

“Marriage Business – Is it Love or Trust”

Written by Todd Fountaine

Someone asked me not long ago, what was my opinion on marriage. I told them it was a good decision to marry **if one has found the person they could trust**. They looked at me very strange and said in a very stern voice, "**Marriage is about love and commitment**". I replied that marriage is not looked at for what it really is. Marriage is a binding contract. Two people enter a legal civil union with rules and laws that vary from state to state. I think people are so caught up in the ceremonial aspect of the wedding that they forget the meaningful functions of a marriage. Shared health care benefits, social security, and legal beneficiary rights are some of the positive components of a legal union. I also feel that you should trust the person you marry more than you should love them. Here's why: The two people will become liable for one another, this should be a matter of concern. I have had people tell me stories about their parents and grandparents staying married for 35 to 50 years because of love. I don't believe its because of love, but more out of fear. Especially in the woman's case. Back in the days the dynamic of a marriage was very different from what it is today. A woman's role in the household was that of a mother to the children, and almost a servant to her husband. She did not work and in some cases had little or no employable skills other than cleaning and cooking. If the husband treated her bad or ran around with other women she had few options in terms of leaving him. What man would take in a woman and her children after her divorce? She could not afford to leave her husband. In addition to financial woes forcing her to stay, she would be scrutinized by her religious faith and be an outcast amongst her peers. Most times these long marriages you hear about are the result of women being afraid to leave rather than loving to stay. Women back in the days took a blind eye to the same things that women of today get divorced over. What usually happened is that the husband and wife would sleep in separate beds or rooms and would act as if everything was good. He would have a side woman and she would have a side man. They would still respect the household and not bring their outside affairs to the home. Nevertheless, it would be infidelity. To all the outsiders everything would seem intact.

In today's society the marriage vows reflect the prenuptial agreement not the sanctity of the union. It's sad that some people only realize the real meaning of marriage in the event of a divorce. They started in the church but ended in the lawyers office filling out paperwork and trying to get or protect what they think they should have. Where is the love then? In conclusion I will say this. Marry with your mind first and your heart second because people grow apart sometimes and you should want to make the best choice for your mate. Love can be a trick but trust will make it stick.

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