

# Growing Apart?

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You and your spouse are either growing closer or growing apart.  
How close do you feel to your partner?  
How close would you like to feel?

Here are some tips for growing closer.

## **Know their personal dreams & goals**

What do they want out of life?  
What are their dreams?  
What are their gifts, that you know if they used them, they'd light up the world?  
What role would your spouse like you to play in achieving their dreams and goals (hint, playing the role of "critic" probably isn't one of them :).  
Your spouse's dreams are their dreams, not yours. Don't minimize or criticize just because you don't understand or feel it's unimportant.  
Lend a hand when asked for help. Enjoy the journey with them.

## **Be positive and encouraging**

Reassure your spouse that they have what it takes to achieve their goals as long as they work hard and don't quit.  
If you can see that giving *constructive* criticism (in a gentle way) might help them achieve their dream(s) more effectively, share it.  
Share solutions, options and insights but in an encouraging and supportive way.

## **Give your spouse room to grow**

Sometimes, the best way to support your spouse is to give them some breathing room.  
Maintain some autonomy.  
There should always be a clear distinction between where you and your spouse start as individuals and where your relationship starts.  
When that line is blurred, you lose touch with your personal goals and dreams and begin to resent each other for it.

Just because you're married doesn't mean you should give up on your personal goals and dreams, or individuality.  
If you've been growing apart, one way to be closer is to share in the wonder and achievement of your partner's dreams.

*Until next time, this is Mike Tucker and I want YOU to be mad about marriage!*