



February 2019

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Recommended Citation

Sandusky, Caleb (2019) "Necessary?," *SWOSU Sayre Student Anthology*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 28.
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology/vol1/iss1/28

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Necessary?

Caleb Sandusky

The current divorce rate in America is estimated at between forty-one and fifty percent. Why is it that so many people have problems finding a compatible person to marry? It seems for many that once they realize they lack compatibility it is easier to just divorce and search for a new mate, but what are the main reasons people see as such insurmountable obstacles that they lead to divorce? Marriage is like an engine, to keep it running well it takes work, and sometimes it needs a little oil. While every marriage has its own set of unique hindrances which work against each other, it seems that in many marriages three common problems are money, non-compatibility, and infidelity.

A common source of stress for many people, individuals as well as couples, is money. In couples this problem is made worse because each person has an opinion of how the money should be allocated and which items are necessary. It can be particularly stressful if one person in the marriage feels that he or she is contributing the majority of the money for "we" items, while the other is spending his or her salary on "me" desires. Whether the problem is strictly a lack of money or differing views on how the available money should be spent, statistics say the money is the main reason for divorce. Money issues start from before a couple even says "I do." Couples may be responsible for paying for the wedding and everything involved. They must then decide where they will live and what items are necessary for them to set up an acceptable living area. If the couple disagrees about what price range is best for these items, or one person feels the other is spending unnecessary items, it can instantly lead to feelings of resentment. When children come into the picture, they can add to the financial strain. A child costs thousands of dollars to raise, and if a marriage is already struggling, the strain of children can lead to financial crisis.

While money is many times a leading cause of divorce, more and more these days we see that people are just getting married too quickly. People today jump into marriage at the first sign that they are in love, or at least the talk of marriage. These newlyweds do not know everything about their partners until after they wed. Two people can fall for each other before knowing their small differences that can lead to a horrible cohabitating situation. One may have habits which will not change that make the other person's life miserable on a daily basis. For example, it is extremely difficult for a very tidy person to live with a very messy one. Such basic differences may not be realized before a hasty

marriage, but can have devastating effects on a couple's relationship. If couples would take the time to fully know their partner before jumping into marriage, perhaps at least some undesirable surprises could be avoided.

Many people jump into marriage too quickly, and then others are just not committed. Infidelity is a huge problem with couples today. Everyone knows someone that has either cheated on their spouse or been cheated on by their spouse. Having a single partner is what marriage is about; if a person is going elsewhere to fulfill needs or fantasies that person should not have made a commitment. Once these betrayals are found out, the trust is broken and can never be fully repaired.

Marriage needs to be a trusting relationship, as well as a relationship that communicates well. While some common problems for couples which lead to divorce are easily seen, others may be much more trivial or simply involve a lack of communication between the couple. Divorce is a good thing when there is just no way that a relationship was meant to be, but when it is caused by problems of a single stressful event or the world in general, the divorce might have been unneeded. Keeping a relationship whole and being able to have trust in your partner is half of a healthy marriage, yet so many people find themselves needing a way out because of tribulations that occurred that could have been avoided. For these reasons, couples should be very in-tune with their would-be spouses. Being with the right person can help one weather life's battles; which is a major deciding factor in the strength of marriage.

