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 to a marriage is finances. Living on a tight budget and saving, and still being able to live in a marriage. Typically, this factor ruins the most money in a marriage. Spending.

Money spent before the wedding can also be an indicator for divorce.

- Men who spend between $2,000 and $4,000 on engagement rings are more likely to divorce than women who spent from $5,000 to $10,000.
- 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.

**Top Three Reasons for Divorce**

1. **Age**
   - The older a couple is when they enter in their first marriage, the more likely they will stay together.
   - A study done by Nick Weibling says the best age to get married is between 28 and 32.
2. **Money spent before the wedding**
   - What would you tell a young couple today who is getting married out of fear of penalization of welfare?
   - Money spent before the wedding can also be an indicator for divorce.
   - Men are more likely to divorce than women who spent from $5,000 to $10,000.
3. **Education**
   - College educated women have an eight in ten chance of still being married after two decades.
   - The more education a couple has, 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 white Americans. African Americans are the least likely to divorce.

- The more times a person marries the less likely they are to divorce.
- Having more kids but a low prestige job and going on a vacation together is a big marriage.
- Having short marriages and working in a factory of marriages is more devastating.

**Other Factors**

- Couples who are closer in their race are more likely to divorce than those who are far apart in their race.
- People who live in a red state are 44% more likely to divorce than those living in a blue state.
- 81% of college graduates who married for the first time between 2006 and 2010 could expect their marriages to last 32 years. But among women who have a high school education or less, the share is only 40%.

Many people consider the 1950s 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 many marriages lasting longer. When a catalyzing separate is it 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 dealing with marriage counseling and performing wedding ceremonies, as well as my husband’s maternal grandmother and my maternal grandparents. (All sets of grandparents have been married for over 50 years)

**Attorney**

In your opinion, what factors contribute to the high divorce rate?

There is a number of factors but the biggest for divorce I think are the lack of communication and the lack of commitment to the marriage. There’s no more marriage counseling at the end of the line, there is times that more marriage than broken or less.

**Minister & Vernon**

What would you tell a young couple today who is getting married?

- For your wife, share from and you must do the same with your partner.
- Check your partner's credit score.

**Map**

What was your dream destination when you married?

- We both knew we wanted to move to Texas.

**Pastor Mark**

What were your expectations for your marriage?

- We had a really great relationship.

- We thought the relationship between us was great.

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