

## Would You Marry You? Black America & Marriage

The lack of marriage is becoming an epidemic in the black community. In 1960 over 70 percent of families were headed by married couples. Since then that number has dropped to less than 45 percent. Not only are we as black Americans getting married at a lower rate, but those that are marrying do so at a much later age. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies reports that..... “by the age of 30, 81 percent of White women and 77 percent of Hispanics and Asians will marry, but that only 52 percent of Black women will marry by that age.” It was printed by the Harvard University Press that, “Black children are only half as likely as white children to be living in a two-parent household, and are eight times more likely than white children to live with an unwed mother. For black children under the age of six, “the most common arrangement -- applying to 42 percent of them -- was to live with a never-married mother.” It is important that we address this issue head on in an open forum discussion.

In this PowerPoint based discussion we will go over the state of black marriage as we college students see it. We will also discuss the difference in the statistical upbringing of a child from a household with one parent compared to a child from a married household looking into the likelihood of going to prison, going to college, and getting married themselves. We will also take the time to turn the mirror on ourselves and ask the question, Would You Marry You? We all know that we aren't perfect, but we all also believe in falling in love. With this we will take a gander at the things we do on a consistent basis and the things we believe in and ask would we like for our partner to do the same thing. It can vary from having close friends of the opposite sex to staying out late partying. We should ask ourselves though we don't mind when we do it “would I really want my partner doing that?” With this discussion we would not only leave better informed on the state of black marriage in America, but we will leave with a better idea about how it can be improved.