

Incompatible With Your Spouse?

How incompatible are you and your spouse? Many couples choose to ignore their incompatibilities. The four big ones are: communications, interests, finances and careers. Ignoring incompatibilities in these areas prevents you from having a happy marriage. Dictionary.com defines be compatible as, "Capable of existing or living together in harmony". Some spouses give-in to their partner's beliefs, views and demands just to keep the peace at the expense of their own dreams and happiness. It's important to identify areas of incompatibility and deal with them before they build walls of isolation within the relationship that lead to irreconcilable differences.

Here are the four common areas of incompatibility:

Communication Incompatibility

Effective communication is essential for having a healthy relationship. Some people communicate based on emotion, while others communicate based on logic. Those who rely heavily on emotions may not pay as much attention to their words as those who rely on logic. Those who rely heavily on logic may remain quiet in a situation where it's necessary to display emotion.

Some people lead with facts and information. Others lead with feelings and intuition. Although neither is wrong or superior, communication incompatibility is a real challenge in many marriages. The emotional communicator may feel frustrated by the logical communicator's lack of emotion. The logical communicator may feel frustrated by the emotional communicator's lack of restraint.

Both parties must recognize this incompatibility and work towards striking a balance between the two communication styles. The emotional communicator may agree to exercise restraint, whereas the logical communicator may agree to communicate more freely so their spouse doesn't have to be a mind reader.

Certain temperaments communicate best on paper while others do best verbally. If you and your spouse have a communication incompatibility, perhaps you might consider combining these two styles to at least get the conversation started.

Incompatibility with Interests & Hobbies

Incompatibility in hobbies and interests creates conflict and resentment whereas participating in hobbies together creates closeness.

This one is easy to fix. Find hobbies and interests you can enjoy together. It's okay to have your own hobbies as long as you make time for mutual interests.

Financial and Career Incompatibility

This is a big one. Some people are risk takers, while others are conservative. One spouse might be comfortable having an unfulfilling career with high pay while the other spouse may be comfortable with a fulfilling career with low pay. If this is the case in your relationship, you'll need to find a balance so as to avoid becoming frustrated and resentful of each other. Be willing to compromise and take a more moderate approach to career and finances. This calls for both of you to become conservative risk takers.

The key to managing incompatibility within a relationship is compromise, love and *balance*. The last thing you want to do is to become more and more controlling until you force "compliance" as this may ruin your relationship or wither the spirit of your spouse.

No two people can be 100 percent compatible with regards to communications, interests, finances and careers. However, as long as both parties are patient and willing to compromise, they'll be one step closer to having a marriage they can both enjoy.

Consider making this one of your top goals for marital happiness in 2019.

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