

*What Are the Two biggest problems in marriage?*  
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Field Marshall Montgomery speaking to a group of soldiers said, “**Gentlemen don’t even think about getting married until you have mastered the art of warfare.**”

- Percentage of married people who reach their 5th, 10th, and 15th anniversaries:
  - 5th: 82%
  - 10th: 65%
  - 15th: 52%
- Percentage of married people who reach their 25th, 35th, and 50th anniversaries:
  - 25th: 33%
  - 35th: 20%
  - 50th: 5%

Marriage is irrelevant = 40%

- \* From 1970 to 1996, the percentage of cohabiting couples rose 412%

Ignorance

Illustration: Question regarding a sport or hobby, etc. What are two or three things that are essential or very helpful that other people (especially those not heavily involved) may not know?

How or why do you know that?

How do you make a marriage work? Maybe a better question would be - how do you work to make a marriage? As with any worthwhile endeavor work is the factor that is most vital to success. However, in marriage we often expect success with very little effort.

Many times troubles result purely from ignorance. It is not that a husband or wife wants to bring hurt or harm on purpose, they just didn’t **know** that it meant so much to their spouse for them to do or not to do a certain thing.

A long time ago God spoke through His prophet saying, “*My people are destroyed for lack of **KNOWLEDGE**. Because you have **REJECTED** knowledge I also will **REJECT** you...*”  
Hosea 4:6

How Much Effort Am I Willing To Put Into Learning & Applying The Things That Would Make Me A Better Spouse?

Although our ignorance is often our downfall, it is not generally the largest problem we face in our marriage. We often know what to do and still do not do it. **That is not Ignorance—that is Foolishness!** What would cause such foolishness in our marriage? The same thing that causes foolishness in any area of our lives...

Now, not everyone has this problem to the same degree, yet everyone faces it – for it is the basis of almost every sin.

*“Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*  
**(1 John 2:15-17)**

*Selfishness is the greatest single enemy of a happy marriage. It is the root of all other sins. When I am at the center of my world I am out of place and my world is out of balance.*

#### *Steps To Overcoming Selfishness In Marriage*

- \* **Practice The DEATH Principle**  
**Galatians 2:20**
  
- \* **Make The RIGHT CHOICE**  
**Matthew 6:24**

#### **Serve God By Serving Your Spouse**

“Exceptional spouses do not sit around waiting for an invitation to serve. They make themselves aware of the jobs that need to be done and they seek out opportunities to do them – eagerly and cheerfully.” - Gregory Popcak – *The Exceptional Seven Percent*

- \* **Go IMITATE The LORD**  
**John 13:13-17**

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?”  
**James 4:12**