

8 Expectations for a Great Marriage

In marriage, knowing what to expect is half the battle! So, here are some things you should expect in marriage. Now some of them may sound negative, but they aren't meant to be. We just need to be prepared that challenges will likely arise. When they do, it doesn't mean it's the end of the world, or your marriage.

1. Expect Conflict. Conflict will happen, and that's okay, *if* you handle conflict in a loving, mature way.

2. Expect Delays. Planning for your future is a great thing to do as a couple, just understand that things don't always arrive on schedule – not babies, not raises, not health problems, not the sitter!

3. Expect Disappointments. File this in the, "you're both only human" category. Your spouse will not be the answer to all of your problems. Your spouse won't be a mind reader or anticipate all of your needs. Be prepared to forgive.

4. Expect to be annoyed. What was once appealing is now annoying. Be ready for that habit of his or hers you found so adorable while you were dating, to become annoying. But remember this, there are things you're doing that are likely annoying your spouse too. Cut them some slack and continually focus on their good qualities. If you just can't overlook what's bothering you, talk about it in a loving, kind way.

5. Expect to think you're doing more. You might feel like you're doing more dishes, more laundry, more bedtime reading with the kids, more yard work, more taking the garbage

out. You get the idea. When you start feeling put out and put upon, take some time to assess the situation. Then, instead of attacking your spouse and demanding more help, sit down and calmly express your desire to do your jobs well, and ask for help.

6. Expect to disagree with some of your spouse's decisions. Just because you are "one" in marriage, doesn't mean you will agree on everything. And, guess what? That's okay. Respect your spouse's right to have a different opinion than you. Don't shoot down ideas automatically. There is more than one way to get the job done.

7. Expect not to be attracted to your spouse. This may never happen to you. You might go through your entire marriage with the hots for your mate. But if, at some point, you're just not that into your spouse, pray that you will have a loving heart. Also, look beyond the physical or lack of chemistry and fall in love with what's good about your spouse.

8. Expect to be with your spouse until the end. This is a mental safety net. Even when you're furious or extremely disappointed with your spouse, you will not think of leaving. You can't, remember? You're with your spouse until the end. This expectation also helps you realize that you might as well make your marriage as good as it can be, because you are in it for the long haul.

From a list by Mark Merrill. Subscribe to his daily family encouraging e-mail at www.familyfirst.com



RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

Your marriage can be one of your life's most rewarding relationships!

It's a challenge to build a strong, God-honoring relationship. But so worthwhile! Whatever your age, whether dating, engaged, or married, there's a class or seminar for you.

DATE NIGHT PDX
Presents a hilarious evening for couples featuring
Kristin & Danny Adams | Ted Cunningham

DATENIGHT COMEDY

Saturday, July 20, 2019 | 6:00 PM Tickets available online at www.DateNightPDX.org
Rolling Hills Community Church 3550 SW Borland Rd. Tualatin, OR \$20.00/person online (\$25.00 at the door)

Level-Up Your Marriage Taking a moment to reflect on your marriage, it's like looking in a rearview mirror! There are Blissful Horizons and Sunsets that have brought joy. Your journey of marriage may have regrets and ignored detours that could have led to great adventures. Often what are seen in reflections are Ten-Car Pileups, and missed Rest Stops. Stop the hectic drive of family life for a period of refueling Join Gil and Brenda Stuart as they challenge and encourage you. Jun 7-8 in Seattle, WA. Details at www.RestoredandRemarried.com

Adventurous Life Parenting Retreat Take a two-day break away from the chaos of activities, practices, and games. Focus on how you want to raise your kids without them there to distract you. You will have fun while learning and reflecting on your parenting style and developing a vision for your children,. You will be "retreating" with up to 9 other couples or single parents and will have opportunities to build community in this adventure called parenting. June 20-22 at Estacada. Details www.AdventurousLife.net

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Every Marriage Matters

Advocates for Healthy Marriage

Check out additional resources at www.EveryMarriageMatters.org