

WISDOM SESSION

Shared Responsibility

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

- Fred Rogers

When I was in college, my roommate and I split the housekeeping duties. As the months rolled by, I got really steamed because I felt I was doing most of the work and my roommate was shirking. Finally, I couldn’t take it anymore.

“Steve!” I exploded. “You are taking advantage of our relationship. I’m the only one who ever changes the empty roll of toilet paper. I always have to do the vacuuming, and you hardly ever wash the dishes.”

“Me?” came his surprised yelp. “Why, you’re the one who isn’t pulling his fair share of the load. I’m the only one who ever mops the kitchen floor, and you have *never* taken out the garbage!”

We looked at each other in astonishment, and suddenly it dawned on both of us at the same time - we each remembered all the good things we did and forgot all the tasks we let slip through the cracks. We both inventoried the other’s shortcomings and our own strengths. What an important lesson.

We decided if we were going to be successful roommates, we needed to make the relationship 90/10, *both ways*. In other words, we realized if we both felt like we were giving 90 percent and only receiving 10 percent, then we would probably end up about fifty-fifty.

Abusing our mate’s right to have help with family chores and duties can grate on a marriage. Marriages break down without cooperation. As one wife told her husband, “They named a street after you.”

“Oh yeah. What’s that?” he asked.

“One Way,” she said.

Our marriages will work much better if we apply, by mutual agreement with our wivews, the principle of 90-10, both ways. Why? Because our human nature is to remember all the good things we did for her, and how she let us down.

- Ten Secrets

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.” - Ecclesiastes 9:10

STA - SeeK To Understand And not be Understood

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David Trent believes that wisdom comes from continually seeking to learn and grow through relationships and reading, which leads to personal development. In an effort to inspire learning in others, David Trent sends out weekly Wisdom Sessions. He recommends purchasing and reading any book source used in these Wisdom Sessions.