

# Marriage Tips

From Pastor Tandi

Stubbornness 11-18-18

Friends,

We've all heard the saying, "He's as stubborn as a mule". Stubbornness is often seen as a negative thing, but it can be a very positive attribute when directed in the right place. Concerning our marriages and relationships, what if we approach them with a stubbornness that says, "No matter what things look like now, and no matter how long it takes, I'm confident that the Holy Spirit is at work in both of us and I won't give up on God or us." OR "It doesn't matter how I feel, I will fight for this marriage. We can trust Jesus and He will help us make this marriage what He's designed it to be."

Being stubborn enough to continue to pray for your spouse, even when you're frustrated, angry or hurt --- Being stubborn enough to continue to show love and say, "I love you" when the feelings aren't there --- this is stubborn love and this is the type of love Jesus demonstrated for us when He went to the cross, even when He wasn't feeling it.

Jesus stood in the gap for us --- since we are sinners and He was sinless --- His sacrifice made it possible for us to be eternally saved. When we sacrifice for each other and for our marriage, we raise the chances of our marriage lasting and becoming stronger each day.

Remember, our feelings will follow our thoughts, words and actions --- so it's very important to master each of those. Our actions and words are a result of our thoughts, so we must guard our thoughts and choose wisely what we allow ourselves to dwell on in our thought life. This is another reason it's vital to be in the Word. As you are faithful to input the Word of God, the Holy Spirit can draw from that reservoir to bring it back to your thoughts when you need it most.

***Rom 5:8** -- But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

***Ps 36:5** -- Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.*

**Challenge:** This week, watch for opportunities to use your stubbornness for the good of your marriage.

Jesus has a stubborn love for you!

Pastor Tandi