



He Said-She Said

Note: Due to copyright restrictions, only Kris' answer is listed below. If you would like to see Cliff's answer, go to www.Crosswalk.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: He Said-She Said is a biweekly advice column for singles featuring a question from a Crosswalk.com reader with responses from a male and female point of view. If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to He Said-She Said (selected questions will be posted anonymously).

QUESTION: How do I (as a new Christian) start dating again after a failed engagement and loss of an unwed pregnancy and how do I know if I'm ready?

SHE SAID:

Let me first tell you how proud I am that you see the importance of doing things different. Because you ARE a new creation; you have the power given to you by the Holy Spirit to live a different life. You do not have to fear the next step because God is already there, preparing the way.

This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you" (Matthew 11:10).

So, are you ready to date again? Are you ready to make a new commitment to someone? I do not know how long it's been since all these things happened to you. For me, I would want to make sure I have begun the healing process. Have you thought about getting some Christian counseling? Have you talked with your pastor or another leader your trust? Do you have a support group of friends in place that can be praying for you as you make this new start?

If and when you meet that new guy in your life you will want to share some of your past. I would encourage you to pray about what to share and when. There are no guarantees anyone can accept all of your past and/or mistakes. This is simply the result of our sin. However, because we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, we are assured that none of us deserves anything, but Christ died to give us everything. A man who says he loves the Lord should love you, mistakes and all.

Final thoughts: take it slow, building meaningful same sex friendships, then opposite sex friendships. Pray and ask God for His timetable, to let you know when you have healed enough to date again. Then step out in trust.

My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped (Psalm 17:5).



SHE is ... Kris Swiatocho, the President and Director of TheSinglesNetwork.org Ministries and FromHisHands.com Ministries. Kris has served in ministry in various capacities for the last 25 years. An accomplished trainer and mentor, Kris has a heart to reach and grow leaders so they will in turn reach and grow others. She is the author of three books: *Singles and Relationships: A 31-Day Experiment* (co-authored with Dick Purnell of Single Life Resources); *From the Manger to the Cross: The Women in Jesus' Life*; and the most recent, *Jesus, Single Like Me with Study Questions* (includes a leader's guide and conference/retreat of the same name).

DISCLAIMER: We are not trained psychologists or licensed professionals. We're just average folk who understand what it's like to live the solo life in the twenty-first century. We believe that the Bible is our go-to guide for answers to all of life's questions, and it's where we'll go for guidance when responding to your questions. Also, it's important to note that we write our answers separately (we think they sound eerily similar sometimes, too!).

GOT A QUESTION? If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to He Said-She Said (selected questions will be posted anonymously). While we are unable to answer every inquiry, we do hope that this column will be an encouragement to you. Click [here](#) to visit the He Said-She Said archives.

