. Let's say my girl's name is Sherri. Sherri and I have lots of friends. Our love is no secret to our friends. They accept us without any problem. The problem is my parents. I never knew how narrow-minded and uptight my parents could be until Sherri and I announced our engagement. At least Sherri's parents are trying hard to get used to the idea about us getting married. But my parents are having a hard time being understanding. I can't believe that they are the same two people who have raised me!

To me it doesn't make a difference about what race a person is. If that person has a beautiful spirit and a kind heart isn't that all that matters? What should we do to make my parents change their thinking?

B.R. and "Sherri"

Dear B.R. and Sherri,

Your love, a beautiful spirit and a kind heart are important to a relationship. Those qualities of character that are prized by both of you will have to be strong enough to help your confront biased attitudes existing in society.

Your families are concerned about your maturity in dealing with issues of racism that will penetrate the core of your love. If you try to understand the source of your parents' feelings you may realize it is difficult for them to change. Let your families know that you both love and fully accept each other and that you need their love and acceptance, too, as a family.

Carole

Dear Carole,  
I'm married to a man I've

grown to hate. Friends tell me I'd be a fool to leave. I'll confess, I do think about leaving often. But the reasons that friends have said I should stay are the same reasons why I have stayed this long with that man.

One reason is that he has really given me the "good life." I have all the "things" a woman could want. I even have his love. But I just can't give him mine. The second reason is that it would be too messy to break up with him. The longer I stay, though, the more confused I get. Sometimes I think I'd be better off leaving. At other times I ask myself if I must keep on living a lie just because I like the things I have.

Should I stay or should I leave?  
"Torn down the middle"

Dear Torn...

The decision to stay or leave your marriage is yours. But first consider the importance of honesty in any relationship. Be honest with yourself first by not running away from your true feelings. The things (material) that you own will not give you personal satisfaction if you are unhappy in most other areas of your relationship. Be honest with your husband. If your feelings are so negative that you dislike your husband as a person, you are being unfair to him by staying with him.

A healthy relationship should have mutual love as a foundation, not deceit.

Carole

Editor's Note: Carole B. Ricks, A.C.S.W., is a marriage and family therapist with a private practice in Charlotte, N.C. If you have personal, parent-child or marriage problems, write to:

Carole's Corner  
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Stanley Alexander is certainly making his mark as a gospel singer. He has just released a new single titled, "Drink From That Fountain," and the flip side is titled, "Jesus Will Be Right There." The single is expected to receive airplay on radio stations WPEG, WGIV and WQCC this week. Accompanying Stanley on these songs was Ted Martin's Charlotte Interdenominational Choir, as well as

background vocalists Marietta Westbrook, Carolyn Johnson, Tawanda Washington, Katie Bynum, Mamie Dickey, Evelyn Bennett, Donald Wallace and Darryl Peters, otherwise known as the Alexander singers. For supporting him in his endeavors Alexander gives heartfelt thanks to his parents, Anthony and Lois Alexander, Romaine Worth and Ted Martin.



Mark Fryburg  
Business reporter

### Fryburg To Cover Business

Mark Fryburg has been hired as the Business Reporter for WBTV News.

Fryburg, a native of Eugene, Oregon, graduated from Stanford University in 1973 with a B.A. degree in communications. He comes to WBTV from WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, where he has been Business Reporter since September, 1985, and prior to that a general assignment reporter. Earlier in his career, Fryburg was News Director for WROV Radio in Roanoke.



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