

**Source A:** a blog written by Jennifer Nagy and published in Aug 2012

## Why I Believe Marriage Shouldn't Be Allowed Before Age 26

Age is just a number... except when it comes to marriage. Let's look at my stats:

- ✓ Current age – 29
- ✓ Divorced for - 8 months
- ✓ Separated for - 1 year, 9 months
- ✓ Age when I met my ex – 19
- ✓ Age when I married - 24

Which brings me to my point: couples should not be allowed to get married before age 25.

While I know that this statement is going to make me very unpopular with readers, I do believe that it would be for the best — better both for the institution of marriage and the individuals getting married — if we could change the law to prevent couples from getting married before the age of 25.

In my experience, marriage before 25 was not the smartest idea. I met my ex at the tender young age of 19 (just a few months after my birthday). I was enjoying the freedom of drinking and partying legally for the first time (I live in Canada where the drinking age is 19). I had yet to figure out who I was or what I wanted in my life. I was naïve and impressionable, and when I met my much older ex, I was perfectly happy to let him take control of my life, creating a relationship dynamic that continued for the nine years we were together.

We decided to get married when I was 24. It seemed like the right thing to do at the time because everyone knows that after five years, you should be married or at least engaged, right? It was definitely the message that I was getting from all of our friends. So we took the plunge, getting married on the beach in Miami Beach in front of our friends and family.

That's where the problems began. Once the excitement of planning a beach wedding was over, after the suntan had faded, I was left simply living my life with my husband. Don't get me wrong, I loved him — and a part of me always will. But because we had started dating at such a young age, he was marrying someone who had absolutely no idea who she was and what she wanted in her life. In short, it was a recipe for divorce.

People under the age of 25 are still discovering themselves; they are figuring out what is most important in their lives. They are discovering the joys (and heartache) of being in a relationship and then the partying that often characterizes life between

relationships. They are figuring out what their relationship “deal-breakers” are and who their most appropriate partners would be. While a person may be 100 percent certain that they love something — or someone — at the age of 21, by 29, they will most likely completely change their mind. Life is anything but certain.

My opinions are based solely on my personal experiences and the experiences of the people that I know and have observed. That being said, marriage and divorce statistics do support my claim.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, approximately 60 percent of marriages in which the couple marries between age 17 and 26 will end in divorce.

A scary figure for young lovebirds... but definitely one that validates my opinion.

Who knows? Maybe there are 20-year-olds that get married and stay madly in love for their whole lives. Maybe puppy love can last forever...

Could be.

Maybe there is such thing as fairies and unicorns too.

Just saying...

**Source B:** Article published by 'Christianity Today' Magazine in 1981 by B. McKay

## The Case for Early Marriage

**Amid our purity pledges and attempts to make chastity hip, we forgot to teach young people how to tie the knot.**

In May, Kate and I celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

I was 19 and she was 18 when we got hitched. Kate was in the middle of getting her high school diploma and I was finishing mine. We lived at home with our parents, worked together at a local diner and shared both a car and friends.

I wouldn't have had it any other way — it's been an incredible ten years.

But the relatively young age at which I got married makes me something of an anomaly these days. I remember when my mom found out I was getting hitched before graduating, she looked at me with something akin to horror, and asked, "Why?" She wanted to delay my marriage; telling me all the reasons why I was making a huge mistake... I listened, but I certainly *didn't listen*.

Is delaying marriage always the best path? While getting married young isn't for everyone, there are actually some distinct benefits to doing so, and today we'll talk about what they are.

When it comes to having a happy marriage, lots of people say that getting hitched between the ages of 18 and 25 seems to be the sweet spot. That's just an average, of course. I was recently talking to a single friend in his 30s who was bemoaning the dating scene for folks his age. He said, "When you look at it, if a person is reasonably normal, they've probably had about one semi-serious relationship each year, or every other year, since they've been teenagers. When you get to your thirties, you're carrying more than a decade's worth of break-ups, lingering feelings for past partners, trust issues, and disappointments with you. Everyone you date has got a bunch of baggage." In the bible, couples were with one another from the beginning. God granted them passage to being with one another and who are we to deny thy Lord's wishes?

When you marry young, you and your wife have less exes, old flames, comparisons, and retroactive jealousy of each other's past relationships to deal with. You can start life together with more of the guileless freshness that lends itself to unashamed and lasting romance. A virginal romance is pure and likely to be everlasting.

You're more likely to marry someone with whom you're highly compatible. A lot of folks put off marriage so they can shop around longer, thinking that the more they look, the better chance they'll have of finding someone who's just the right match for them. Also, you grow together. It's oft been noted that it's more difficult to join two lives together in the eyes of the Lord when each party has been living independently for a long time, than when a couple starts out life together early on.

Marriage also helps you reach your career and academic goals by providing stability and fostering focus. Socializing and dating requires a lot of time, money, and emotional bandwidth. When you've found your partner-in-crime, you're able to save your money and direct your energy towards your other life goals. Indeed, studies show that married men in their 20s drink less and work harder than their single peers.

Rather than proving the superiority of marrying young, my goal with this article is to simply provide some reassurance to the young gents out there who are in their early to mid-twenties, have already met the right person, and feel like they're ready to get hitched, but are scared to pull the trigger because they've heard the constant drumbeat of "Marry young and you'll regret it!" In truth, you needn't be afraid to take the plunge; as a study that analyzed marrying age and future happiness concluded: "most persons have little or nothing to gain in the way of marital success by deliberately postponing marriage beyond the mid-twenties." Stand in front of the Lord and pledge your devotion and commitment to the one you love. Don't be ashamed or scared. Believe in the Lord's guidance.

In other words, once you've found the gal you can't live without; you should absolutely feel confident in deciding to take on the rest of your lives side-by-side, and embarking with her on one of life's greatest adventures.

So remember the longer you wait to get married, the more ideal potential partners get taken off the market and you may be left old and lonesome!