

# Marriage Tips

From Pastor Tandi

Understanding 11-25-18

Friends,

When our kids were young and I was homeschooling and taking care of the home, being a wife and mom and doing ministry, etc., I remember there were times when I felt like I was carrying more of a load than my husband realized. I sometimes felt that he didn't understand how much I did and even though he would tell me he appreciated me --- I still slipped into that way of thinking at times.

Silly me; on laundry day, when I had washed the sheets, I would even go as far as to save them to put on the bed until it was close to bedtime, so he could help me put them on --- my way of helping him to understand how much work I did. I didn't communicate very well when I needed help, because I felt I should be able to handle it all myself. I wanted him to figure out my need without me telling him. Crazy stuff we do sometimes!

Then one day there was the realization, that maybe he felt the same as I did ... That I might not have understood how much *he* did for our family. How he worked really hard to make sure I didn't have to work outside the home so I could be with the kids, raising them the best way we knew how. The pressure that he felt to provide and make everything great for us, while still trying to be home enough and spend time with each of us, not to mention pastoring a church at the same time.

What am I trying to say? It would be really good if couples could learn, early on, to try to understand what the other is going through. We need to listen to, and pray for, each other.

We should avoid calling attention to everything we're contributing to the marriage and make sure to appreciate our spouse for who they are and what they do. Appreciation goes a long way in someone being motivated to do things that will benefit the relationship.

*Ecc 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

A husband and wife are a team. It works best if they're not tugging against each other, but moving in the same direction.

**Challenge:** This week intentionally notice what your spouse does to contribute to your family.

You are a gift to each other!

Pastor Tandi