

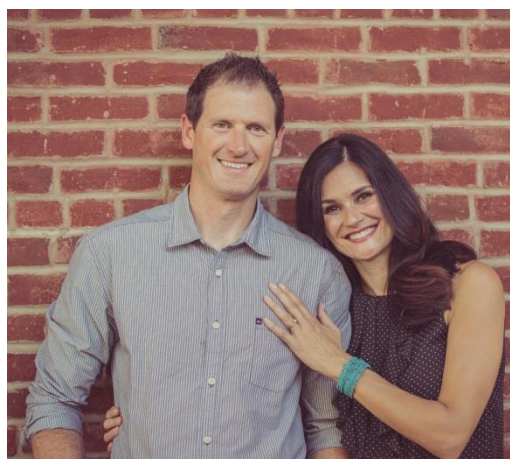
spouses **flipping** houses

11 Tips to Working
Successfully with your Spouse



By: Andrea Van Soest

11 tips to working successfully with your spouse



Hey There!

Welcome to Spouses Flipping Houses!

Working with your spouse (or loved one) can be the most rewarding, and the most challenging thing you'll ever do.

We have been blessed to work together as business owners for 14.5 of our 15 years of marriage.

We are so thankful for this journey we have taken.

Never in a million years did we expect this to be our life's path when we began dating. I imagined that Doug would eventually become an architect, I would be a school counselor and we'd put in our 40 hours a week, take our 2 weeks of yearly vacation and live happily ever after.

But thankfully (THANKFULLY!!!) our best friend Erik gave us book called Rich Dad Poor Dad.

While this book did not contain a magic formula, for us, it was a huge mind set shift. We began to think like entrepreneurs.

And somewhere in there ... our hearts shifted too.

Working to build someone else's dream was no longer an option.

So, we've spent the last 14.5 years building dreams...and businesses... together!

11 tips to working successfully with your spouse

We have learned a lot about what it takes to be a great partner and spouse, encourager and friend.

While we don't always get it right, we are always trying to.

The challenges you will face working with your spouse can either make or break your relationship.

Let's shoot for making it!!

And making it well!





1. Put your relationship first.

There are so many distractions in life.

Work that seems endless, kids (seriously...this could be a paragraph in itself), housework, friends and family, I could go on for a while. But, you know.

You have your own distractions.

Life is busy, and if you and your teammate, your right hand man or woman, are not on the same page?! Nothing else will line up.

You know that phrase happy wife happy life?

While it's cute (and I'm guilty of having used it on occasion with eyelashes batting) I'm not a huge fan of the actual meaning. If I'm happy at his expense, then we aren't really a happy couple. Lets change that to happy spouse happy house.

We both want to be happy right?

Yes! Life is better that way.

And we have a much greater chance of being successful in life and business and everything else if we are putting each other first!





2.

Assume the best of the other person's intentions.

When someone cuts you off on the road, it's pretty doubtful that they woke up that morning and thought...gee I think I'll be jerk and cut someone off today.

They're probably having a rough day, in a huge hurry; maybe they didn't see you there.

But, we tend to think, hey what a jerk! Even though, maybe, we've actually been that jerk once?! Sometimes we do that in our business relationships too.

Most people don't generally set out to do jerky things, but sometimes we do them. Or sometimes and probably more often, it just comes across that way but it wasn't our intention.

So let's give each other the benefit of the doubt.

Talk it out before assuming we know what they were thinking. This is one I'm still working on.

We all need something to work on right? ;-)





3.

Treat them with as much or more respect than everyone else.

It's true that we tend to take things out on the people we love the very most.

Why do we do that?!

Probably because they are our safe place. They are comfortable. They'll love us no matter what (they have to, right?!). And so, we do the unthinkable...we let our ugly hang out!

This gets so sticky if you and your loved one are trying to build a business together. There is a level of professionalism and respect that you need in the work place to get things done and to feel like you're accomplishing something.

Respect your partner's strengths, and more importantly, respect your partner's weaknesses.

They aren't perfect (and guess what...neither are you!)

RESPECT



4. Take time out for fun!

All work and no play makes...well, you know.

Who wants to be dull?!

It really is so important to have fun together. It releases the happy endorphins that cause you to feel more positively about one another, and it clears your mind so that you are re-energized when it's time to get back to work.

Our calendar is blocked out every Friday morning for fun.

Sometimes it's as simple as going to our favorite pancake house.

Sometimes it's finding new paddle boarding spots.

But regardless, we can both look forward to something fun on Friday mornings...together.





5. Define your roles

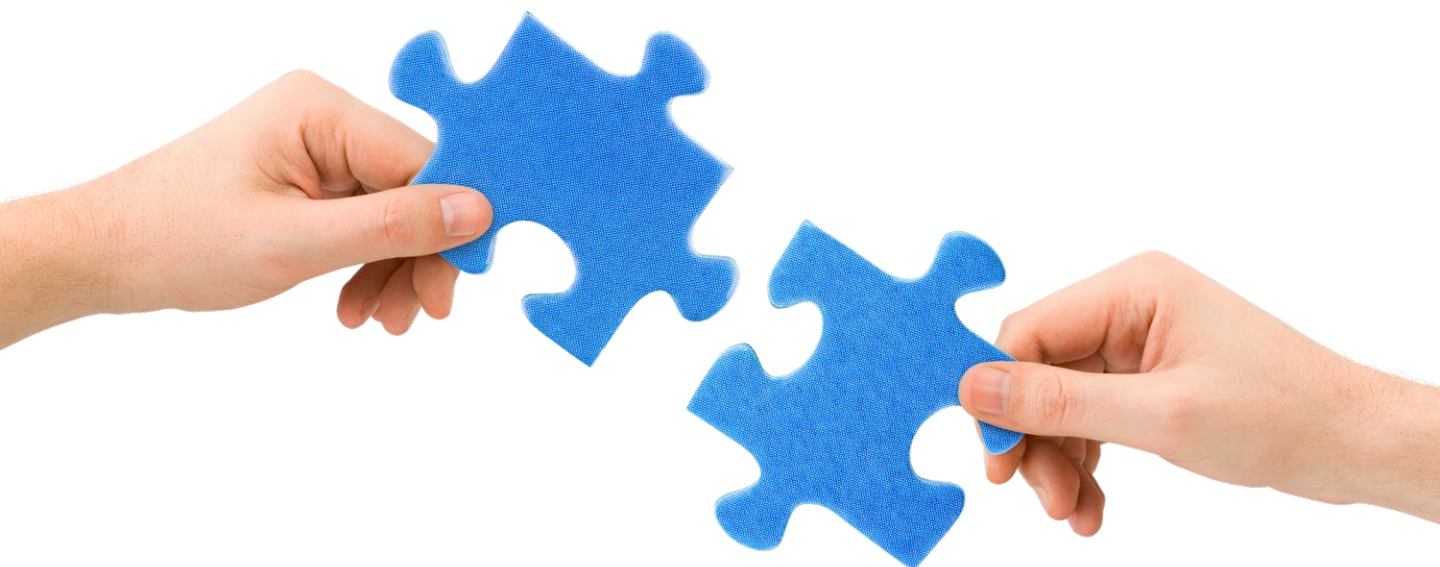
Define your roles!

Yes, I had to say it again.

Everyone needs to know what they are doing. What is expected of them. Otherwise we flounder.

Floundering does not equate to success. Take time to think about what your strengths are in your business. What are the things you want to be doing. What are the things you want or need someone else to do? Then write out a clear description of your roles and make sure you're both on the same page.

We can't do what we don't know is expected of us. *(If you're not sure what you're good at, take a strengths finder test!)





6.

Hire someone to do the minimum wage tasks *(or the things you just suck at)*

This was the single best thing we have ever done in our business!!

We both resented and disliked doing all the paper work tasks, however these tasks are absolutely essential. But guess what?! It's not essential that YOU be the one to do them! Doug and I are both terrible at bookkeeping.

We're capable of doing it, but we hate it, and it is not our gifting. So that was our first hire.

I can't tell you what a burden was lifted. Next, we hired an assistant. This has freed us up more than we could have imagined.

We have been able to focus on growing the business. We've been able to travel without stress, knowing that things are being taken care of. We have been able to do way more deals.

The best part is, we have more free time.

As long as you hire someone you can trust, that is hardworking, and you train them well, you won't regret it!





7.

Don't throw each other under the bus in front of others.

Stand united!

Have each other's back. You need to trust that your spouse or business partner will never talk negatively about you and vice versa.

Not in front of an employee, a contractor, a money lender.

No one. Never.

It dilutes your strength as a team, it makes you both look weak, and it ultimately ruins your relationship.

Stand united!





8. Be each other's Cheering squad.

I've been a runner for most of my life.

In high school the 800 was my race. It's the hardest one by most people's standard. It's pretty much a long distance sprint. The most challenging point in that race is on the backstretch of the track when you're the farthest away from the stands of people. Your encouragers. Thankfully I had my dad...and my dad was loud! I could hear his cheers even on the backstretch where there was no one else to cheer me on.

It kept me going, and was probably the reason for some wins. We all need encouragers to keep us going in the backstretch. To keep us motivated. My mom also happens to be pretty fantastic. She's always told me to treat people like they ARE who you hope they will become, and they will become it.

When business gets tough (because it will), tell your spouse how awesome they ARE and that they CAN do it!

And guess what?!

They just might!





9. No business at the dinner table

Ann Voskamp said in her book *One Thousand Gifts* that we will be remembered for what brings us the most joy in life.

I love that!!

When we sit down to eat with our kids, the phones get put away, and the business conversations get put on hold. They know that, for that time period, they have our full attention. Go ahead...tell me all the crazy weird stories of your day. I want to know it all! I want our kids to know that they brought me the most joy in life, not business or money. I want my husband to know that he brings me more joy than those things too. And while this is not the only time we give each other focused attention, it's one we can all count on.

So, we put a pin in it, and enjoy each other, and eat!





10. Listen as much as you speak

The funny thing is...when your mouth is moving, your ears don't really work.

We've all heard the saying 2 ears 1 mouth.... So, this one is pretty self-explanatory.

Listen.

And by listen, I mean hear...and take it in. If you are planning out your next statement in your head while the other person is still talking, than you're not listening. In order to feel valued we all need to be heard.

And in business, in order stay motivated, we all need to feel valued.

So listen.





11. Always be Grateful

Our days will often be filled with stress and difficult things. So, end your day (or begin it) by reminding yourself of all the good things in your life. There have actually been several studies done proving that people who keep a gratitude journal have significant positive effects on their life physically, psychologically, and socially.

According to Robert Emmons a leading scientific expert on gratitude, these are the many benefits:

Physical

- Stronger immune systems
- Less bothered by aches and pains
- Lower blood pressure
- Exercise more and take better care of their health
- Sleep longer and feel more refreshed upon waking

Psychological

- Higher levels of positive emotions
- More alert, alive, and awake
- More joy and pleasure
- More optimism and happiness

Social

- More helpful, generous, and compassionate
- More forgiving
- More outgoing
- Feel less lonely and isolated.



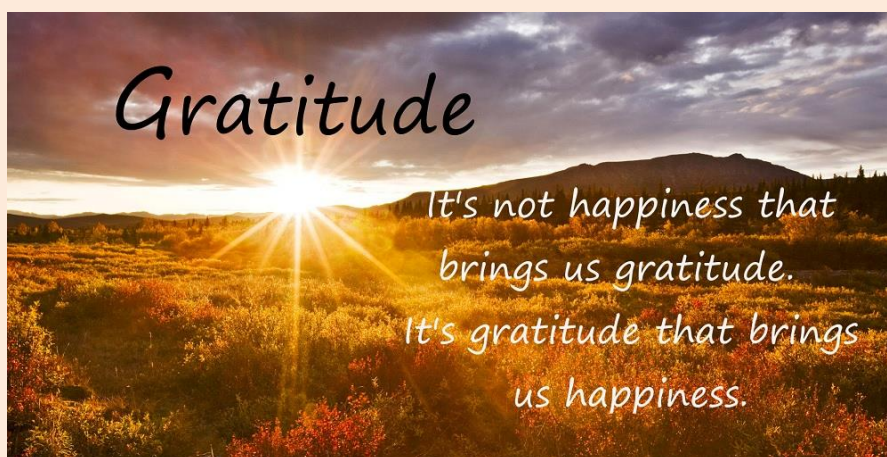


11 tips to working successfully with your spouse

This might be challenging for those 'glass half empty' people, but force yourself to look for the good.

Find things to be thankful for.

It will only get easier, and pretty soon your glass will look much fuller!!





Print this Page to Cutout Your Bookmarks

11 TIPS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR SPOUSE

1. Put your Relationship First
2. Assume the Best of the Other Persons Intentions
3. Treat them with as much or more respect than everyone else.
4. Take time out for fun!
5. Define your roles
6. Hire someone to do the minimum wage tasks (or the things you just suck at)
7. Don't throw each other under the bus in front of others.
8. Be each other's Cheering squad.
9. No business at the dinner table
10. Listen as much as you speak
11. Always be Grateful



11 TIPS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR SPOUSE

1. Put your Relationship First
2. Assume the Best of the Other Persons Intentions
3. Treat them with as much or more respect than everyone else.
4. Take time out for fun!
5. Define your roles
6. Hire someone to do the minimum wage tasks (or the things you just suck at)
7. Don't throw each other under the bus in front of others.
8. Be each other's Cheering squad.
9. No business at the dinner table
10. Listen as much as you speak
11. Always be Grateful

