

Jan 11 1988

Afraid of being ostracized, gay man married, and is miserable

DEAR ABBY: I am a friendly, nice-looking young man in my mid-20s. For more than 10 years, as a teen-ager and young adult, I suppressed my natural urges, which were homosexual. It was a constant daily battle to stifle my feelings for men. Never at any time did I have those feelings for a female.

I knew that homosexuality would never be accepted by my family — or society. No one would ever suspect that I am gay. I have never had a homosexual experience and have never told anyone how I feel. A year and a half ago, I married a fine woman (my age), thinking this would force me to change and I would lose my desire for men. I was wrong.

My feelings for men are stronger than ever, and I have no desire to have sex with my wife. Little by little, I believe she is catching on. I am absolutely miserable being married. Abby, I am well-respected in my community and am active in my church. Divorce is out of the question. No one has any idea what I am going through.

Are there other homosexuals who have given in to marriage



Dear Abby

**ABIGAIL
VAN BUREN**

and are miserable, or am I all alone?

MY SECRET

DEAR SECRET: You are not alone. You have far more company than you (or anyone else) would ever imagine. I have a message for you — and for all the others who are in the same boat: to thine own self be true. You did not choose to be gay any more than I chose to be straight. (One may be able to choose one's actions — but not his "feelings.") And whether you act on your feelings or not, you are a homosexual. The tragedy is your unwillingness to accept yourself — and in an effort to "protect" yourself, you involved a woman in your life. She's unfulfilled and so are you.

You say divorce is "out of the question." Why? If your wife confronts you, tell her the truth, and free both of you from this hopeless sham.

DEAR ABBY: I am 27 and my husband is 38. We've been married for a year. It's my first marriage and "Ryan's" second. I fell head over heels in love with this man, and I know he loves me. He has two children by a previous marriage, living with their mother in another city. Our marriage is perfect — except for one thing. Ryan did not inform me before we were married that he had a vasectomy. Abby, I love children, and it saddens me to know that I will never bear a child. Ryan even saw an urologist hoping his vasectomy could be reversed, but he was told it couldn't be done.

I'm in counseling now to help me deal with this disappointment, but I still get spells of depression. Oh, Abby, tears are dropping on this letter as I write these words. Can you help me?

NO BABY OF MY OWN

DEAR NO BABY: Have you considered artificial insemination? If not, please do. Fertility specialists are performing near miracles these days. There is more than one route to motherhood. How about adoption?