



Marriage Advice

From Russ and Michelle Powell (Squawkbox Sound Owners)



We have been happily married since October 1st, 1999. In the years since our wedding day, we have learned a lot about marriage and love. When asked how we've stayed together, and how we are still happy to be together, this is the advice that we give:

♥ **HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR!** 😊 This will help to keep things from getting too serious. Joke around with each other! Play *nice* jokes on each other! Tease each other a little bit! This will also keep the spark alive in your marriage. "Those that *play* together, *stay* together!"

♥ **DON'T HAVE "FIGHTS," HAVE "DISCUSSIONS."** Instead of arguing and fighting when conflicts arise, *discuss them* to work out agreeable solutions.

♥ **BE EACH OTHER'S BEST FRIEND.** When you have happy news to share, whom do you want to tell first? Your best friend! Let that person be your spouse! When you are sad and need somebody to talk to, whom do you turn to first? Your best friend! If you turn to your spouse first in all things, it will strengthen the relationship. When your spouse arrives home from work, greet him/her with a kiss and let them know you are glad to see them!

♥ **DON'T HAVE A DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE!** When your hubby mentions that it bothers him when you leave little traces of toothpaste in the sink every morning, don't retaliate by saying "Oh yeah! Well, it bugs *me* when you...". Instead, make a conscious effort to clean up after yourself. When your wife complains that you are spending too much time playing video games, don't retaliate by saying, "You never let me have any fun and do what I want to do!" Instead, analyze her complaint and ask yourself if you need to be giving her more attention.

♥ **HAVE FUN AND SPEND TIME TOGETHER.** This does not have to be expensive. It's the *time* spent that matters, not *what* you do. Sometimes a stroll through a park together talking is more beneficial than an afternoon spent sitting at a movie.

♥ **DO NOT DISCUSS MARITAL PROBLEMS WITH ANYBODY OTHER THAN YOUR SPOUSE.** The issues that you and your spouse will have are only between you two. Talking to each other and working them out between the two of you will create a stronger bond than if you had never had any "problems." Each issue that you and your spouse work on together will bring you that much closer together.

♥ ...and last, but not least, **"HAPPILY EVER AFTER" DOES NOT "JUST HAPPEN"...YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR "HAPPILY EVER AFTER!"** Marriage is a joint effort that needs to be worked on *every day*. Failure to do this will result in bigger and more conflicts than if you both work on the marriage. The love you feel when you are first married is nothing compared to the love you will have for each other on your fiftieth wedding anniversary, after working together on the marriage after all of those years!

