Making Marriage: Some Key Ingredients for a More Successful Union

By Caitlin Davis Hornback Sponsoring Dr. Dianne Dentice

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 to a marriage is finances. Living on a tight budget and not having enough cash on hand is a marriage. Typically, this problem is solved because of control over income. Many couples have their income going to one source that is cut off in a marriage.

Money spent before the wedding can affect on behavior for the divorce:
- Men who spend between $2,000 and $4,000 on engagement rings are more likely to have a successful marriage.
- Brides whose weddings cost $20,000 or more have been found to be 3.5 times more likely to get divorced.
- The average cost of a US wedding is $30,000.
- College educated women have an eight to ten chance of still being married after 20 years. But among women who have a high school education or less, the share is only 40%.

Top Three Reasons for Divorce

Age

The older a couple is when they enter into their first marriage, the more likely they will stay together.

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.

How Race/Ethnicity Affect Marriage

Many people consider the 150s to be the “good old days” due to more marriages staying intact, but is that really the case?

Today, the divorce rate is roughly 50% but that has steadily declined. This trend can be attributed to keeping people marrying and more marriages sustaining. When a couple chooses to separate, it is more difficult to record the data. Although more people remained married during the 1950s that does not necessarily mean they were happier. Divorce was seen as immoral, so even when domestic abuse was involved, remaining unhappy was better than divorce.

To better understand the factors that affect marriage I interviewed five individuals. The interviewees include a local divorce lawyer, a minister who has dealt with marriage counseling and wedding ceremonies, as well as my husband’s paternal grandmother and my maternal grandparents. (All sets of grandparents have been married for over 50 years)

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Education

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Other Factors

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