



Marriage: Communication and Money

Money can be a major source of conflict for couples. Most marriage experts agree that financial problems cause disagreements among married couples, which in turn, can lead to a greater risk of divorce.

Couples who have great relationships have money problems too. These couples, however, have learned that open and honest communication about money results in better decisions being made and a happier marriage.

Communication Rules for talking about money:

1. Couples need to make decisions about money together

Get away from the distractions of your busy lives and focus on the choices you have. Couples will be more pleased with decisions that involved both of their input and ideas.

2. Listen to each other

It doesn't matter if one spouse earns all the money; both spouses have earned the right to be heard in financial discussions. The saying that "two heads are better than one" could not be truer when it comes to financial decisions. Listen to your spouse; it will save your family a lot of money.

3. Don't confuse the issue

Talking about money is hard enough without bringing other problems into the conversation. If the issue is buying a car, don't get sidetracked talking about personal driving habits, how to keep the car clean, or parking tickets. How much you can afford to spend each month, how to save for or finance the car, and types of cars that fit in your budget are topics to fully discuss.

4. Negotiate an agreement

Couples must agree on spending limits and common financial concerns. Many times these agreements involve compromise. The beauty of having family financial agreements is that miscommunication and problems are minimized. If something new comes up—talk and negotiate a new agreement.

5. Talk about everything

There is no money matter too big or too small. If there is any question about a purchase or a banking matter, your spouse is just a cell phone call away. Most financial decisions can wait until couples are on the same page and can make an informed, wise decision together.

Couples who spend the time to talk about money with each other and have agreed on how they will handle money are well on their way to a great marriage.