

Your Spouse NEEDS You To Do This

Life is tough. Marriages are struggling. I think many couples would agree that this crisis has revealed areas in their marriage that need attention. Maybe their relationship would benefit from more patience, compassion, affection, space, forgiveness, help, courage.

Once this crisis is over, here are three basic things you can do to have a happier marriage.

1. Put your spouse before your parents or family.

Your relationship with your spouse is your most important relationship. So, prioritize other relationships accordingly. Don't exclude your parents or extended family from your life. Just realize your relationship with your spouse is #1.

Putting your parents or extended family members before your spouse undermines your marriage.

2. Put your spouse before your work.

This is tricky because we're all anxious for the certainty and stability our jobs provide. We don't want to do anything that jeopardizes our ability to support our families. However, when things settle down, put your spouse before your job.

How? By not coming home late everyday from work or putting more time and effort into your job than you do your marriage. Leave work at the same time every day - even if you work from home (especially if you work from home; have set hours).

Your work is about making a living but your marriage is about making a life!

If it helps, consider "transitioning" from work mode to "spouse" mode once you get home by changing into comfortable clothes, turning off email alerts, silencing your phone, or putting on some relaxing music that you both enjoy.

3. Put your spouse before your children.

If you're a parent, then you'd give your life for your kids without question or hesitation.

You'd sacrifice anything for their health and safety. And you'd happily choose a harder life for yourself to ensure they have every opportunity for love, happiness, and success. Right? With ALL of that in mind, as a general rule of thumb, you must put your spouse before your children, unless doing so deprives, neglects or endangers them.

Many couples admit that having kids takes a negative toll on their marriage. Even still, they don't regret having kids because kids are one of life's greatest joys!

But shouldn't you be able to love your kids without falling out of love with your spouse?

Sure, your relationship with your kids means everything to you, and sometimes they're an easy source of love when you're having trouble with your spouse. But remember, a happy marriage adds to the happiness of your kids. It makes them feel confident and secure, and teaches them how to communicate and resolve conflicts respectfully.

When they grow up and get married, they will model your marriage. So, ask yourself, what type of marriage do you want them to have? Also, in their heart of hearts, kids want their parents to be happy; it works both ways. Your kids should see you going out on date nights, doing things together, living life as a couple.

Let me end this week's tip by asking this simple question:

Do you put your spouse first? Yes or No?

Do you put your spouse before your parents/family? Yes or No?

Do you put your spouse before your work? Yes or No?

Do you put your spouse before your kids/grandkids? Yes or No?

When you put your spouse first, you can overcome many of the challenges that come your way, stay in love, and be happily married.

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