



Dear Barry,

I am retired and my partner is still working. I have a lot more assets than he does and recently he has needed to borrow \$5000. He has always paid me back in the past but he is now over his head and I am not sure he will be able to pay me in a timely manner. I love him but this is putting a huge stress on our relationship. The money he borrowed is for car repairs, health issues and family matters. He did not just go out and blow through his money. I am starting to feel like I am supporting him and it has affected our sex life...in a bad way. Both of us are depressed over this. What can we or should we do?

Signed "Money Does Matter"

Dear Money Does Matter,

Look at the bigger picture. He obviously feels bad about having to borrow money. Differences in financial situations in a relationship can be challenging. It takes communication and understanding to work through. I am sure your partner is struggling with his confidence and self worth. Many men judge their value by the success of their career and financial solvency.

A relationship is about love, trust, honesty, emotional support and sometimes financial support. You're a family unit now, and a family hopefully takes care of each other when times get tough. I get the sense that you have a healthy relationship. Your partner sounds like a responsible person. It's just life issues have come up. I would ask yourself a question, if the roles were reversed, or if you got sick, what would your partner do? My guess is, he would be there for you 100% and not expect anything in return. Trust that he will pay you back as he has in the past. He needs some time to catch up and then you both should work out a payment plan.

Statistics show that money issues are the most common reasons for breaking up. Your partner needs to accept your kindness. Help him to know how much he brings to your life. One cannot put a price tag on that. It is truly priceless.