WHAT ARE YOU PREPARING FOR, A ONE DAY EVENT OR A LIFE OF DEBT? Looking good for one day. BY BRIDGETTE MARYLAND

WHY DO SOME COUPLES SPEND SO MUCH MONEY, TIME, AND PREPARATION FOR A WEDDING AND LESS TIME PRE-PARING FOR THE MARRIAGE?

Statistics reveal money is a major cause for divorces. Saving money is a vital topic for couples and many are unfocused on financial planning before wedlock. Both are to initiate preparation for future finances and those not concentrating on their spending will wonder where all their money went. They initiate financial problems before saying "I do" and bring all of the chaos into the marriage, which develops into additional problems. A marriage should begin problem free.

It's not wise to spend for example, \$200,000 on a wedding when you and your fiancée only make a combined \$60,000 income. What is the purpose for spending that amount of money on the occasion - a one day event? How will spending money that neither of you have to spare and could go towards more important things, benefit your marriage? Why let a one day occasion possibly cause you debt throughout the marriage?

Back in the old days the bride's father usually took on the responsibility. But let's be realistic, many parents aren't able to take on the responsibility of paying for a wedding, especially one that's out of their budget? Should parents go broke just for a wedding?

Love is not a show off. Having an expensive wedding does not mean you will have the best marriage. Think about many grandparents and great grandparents' weddings. Many were simple - held in homes, a courthouse, or an inexpensive church wedding, etc. Yet, their simple weddings developed into 20, 40, 50-plus years of marriage. That's priceless.

Don't worry about if your wedding is as big as or better than the next person. Is that what a wedding is about? Sit back and concentrate on your plans for a good marriage. Don't just focus on looking good for one day.

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