

Getting Along with HER Parents

Your relationship with your wife's parents will have a lasting effect on your marriage whether you like it or not. According to studies, when a husband has a great relationship with his wife's parents, the risk of divorce decreases by 20 percent. A wife feels closer and more connected to her husband when he has a close relationship with her family.

Here's the good news, in general, it's pretty easy for men to get along with their in-laws because they tend not to worry too much about them interfering in their marriage and aren't easily threatened when they do. Even still, here are things you can do to have a healthier relationship with your wife's parents.

Care about Getting to Know Them

Spend time with them and learn about their interests. Try not to limit your interactions with your wife's parents to holidays only. Do your best to avoid controversial topics like religion and politics unless you're pretty certain they share your views; keep things light.

Also, encourage your wife to spend time with her parents. If her parents feel you're keeping their daughter from spending time with them, they're likely to resent you.

Keep Things Civil

Even if something is said that makes your blood boil, ALWAYS keep things civil. And always steer clear of personal attacks - even if you're the one being attacked.

If you have a serious issue with them, discuss it *carefully* with your wife.

Chances are the time will come when even your wife will complain about her parents.

Tread softly my friend.

Here's what you should do if that happens: Listen but refrain from speaking ill of her parents, otherwise she is bound to be offended; they're her parents and her first instinct will be to defend them, naturally.

Maintain a Healthy Distance

It's not always possible to be best friends with your wife's parents especially if they're the type who tend to interfere in your marriage. If this is the case, consider setting some boundaries but do it ever so gently.

For instance, don't allow your in-laws to use the kids as an excuse to show up at your home whenever they please. Demonstrate that you're in charge of your family by politely asking them to call before coming over so you can have the kids ready when they arrive.

Remember, one real good way to show your wife that you care for her is to make a real effort to get along with her parents and family.

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