



AXIOMS AND IDEAS ON MARRIED GROWTH

To live is to grow. Growth is the only evidence of life. Our gardens grow and so do we. Growing together is what love is all about. Let yourself grow. Grow as persons, grow as a couple, grow as a family.

Love is a Divine seed. If your marriage is not being born everyday, it is dying.

Growing relationships don't just happen, they are made day-by-day.

To keep a fire burning brightly, there is one easy rule: keep the two logs together, near enough to keep each other warm and far enough apart for breathing room.

Home is the place to learn to grow. Home is the best garden. Home is the basic environment. Home is the place to grow best as persons as well as a couple, as a family. If you want to grow well, center your life on your home.

Under normal circumstances, married couples are to start together in their marriages "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do them part."

Togetherness implies a willingness to accept one another's deficiencies, to help and sup-

port each other's weaknesses, to share and enrich one another with our personal strengths. This, as you well know, is not always easy. It requires the investment of our time, energy, effort and sacrifice from both partners. That is why the axiom "happiness doesn't just happen, you must work for it" is true.

If one partner isn't cooperative (and that is a reality in marriages), what can be done? In my experiences, I would say that the only way to motivate and to help the unwillingness of your partner is that you take the first step, starting by a deep and honest self-encounter to discover in yourself the possible roots of your partner's lack of cooperation in working on your relationship.

Second, recognize your own faults and deficiencies and ask your spouse for forgiveness for them.

Third, encourage your partner to share some quality that they have and you really need to become a more complete person.

Fourth, evaluate, recognize and praise each of the efforts your partner makes, even those efforts which are starters and small. Pray to God with confidence for yourself and your partner every day.



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