

THE DATING GAME

DATING AND MARRIAGE TRENDS.

- Marriages today are more stable.
- Divorce rates have steadily declined since the 1980s.
- In 2020, 4 of 10 adults ages 25 to 54 (38%) were unpartnered.
- Up sharply from 29% in 1990 & 9% in 1970.

WHY IS MARRIAGE LESS POPULAR TODAY.

- ✓ People have seen disastrous examples in their families.
- ✓ Women economic independence.
- ✓ More couples are living together outside of marriage.
- ✓ Public opinion about marriage has changed in the last 50 years.
- ✓ More people are saying they never want to get married.

THE CONCEPT OF DATING HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS.

- It was a family decision.
- A personal decision with family blessing.
- A personal decision with no parental blessing.

LIVING TOGETHER

- ❖ 33% of people who live together have a higher chance of divorcing,
- ❖ 30% of those living together before marriage will eventually marry each other.

WHY ARE MORE PEOPLE CHOOSING TO LIVE TOGETHER?

- It's cheaper.
- It provides some sense of what it's like to live together.
- One person may not satisfy you for the rest of your life.
- The social stigma is disappearing.

WHAT NEVER MARRIED PEOPLE WANT IN A SPOUSE.

- 78% of never married women said they wanted someone who has a steady job.

- 62% of never-married men, said they would choose someone who shares their ideas about raising children.
- Never-married adults—whether male or female—place a much lower priority on finding a partner who shares their moral and religious beliefs, has a similar educational background or comes from the same racial or ethnic background.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DATING.

1. Often the decision to marry is made way to quickly. One of the purposes of dating is to get to know the other person.
2. The decision to marry is made at too young of an age. So grow up first then find a partner that is grown up and mature.
3. People get marriage fever. So don't be in a hurry, be a healthy, well-rounded individual and find a healthy person with which you can relate and hopefully share the rest of your life with.
4. Many couples prematurely get married to please parents and peers. So don't get married to please other people, get married because you are ready, you are the right person, and have found the right person.
5. People get married and really don't know each other. So make sure you know who you are marrying.
6. Couples have unrealistic expectations of marriage or uncommunicated expectations. So plan your marriage more than you plan your wedding.

Here are examples of some unrealistic expectations:

- Your spouse is responsible for your happiness. ...
 - Your spouse will complete you. ...
 - The person you married will never change. ...
 - Your spouse's life should revolve around you. ...
 - All of your time should be spent together. ...
 - Your way is the right way.
7. In the courtship and selection process, personality or behavioral issues are not addressed.