

after i do and before i won't

top 4 reasons marriage fails

When a couple stands before God in front of their family and friends and exchanges vows to spend their lives together through better and worse, neither one expects when the worse comes it will be the end. If that were the case, couples wouldn't promise to spend the rest of their lives together at the exclusion of everyone else. Things don't go from magical to irreconcilable overnight. Often there are long periods of tolerance and complacency, usually ending in divorce court. Couples just don't wake up in love and blissfully happy one minute and wishing the other was gone the next. Between the magic and the marital end, there are generally warning signs throughout the marriage that changes must be made before permanent changes are undeniable.

No communication. Couples go from speaking several times a day about nothing in particular during dating, to not at all about something important in the marriage. Lack of communication (excluding criticism and nagging) is not only unhealthy in a marriage, but it could be a sign there are issues that need to be addressed, i.e. communicated. Partners need to know that they are still needed and wanted in more ways than just raising kids or bringing home a paycheck. Matters of concern are best when dealt frequently as they occur rather than all at once after building up over time with resentment. Besides, it is much



more effective and strategic to timely talk about one thing at a time if there is any hope of change.

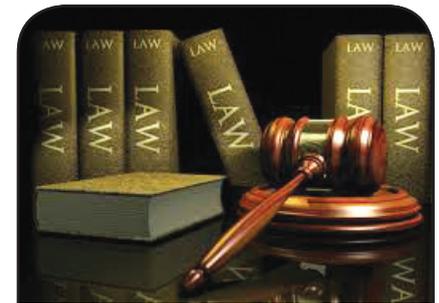
No intimacy. A lack of intimacy is often a signal the marriage may be in trouble. The benefit or obligation of marriage is sex with one partner period. Like courtship communication, couples can't always keep the same frequency of sexual contact especially when there are kids, jobs and the task of staying up late or getting up early is not a viable option. However, sex still needs to happen on some regular occurrence not just limited to birthdays or special occasions. Intimacy is more than just sex, it is kissing, hand holding, exchanging words of love, note writing...all the ways a partner knows they are still "the one."

No time together. Spending as much time together enjoying the other's interests happens during the dating phase. At some point in the

marriage, partners start pursuing their own interests in exchange for time together. A honeymoon is specifically an event created where couples spend all the time they can with each other without interruption or third party. Every couple needs to have a regular "honeymoon" even if it is at home on the couch, without interruption or third party-communication and intimacy should be involved.

No compromise. At some point partners may go from wanting whatever their partner wants to wanting only what they want. All the indecisions early on were likely because the partners simultaneously wanted whatever the other partner wanted. No one is right every single time and no one deserves to get what they want every single time. A marriage is built on give and take and the same partner cannot always be the giver or the taker.

As long as there is love, desire and a wanting partner, a marriage can be saved. It may take time, change, additional resources or the exclusion of outside influences, but as long as there is a willing heart, there is a way.



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