

Friendless Marriage

Are you in a friendless marriage? No I don't mean that you and your spouse don't have friends, but are you and your partner *friends*?

We don't divorce our best friends (*usually*). Every friendship has its rough spots but we usually find a way to smooth things out. *How would your marriage be different if you related to your spouse the same, or better, as you do to your best, closest friend?*

Some people believe you can count on friendship more than you can marital love. We often read about loveless marriages. But I wonder if a loveless marriage is the natural outcome of a friendless marriage.

When you and your spouse are best friends, you'll support each other and go through anything together because you never let your friends down, right? Friends are always there for each other, though thick or thin, until the end of the world. Friendship creates a safe place – a shelter from the storms of life. Friendship is also a place for celebrating the joys of life.

So just how friendly is your marriage?

These are common traits found within friendship:

- Laughter
- Humor
- Honesty
- Communication
- Shared interests
- Loyalty
- Chemistry
- Support
- Companionship
- Fellowship
- Joy
- Hope
- Love
- Selflessness
- Generosity
- Fun!

Friendship strengthens your marriage, fills it with joy, and reinforces it when things get tough. Don't get me wrong, romance, passion and heat are great (and essential), but what we need more than anything else is the kind of friendship that marriage creates between two people when they decide to become husband and wife.

When a husband and wife are best friends, they have the ability to recover from anything; they can repair, rebuild and restore. Friendship fills a marriage with warmth, satisfaction, and security because that's what friends do for each other. Genuine friendship doesn't focus on "me" it focuses on "you". When you grow your friendship with your spouse you will celebrate lifelong happiness, and have a friend that will never leave or forsake you.

Until next time, this is Mike & the Crew and we want you to be *mad about marriage!*