Making Marriage: Some Key Ingredients for a More Successful Union
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Before entering into my own marriage on October 17, 2015, I wanted to discover the factors of what makes a successful marriage to help prevent becoming part of the 50% divorce statistic. When divorce can range anywhere from $15,000-$30,000, why would anyone want to leave their spouse?

**Finances**
Essentially the biggest threat is a marriage in finances. Living on a tight budget and money will start to cause tension in a marriage. Typically, this partner running the most money likes to control spending too.

- Money spent before the wedding can affect decision for the divorce.
- Men who spend between $2,000 and $4,000 on engagement rings are more likely to divorce.
- Brides whose weddings cost $20,000 or more have been found to be 3.5 times more likely to divorce than women who spent from $5,000 to $10,000.

**Top Three Reasons for Divorce**

| Age | Finances, age, and education correlate with one another. The more education a person has, the older they will be when they get married and the more likely they will find a job to stabilize their finances. |

| Education | The more education a couple have, the more likely they will remain married. When couples receive an education, they often wait until after graduation to get married. |

**How Race/Ethnicity Affect Marriage**

- African Americans are more likely to divorce than Hispanics and whites while Asians and Pacific Islanders are the least likely to divorce.

**Other Factors**

- Less people marrying and more couples cohabitating. When a cohabitating couple separates it is more likely to divorce.
- Couples who cohabitate are more likely to divorce than couples who marry in a religious ceremony. People who live in a religious ceremony are less likely to divorce.

Be sensitive to how the other one feels and be willing to give and take and always be supportive – Mary Hornback