

Somebody Shoulda Told Me

By Remon & Candace Tuck

Somebody Shoulda Told Me that the expectations you have for your marriage or spouse will surely change from the day you got married. It will change because of trials, unexpected experiences, individual growth, and the directions in which you want your marriage to go. SSTM that it is okay to veer off the path of traditional expectations to a unique path that works for you and yours. When you grow together, you will begin to recognize and accept one other's strengths and weaknesses. It's okay for the woman to be the handy "woman" around the house and there is nothing wrong with the husband being the chef of the family. The key is to figure out what works for your marriage, be confident in that decision, and defend your union in the presence of those that speak against the culture of your home.

Somebody Shoulda Told Me that your expectations should be discussed in detail BEFORE you get married. This is a serious conversation that you must have prior to standing at the altar. You might want to have it while you're dating so you can decide if you even want to be engaged to this person. And when we say in detail, we mean *in detail*. What are your expectations when it comes to MONEY? What are your expectations when it comes to FAMILY? What are your expectations for the ROLES each person plays? What are your expectations when it comes to your DREAMS? What are your expectations when it comes to SEX? The older you get your expectations may change. You may add some but you very well may take away from the list. With age comes wisdom and a new mindset is formed.

Somebody Shoulda Told Me that you should have expectations for your spouse. You must have standards. You should not feel guilty for the things you would like and expect to see. BUT, you must be willing to compromise if necessary. Be willing to come to a happy medium about certain things.

Somebody Shoulda Told Me that your spouse may not be able to meet all your expectations on a daily basis throughout the years of your marriage and vice versa. And when your spouse informs you of an expectation you don't feel you are able or willing to do, you must communicate your hesitation or reserve about it. Do not allow your pride to prevent you from communicating with your spouse your feelings toward their expectations of you. It is best to get out in front of the situation instead of not doing it, not communicating that you didn't feel comfortable or capable of doing it, and allowing the hurt to fester in your hubby/wife. The lack of communication can slowly kill a marriage. And communicating with your best friend, the person you are the most intimate with, can be hard at times but you must do it.