

Lower earning partner should propose to higher earning partner

April 28, 2022 | 9 upvotes | by [smallstarseeker](#)

So recently I got **asked to propose**, which made me seriously think about the pros and cons of the marriage so I started with marriage vows.

"I, _____, take you, _____, to be my wife/husband, and I do promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband/wife in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live."

Which honestly does sound great, two people vowing to be faithful, in good and bad times, in sickness and health till death splits them apart... except this part is completely non binding. Your partner can brake every single one of these vows and you cannot get any sort of compensation for them braking their vows. Also if your partner does brake these vows you still have to go through a lengthy and costly procedure to divorce them.

I used to believe that marriage exists because of the children, however if I make a kid outside of the marriage, mother can easily make me pay child support. And I can request shared custody.

In divorce I can be forced to pay child support for children of which I am not a biological father.

There is alimony. In divorce higher earning partner can be forced to pay alimony money for years to lower earning partner. Any wealth which was created during the marriage is going to be split equally.

As a higher earner which is equipped with a penis, and thereby I do not have a full control of who the father is there is no PRO's in marriage for me.

I should get proposed to... not ask to propose for a one sided contract which is not in any way in my favors.

Furthermore I can only see a benefit of such an arrangement only if one partner is sacrificing his/her career for the family. Otherwise there is some serious space for abuse here... because one partner can be supported during the marriage, and then on top of that get compensated simply because he/she earned less or nothing at all during the marriage.

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Comments

gofigure62 • 11 points • 28 April, 2022 11:43 AM

Depends on what kind of life people want to live. I don't believe that average people actually know what marriage is legally or conceptually.

Cohabiting isn't a necessity. Having children isn't a necessity. Sharing finances and the cost of living isn't a necessity. Being monogamous isn't a necessity. Sacrificing for the sake of a relationship isn't necessary. None of the standard things that people complain about regarding relationships are necessary. There are a significant amount of things in a relationship that people can eliminate to reduce the amount of harm that they experience.

Marriage typically is for people who essentially want to live as one person. They want to live in the same house, they want to raise children together, they want to financially plan and invest together. They want monogamy with each other. They want to intertwine their lives in all aspects to make and live as one unit. As such contractual marriages are there to protect both parties in a multitude of ways.

Now there is more risk associated with marriage if someone marries someone significantly poorer than themselves. However most people are equally yolked financially. If someone earns millions and billions of dollars annually and decides to marry someone unemployed, all income and assets acquired during the marriage are equally owned.

Men and women seem to fail to realize that marriage (at least in America) is a consensual choice that no one has to engage in. No one has to share their life with a person. People can date indefinitely while living completely separate lives where they don't have to deal with any inequalities or risks that are commonly associated with marriage or cohabiting.

Keeping ones own living space is an option. Not having children is an option. Not intermingling finances is an option. Not going on joint asset ventures with other people is an option. Not being monogamous is an option. Not sacrificing time and opportunities is an option.

The reality is that most men and women wouldn't want to date or be romantically involved with a man or woman who seemed so "distant" and "distrusting". Lots of people would consider such a relationship "pointless" since it would essentially mean being "alone" compared to what people usually view relationships as. Most people wouldn't commit to men and women who never trusted them and made it clear that they didn't trust them.

So while it's possible to have "alone together" relationships. The dating pool for finding such men and women who would agree to a relationship like this would be low.

There is always a risk associated with any relationship be it platonic, familial, professional, or romantic. The only difference with romantic relationships (in free societies) is that people don't have to engage in them at all, and if they do, then men and women are able to set their own requirements and boundaries for what their relationship will be and how much risk each person is willing to assume within a relationship.

smallstarseeker[S] • -1 points • 28 April, 2022 12:14 PM

Marriage typically is for people who essentially want to live as one person. They want to live in the same house, they want to raise children together, they want to financially plan and invest together. They want monogamy with each other. They want to intertwine their lives in all aspects to make and live as one unit. As such contractual marriages are there to protect both parties in a multitude of ways.

Maybe that's the intent but marriage doesn't protect people from infidelity. Also if you are a wealthier partner, you get sick and your husband decides to bail on you... you can end up paying alimony to him.

To top it off if your partner abuses the relationship or you, you can get stuck with a lengthy and costly divorce process.

I would argue that... marriage does a pretty crap job at protecting involved parties.

Now there is more risk associated with marriage if someone marries someone significantly poorer than themselves. However most people are equally yolked financially. If someone earns millions and billions of dollars annually and decides to marry someone unemployed, all income and assets acquired during the marriage are equally owned.

Which brings us to one interesting situation.

If I, a man want to marry a woman I'm going to make an effort. I'm going to take her out somewhere special, kneel down take out a ring and ask her to be my wife.

And she... just asks me to propose to her.

Since this marriage would go completely into her favor isn't she supposed to propose to me?

mandoa_sky • 12 points • 28 April, 2022 12:21 PM

don't marry her if you don't want to. tell her so and let her decide if she wants to stay with you or not.
you're both adults here

gofigure62 • 8 points • 28 April, 2022 12:28 PM

Marriage was never intended for significantly wealthier people to date outside of their economic class. It was always intended to protect assets of both families marrying their children off to families of equivalent means.

Frankly from what you said regarding your girlfriend idk why you're dating her at all. It sounds like a waste of time to me personally.

If you think she should grovel and ask you to marry her because she's poor and a single mother, you should let that be known.

I'm not an advocate of cross collar dating. I don't think it's a successful relationship union at all because there's too much disparity in all aspects of the relationship.

smallstarseeker[S] • 0 points • 28 April, 2022 12:56 PM

Marriage was never intended for significantly wealthier people to date outside of their economic class. It was always intended to protect assets of both families marrying their children off to families of equivalent means.

Sounds like marriage as it is, is outdated.

Frankly from what you said regarding your girlfriend idk why you're dating her at all. It sounds like a waste of time to me personally.

I had reached the age at which I am fine with a relationship without kids, and I am fine having relationship with a person that has kids. However I do not want to get married. I had told her so even before our first date and she was fine with it.

If you think she should grovel and ask you to marry her because she's poor and a single mother, you should let that be known.

I think that since she doesn't want to have more children, there is no point in getting married.

And if she does want to get married then she should ask me to marry her.

I can't see why woman asking for marriage is "groveling", men kneel down and propose all the fucking time... sometimes in public.

gofigure62 • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 01:04 PM

Have you told her all of the thoughts that you're venting here?

You should tell her exactly how you feel. If you want her to propose then ask her for a proposal.

Most of your opinions here are irrelevant because these are life decisions that you're CHOOSING to participate in. You chose to date someone significantly poorer. You chose to date a single mother. You chose to date a woman who doesn't want to have children with you. You chose to be in a relationship that would disadvantage you.

Other people aren't responsible for changing culture or their personal behaviors for your own personal life choices. Just because you're unhappy with the relationship dynamics that you personally chose, doesn't mean that society or the institution of marriage has to change for your own life choices.

As I said I don't personally agree with cross-collar marriages. But people are free to do whatever they want. If you don't want to propose, why don't you tell her that a proposal isn't something that she'll be receiving from you?

smallstarseeker[S] • -2 points • 28 April, 2022 01:19 PM

Have you told her all of the thoughts that you're venting here?

Dude this is NOT a vent.

Not venting, not asking for advice, not asking for support... just sharing my opinion that partner which gains more from the marriage should be the one proposing.

You are digging into personal aspects and I'm just sharing.

You should tell her exactly how you feel. If you want her to propose then ask her for a proposal.

I told her I'm not going to ask her to marry me.

But this is besides the point... my point is that.

If she wants a marriage, she is suppose to propose, not ask me to propose to her.

Most of your opinions here are irrelevant because these are life decisions that you're CHOOSING to participate in. You chose to date someone significantly poorer. You chose to date a single mother. You chose to date a woman who doesn't want to have children with you. You chose to be in a relationship that would disadvantage you.

At the first date I told her that I don't want to marry unless there is a kid on the way and she was fine with that. This had heavily influenced my decision, in-fact this was a dealbraker for me.

gofigure62 • 9 points • 28 April, 2022 01:25 PM

You volunteered personal aspects of your own relationship repeated in regards to your opinion. Which is why I'm addressing your personal relationship.

Did you tell her that she is suppose to propose to you if she wants to get married?

Typically humans follow cultural and social norms of their specific society. In most societies it's expected that men propose to women in heterosexual relationship.

Also humans typically tend to believe that circumstances and opinions change within a relationship. You telling her that you don't want to get married on the first date is irrelevant, if you'll marry her anyway if she proposes to you.

I'm not following your thought process here. Seems like self inflicted problems that could easily be resolved if you simply had an open conversation with your partner.

But you seem completely against addressing any of this directly with your girlfriend. She's the only person that can give you the proposal that you want.

smallstarseeker[S] • 0 points • 28 April, 2022 02:25 PM

You volunteered personal aspects of your own relationship repeated in regards to your opinion. Which is why I'm addressing your personal relationship.

I'm fine with that. Just want to point out that I'm not venting.

Did you tell her that she is suppose to propose to you if she wants to get married?

I haven't. If I tell her that she needs to propose to me, she does propose to me and I say no... it's like setting up someone to get rejected.

I simply told her that I do not want to get married.

Typically humans follow cultural and social norms of their specific society. In most societies it's expected that men propose to women in heterosexual relationship.

If I was living in a society which strictly follows cultural norms I would be fine with it. However that's simply not the case. If we all decide to follow cultural norms which suits us and brake the ones which do not then we do not have cultural norms.

Also humans typically tend to believe that circumstances and opinions change within a relationship. You telling her that you don't want to get married on the first date is irrelevant, if you'll marry her anyway if she proposes to you.

I'm not getting married.

I'm not following your thought process here. Seems like self inflicted problems that could easily be resolved if you simply had an open conversation with your partner.

But you seem completely against addressing any of this directly with your girlfriend. She's the only person that can give you the proposal that you want.

I do not have any problems which needs solving.

gofigure62 • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 02:41 PM

Well it's nice that you reiterated currently that you will not marry her.

"Strictly" following cultural norms is a matter of perspective. Most people follow the general expectations of society, a few outliers don't account for much. Just because some societies don't murder people for dressing how they want or dating who they want doesn't also mean that there isn't a general rigid compliance with

other social and cultural norms. It's really a matter of perspective.

Personally, I don't think it matters who proposes if both parties want to get married and intend to get married. Most people in heterosexual relationships are socialized for men to propose, so irrespective of any outliers, most men will want to propose and most women will want men to propose to them.

Also I don't personally believe in people cross collar dating or marrying. So in these circumstances no one should be proposing to anyone because the relationship shouldn't exist IMO.

featheredsnake • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 08:19 PM

You make a wonderful point. Unfortunately, most of those concepts are not mainstream and thus I don't think are good counterarguments to OP. However, more options, like you mention, should be mainstream.

midwesternMD • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 01:27 PM

You've got a couple of different issues here.

1) Who proposes?

Culturally, in the US at least, the man proposes. If marriage is something the woman wants, and the man hasn't proposed in a timely enough fashion for her, her only recourse is to start a dialogue. Asking you to propose isn't the most tactful way to do that, but it is broaching the topic.

2) income/assets

The wealthier/higher earner stands to lose more in a divorce. Marriage is not just about the emotional/symbolic components. It is also signifying financial merger. Instead of my money and your money, it's *our* money.

If you're on board with that, cool. If you're not, cool. She's also entitled to do what she will in response to your decision.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:09 PM

You've got a couple of different issues here.

Who proposes?

Culturally, in the US at least, the man proposes. If marriage is something the woman wants, and the man hasn't proposed in a timely enough fashion for her, her only recourse is to start a dialogue. Asking you to propose isn't the most tactful way to do that, but it is broaching the topic.

A tradition which in my opinion belongs to a horrible barbaric patriarch past. And as a society which strives to be modern and gay we should strive to be better.

2) income/assets

The wealthier/higher earner stands to lose more in a divorce. Marriage is not just about the emotional/symbolic components. It is also signifying financial merger. Instead of my money and your money, it's *our* money.

If you're on board with that, cool. If you're not, cool. She's also entitled to do what she will in response to your decision.

Silent treatment :)

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 03:08 PM*

[permanently deleted]

smallstarseeker[S] • 0 points • 28 April, 2022 03:37 PM

But I had simply told her that I do not want to get married. It would be super-asshole of me to tell her she needs to propose to me only to reject her afterward.

My entire point is that if you want something you should ask for it... not ask other person to offer it to you. Like when when I want to date a woman, I ask her out. And if I really want to date her I make an actual effort to improve my chances.

Asking woman to ask me out is, well it's super safe for me because I'm not risking rejection, also if it works huge ego boost for me, but my chances of it to work go down the drain.

Same thing for asking someone to propose to me...

FancyCocktailOlive • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 05:58 PM

I don't understand why you're in this relationship. Just tell her you don't see a future with her, that you won't be proposing and end it.

Gravel_Roads • 23 points • 28 April, 2022 11:44 AM

Or, hear me out... Whoever wants to propose should propose.

If you were "asked to propose" and your first thought is "this bitch might make me pay child support for kids that aren't mine", you should probably break up, because either you, your partner, or both of you sound terrible.

RahLyt • 10 points • 28 April, 2022 01:27 PM

Except this is just virtue signalling. Men propose 99.9% of the time.

Gravel_Roads • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 02:37 PM

What virtue am I signaling? I didn't say anything about who proposes more.

RahLyt • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 02:40 PM

Or, hear me out... Whoever wants to propose should propose.

Saying this what's add to the conversation? Everyone knows this however is still just one gender proposing what is this of not virtue signalling?

Gravel_Roads • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 03:17 PM

That's not what virtue signaling is. Virtue signaling is when you say or do something to make people think you're a good person (y'know, to "signal" your "virtue" to others.)

This is a CMV that says "the person with the lower income should propose". I contended that which ever person *wants* to propose should propose. This is a neutral opinion. It signals nothing other than that I have a different view from OP.

RahLyt • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:28 PM

That's not what virtue signaling is. Virtue signaling is when you say or do something to make people think you're a good person (y'know, to "signal" your "virtue" to others.)

I know what it means. How do you think what you said is different? If you're saying women

and men should all do it. Is this not you trying to project a "I'm on men's side too"?

Gravel_Roads • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 05:02 PM

No. It means I think if a man wants to propose he should be free to do so and if a woman wants to she should too.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 12:24 PM

The thing is that marriage would entirely benefit her.

So if she wants a marriage she should ask me to marry her, or wait for me to ask her.

Not ask me, to ask her to marry her.

Reverse the situation a bit... man kneels down his GF, puts ring into her arm and tells her "go ahead ask me to marry you".

Gravel_Roads • 7 points • 28 April, 2022 01:22 PM

It's literally just the tradition, bro. Her telling you to propose *is* her proposing. This is like saying "If someone wants a cake for their birthday, they should buy it for themselves!" Like, sure... but it's traditional for someone to buy it for you, so it's not weird to ask for it.

That said, there are many modern women who do or will propose.

But none of this is related to money. How much someone earns shouldn't dictate whether or not they ask someone to marry them. Just, y'know... a desire to marry.

bluestjuice • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 12:28 PM*

Asking you to ask her to marry you is, effectively, asking you to marry her. It just means she also wants the romantic proposal moment.

Edit because I'm still half-asleep and can't write words.

smallstarseeker[S] • 0 points • 28 April, 2022 12:45 PM

Well I want a nice looking woman to take me out on romantic diner, kneel in front of everybody and ask me to blow my pepe. However that's just a dirty fantasy. if I want my pepe to get sucked I have to create the right atmosphere and explicitly/implicitly ask for my pepe to be sucked.

And if she wants me to marry her, she needs to wait for me to do it on my own OR, create a romantic proposal moment for me. Not ask me to create one for her.

bluestjuice • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 12:55 PM

It just sounds like you don't want to get married. Which is fine, but if your partner does that might be a dealbreaker.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:05 PM

I don't want to get married. I told her on our first date that I do not want to get married unless there is a kid on the way and she was fine with that.

It doesn't even mater.

I just posted this as my opinion that partner which has more to gain from the marriage should be the one proposing.

And "ask me to marry you" is not a proposal...

bluestjuice • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 01:23 PM

It is in the sense that it's initiating a discussion of marriage. I understand it doesn't have the formality of a traditional bended knee, etc.

FancyCocktailOlive • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 06:02 PM

You're not likely to get to your fantasy fulfilled. You know that so why even think about it?

You know you'll never propose so you ought to tell her that.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:28 PM

Correct. She benefits, she asks.

TheCupGuySparty • 12 points • 28 April, 2022 12:00 PM

If you don't want to get married, don't get married. Simple as that, no one is forcing you. Personally, I've never been more happy than I've been since marrying my wife. This past year of being married has been far superior than the almost 10 years we dated.

Find what works for you and your relationship(s), I couldn't be more proud of my "old man gold band". I don't know why all the guys seem to hate the idea of marriage... If you're worried the women wanting to marry you is a gold digger, cheater, POS who will make you raise/pay for a baby that isn't yours, it seems to me you shouldn't be with that person. Maybe you should BREAK up (not brake up).

IndividualYouth93 • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 03:18 PM

Thank you!!!! I am literally reading all the comments and replies, wondering if I would find someone telling him the right spelling I almost gave up hope...

Swapsta • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:17 AM

I don't know why all the guys seem to hate the idea of marriage... If you're worried the women wanting to marry you is a gold digger, cheater, POS who will make you raise/pay for a baby that isn't yours, it seems to me you shouldn't be with that person. Maybe you should BREAK up (not brake up).

Because there is little reason to do so as a man except a fringe sense of necessity. Divorce splits(if the man earns more) favours women, divorce is a costly and stressful procedure. The woman can get security in the future but a man doesn't get anything that is really needed. Even if you trust your partner a marriage is usually unnecessary.

This is worse due to the fact of the government being involved. You cannot negotiate alimony or the marriage contracts, so you are left with a shitty contract with no benefits.

Lift_and_Lurk • 7 points • 28 April, 2022 01:21 PM

Yeah, not trying to be a dick: but something tells me you've never been in love before.

Marriage and proposals aren't "logical" things. It's done out of that emotional part of you that wants to spend your lives together and "make it official" in a somewhat silly ceremonial way. But it's meaningful to both of you.

smallstarseeker[S] • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 01:41 PM

Well first of all I'm 37 or 38 years old and I had experienced happy and unhappy love a couple of times.

But it's meaningful to both of you.

Well it's not meaningful to me.

For me marriage is meaningful when two people decide to have kids together, or have a kid on the way and decide to create a family and raise kids.

If two people love each other... a piece of paper is not going to make you love each other for the rest of your lives.

Lift_and_Lurk • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 02:00 PM

I think you fundamentally don't understand what love and marriage are.

And that's cool. Plenty of people are happily single or together and just never get married.

Helioos33 • 9 points • 28 April, 2022 11:01 AM

I would be more impressed if person is willing to stay with me without demanding to be married. If you are really loyal and love another that would be enough.

KirthWGersen • 7 points • 28 April, 2022 11:15 AM

I couldn't agree more.

A woman who wanted to be married more she than wanted to be with me, is a woman I would prefer not to be with at all.

smallstarseeker[S] • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 11:35 AM

I can attest, since she asked me...to ask her, it feels like all the "magic" is gone.

liefelijk • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 12:18 PM

It's not a bad thing to want marriage. It's a preference like any other, just like the divide between those who want children and those who are childfree.

If OP doesn't want marriage and his girlfriend does, it's not something that can be compromised on and shows basic incompatibility.

Kizka • 3 points • 29 April, 2022 11:05 AM

Eh, you could say the same about kids or any other preference. "If she truly loved me, I should be enough, she shouldn't need kids". "If she truly loved me, she would give me a kid".

I think it is a sign of maturity to comprehend that only love is never enough for a relationship to be successful. It should be the base and it shouldn't be missing, but there are a lot of other factors that determine if a relationship will hold or not, and compability is one of them. Nobody should be made to endure complete unhappiness in order to stay with someone. If someone can't be happy without a marriage, they shouldn't be forced to forgo it as a sign of their love and devotion. The same with children, relationships to their parents or siblings, or whatever other thing you can think of. We all have pillars in our lives that we need, independent of if we're in a romantic relationship or not and independent of with whom we're in a relationship with.

An alcoholic shouldn't endure daily drinking of a partner, childfree people shouldn't take on parenthood for their partner and marriage oriented people shouldn't need to miss out on marriage for their partner.

Helioos33 • 2 points • 29 April, 2022 11:41 AM

Well, problem is that woman can say she is bored and whatever and cheat, take away your children, house, money.

liefelijk • 6 points • 28 April, 2022 11:00 AM

There are many financial incentives for getting married, even if you're just looking at your individual earning power: you are more likely to get raises and promotions when you "have a family to support" and are treated with more respect.

Does your girlfriend work right now? Do you want to have kids and how do you plan to cover childcare? Decide how care in early childhood will be covered: through daycare or through a short loss in your partner's income. Talk this through with your partner and decide if you have similar lifestyle goals.

Shared lifestyle goals are the best reason to get married. Having a partner allows you to pool your assets and work together to reach those goals.

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 03:33 PM

Trust me, the raises and tax benefits are wiped out in the first 3 months of a contentious divorce. Plus, as stated, you lose half of everything you acquired and earned.

A married man with a SAHM and 2 children might need 80k-150k (depending on where you live) to be comfortable. A single man can be easily comfortable on 50k.

High earning isn't necessary when you are only supporting yourself. And, if you marry the wrong woman she can absolutely drain any extra you made, and then some, in divorce, through child support, alimony, and emotional distress.

liefelijk • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 04:17 PM

If you don't want to risk paying child support, don't have children. Don't want your wife to be a SAHM or risk paying alimony? Choose someone with high earning potential who shares your lifestyle goals. Most of the objections you seem to have are not about getting married, but having children.

Divorce is definitely a drain on finances, but the idea that you will lose half of *your* earnings is a dated concept. Most women work outside the home and while there are still financial disparities between spouses, it's not as exaggerated. In many dual-income homes, both spouses are contributing equally.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 04:35 PM

The real danger isn't children. It's a SAHM.

liefelijk • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 04:56 PM

So don't marry someone who wants to be a SAHM. But either way, if you have children, you will risk having to pay child support.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 05:13 PM

Too late. I already did. That's why I can speak from experience and educate the younger guys here. Also, child support needs to be overhauled because the guidelines are still based on the husband being the breadwinner and the wife being an unemployable SAHM without any marketable skills. So, child support is a scam now, too.

liefelijk • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 06:05 PM

Not sure where you live, but where I am, child support is calculated based on combined monthly net income, with parents paying a percentage (based on their share of the income). Sounds pretty fair to me.

These days, you have to go out of your way to marry someone who has zero marketable

skills. IMHO, both parties need to be able to stand on their own feet before you should ever think of marriage.

[deleted] • 0 points • 28 April, 2022 06:15 PM

Not true if you marry her young when she's able to birth a few children safely. If you marry a 30 yo with a college degree ready to hit the wall then sure. But, if you want to build a family the way biology was designed to then it's hit and miss on what skills she does, or doesn't, have. My ex didn't even know how to do laundry when I married her which is a failure on her parent's part.

The only fair custody is 50/50. If the man ends up with EOW and pays CS based on that then he's not going to be able to afford to live or give their kids anything extra on his period of "visitation. Then, kids realize life is so much better at mom's house since she has her money, maybe a new partner's money, plus half of the kids' father's money. Meanwhile, the father is struggling on half of his income.

Children shouldn't be meal tickets. There's a reason the courts call it a "child support *award*." It's a prize to be won by the custodial parent (85% of the time that's the mother).

Guys, don't get married or fall into this hustle.

liefelijk • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 06:57 PM

Marrying someone with no marketable skills and no ability to even do laundry is not smart, especially since you can earn a college degree by 22. You can get a cosmetology license or learn a trade by 20. Plenty of time for baby making after that.

Death and divorce are always possible. Why take the risk of leaving your children in poverty by marrying someone who can't even provide for themselves, let alone for your children?

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 09:48 PM

It was a religious thing. And, I earned enough to support a family of 5 with a SAHM. But, the other side of that sword was a divorce rape when she decided she wanted to go party and not be a mom.

smallstarseeker[S] • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 11:19 AM

There are many financial incentives for getting married, even if you're just looking at your individual earning power: you are more likely to get raises and promotions when you "have a family to support" and are treated with more respect.

I'm self employed which means that I decide on my promotions and raises, and I assure you that I will not promote myself nor give myself a raise for getting married =D

Does your girlfriend work right now? Do you want to have kids and how do you plan to cover childcare? Decide how care in early childhood will be covered: through daycare or through a short loss in your partner's income. Talk this through with your partner and decide if you have similar lifestyle goals.

She works, has a kid, doesn't want to have any more children.

Shared lifestyle goals are the best reason to get married. Having a partner allows you to pool your assets and work together to reach those goals.

Which brings us to... if I was a young man working on my career and I wanted a partner to start a family with then yes.

However at this point I had already met my financial and security goals, she doesn't want to have kids so that goal is out of the question. The only thing left is basically to enjoy ourselves.

I do not feel like I have to provide her with the security of marriage to do so.

liefelijk • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 11:45 AM

Even if you're self-employed, you still will be given more respect and clout from customers, networking connections, etc. if you are married. Culturally, you're seen as more mature and trustworthy. There are also many tax, retirement, inheritance, and other cultural benefits to marriage.

Removing the childcare element definitely makes things easier, but unfortunately "not feeling like you have to provide her with the security of marriage" does not cancel out her desire for that security. If she wants marriage enough that she asked you to propose, it's unlikely that you'll be able to reason your way out of it. Her desires are just as valid as yours in this situation, so if marriage is a non-starter for you, she may walk away.

smallstarseeker[S] • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 12:20 PM

Even if you're self-employed, you still will be given more respect and clout from customers, networking connections, etc. if you are married. Culturally, you're seen as more mature and trustworthy. There are also many tax, retirement, inheritance, and other cultural benefits to marriage.

I have zero or very little benefit from any of that.

Removing the childcare element definitely makes things easier, but unfortunately "not feeling like you have to provide her with the security of marriage" does not cancel out her desire for that security. If she wants marriage enough that she asked you to propose, it's unlikely that you'll be able to reason your way out of it. Her desires are just as valid as yours in this situation, so if marriage is a non-starter for you, she may walk away.

If I want the security of the marriage, I'm going take her out on some very special event, kneel down, take out the ring and ask her to marry me. I want something, and I ask for it.

And she just... asks me to propose to her?

How does this sound "Ask me to wash my dishes."?

liefelijk • 7 points • 28 April, 2022 12:39 PM

So you see no benefits to marriage, but she does. You're at an impasse, since no one is "wrong" here (and this isn't something where there's a middle ground). Your desires are just incompatible.

smallstarseeker[S] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 01:01 PM

I haven't started this subject to ask for advice nor to get support from internet strangers...

It's just a life experience with my point of view posted for debate.

I had told her that I'm not going to ask her to marry me, and it does seem to me that this makes us incompatible.

mandoa_sky • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 01:21 PM

well so long as you're fine with breaking up too. then it's all ethical :)

smallstarseeker[S] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 01:33 PM

This whole relationship started because she was fine with an un-official relationship, if that's not an option anymore then I'm absolutely fine with braking up.

Swapsta • 2 points • 29 April, 2022 03:20 AM

Women really like the shitty contracts when it benefits them, female solidarity is insane.

Swapsta • 2 points • 29 April, 2022 03:20 AM

Women really like the shitty contracts when it benefits them, female solidarity is insane.

FancyCocktailOlive • 2 points • 29 April, 2022 06:07 PM

If you consider marrying your girlfriend to be a chore like dishes, why are you in a relationship with her?

Friedidli • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:39 PM*

I will always see it as a demerit.

If i get married i will take a corporate job and earn as much as i can to settle my family, to give my kids the best shot at an easier life.

If i was to remain a bachelor i am content working in a government medical College perhaps pushing for the establishment of a transplantation unit.

The version of me without a family is infinitely better for my country than the one who is married.

Also to your constant point of respect from other people. Fuck that.

Other people's respect helps you fuck a when you are in trouble. It's like a 2+ charisma boost that only works when you are not in combat. Fuck respect. Acquire raw currency and influence. That overawed all the respect you want.

You think customers are gonna come to my restaurant (hypothetical) if i am married?

You think people are gonna come to me fir treatment if they know that i have a wife.

Thats a mind numbing level of bullshit.

Definitely not worth getting married over.

liefelijk • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:09 PM

Completely valid for you to choose that. But many people *do* desire the additional earnings and respect gained from getting married.

As for your questions, there's lots that goes into it, but yes. Many studies have been done that show a bias towards married men. Lenders are more likely to invest in your restaurant if you are married, you have more social connections to build your brand, you are more likely to be offered a partnership or be offered a buy-in to a practice, etc.

childish_badda_bingo • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:15 PM

Lol. The “incentives” certainly don’t outweigh the costs. There’s a very high likelihood the lower earner is going to take half the assets and also get basically perpetual child support payments.

liefelijk • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:24 PM

If you are worried about child support, then don’t have kids. That happens with or without a ring.

Worried about alimony? Marry someone with good earning potential.

Swapsta • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:21 AM

Worried about alimony? Marry someone with good earning potential.

So if I flip this if a couple have a huge difference in earnings they shouldn't marry.

liefelijk • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 10:24 AM*

Typically, alimony is provided only when one spouse does not have a college degree or has been out of the workforce for a significant period of time raising children.

So if you marry someone with good earning potential (with some education) and choose not to have them be a SAHM, you won’t pay alimony. The best, most stable bet for both parties is to have the mother work at least part time while the children are young. That gives both parties financial protection and autonomy.

And if you choose not to have children, then there’s no reason for one spouse to completely stop work.

bluestjuice • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 01:27 PM

I don’t see that it matters who does the proposing. Either party can propose, either party can accept or refuse. Everybody gets agency.

People are going to have different opinions about what benefit marriage would bring to the relationship, and not all possible benefits have a financial lens, so I don’t see earning potential as all that relevant.

cowfishAreReal • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 02:22 PM

there is no PRO's in marriage for me

The biggest the difference in income the more of a tax brake you get for being married, that's certainly a benefit. Not to mention stuff like sharing health insurance from an employer, being able to make medical decisions for your partner if they're unconscious, or married men living longer

I used to believe that marriage exists because of the children, however if I make a kid outside of the marriage, mother can easily make me pay child support. And I can request shared custody.

Children that live with 2 parents are proven to be more successful in pretty much every way, so if you care about your children you should probably only have one when married.

[deleted] • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 02:16 PM

So recently I got asked to propose

I should get proposed to...

Sounds like you were

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 02:24 PM

I'm already married and the higher earner, and he proposed. It doesn't really sound like you believe in marriage though so you are free not to indulge.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:42 PM

Actually I wanted to get married when I was younger.

However after reaching my financial and security goals on my own, getting to old to raise kids... I fail to see the point.

I do believe marriage is good for people which want to create a family and raise kids, without that it's just divorce rape contract.

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 02:46 PM

I married my husband when I was 49 and he was 55. I'll be honest, I was wary because it's my 2nd marriage and again, I'm the higher earner. My former FiL wiped my MiL out in the divorce and she is also the higher earner. She's bounced back beautifully, bless her. Anyway that gave me pause. But it's been worth it and though I didn't think it would change our bond, it really has. But you do you.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:58 PM

You had took a risk that you didn't had to.

You do you, I'll do me.

[deleted] • 5 points • 28 April, 2022 03:00 PM

I took it because of the uncertainty of the world (early pandemic) and he was sick (tumor). It's both outperformed and outlived my expectations.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:11 PM

That's actually cute as fuck.

If you don't mind me asking how long did you know each other before you got married.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:13 PM

7 years. Living together 3. We'll have been together 9 years come Cinco de Mayo.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 06:09 PM

Great then don't get married. Nobody here wants to force you to get married.

sernamedeleted • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 03:37 PM

Relationships are based on open and honest communication between mature consenting adults who treat each other with respect and share common interests and compatible life goals.

Income disparity is meaningless.

Nodeal_reddit • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 05:41 PM

This organization strongly disagrees with your opinion.

<https://aaml.org>

Nodeal_reddit • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 05:39 PM

A higher earning male takes on ALL of the risk in a marriage, with no upside.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negative_freeroll

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 06:05 PM

If you don't want to get married then don't get married. The only person who cares whether you do or do not want to get married or are for or against marriage would be whoever you happened to be dating.

Also it is spelled break not brake.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 06:09 PM

Also it is spelled break not brake.

Damn my English is getting rusted.

[deleted] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 06:50 PM

Also don't get married. Your GF would be happier in a relationship with somebody who shares her values and does not want to humiliate her by logically demanding she propose.

Just be single.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 07:10 PM

It's a romantic custom, nothing humiliating about it.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 07:42 PM

Your GF might feel differently which is why I think you are incompatible.

AbbreviationsHot1200 • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 07:04 PM

The female suicide rate might actually reach parity with men's if women became the ones expected to propose.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 07:08 PM

We'd have Female Proposal Strategy in no time.

featheredsnake • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 08:24 PM

I understand your point and I share the same feeling. I'm not a high-high earner but I do ok with the amount of money and free time I get from my business. I agree with the sentiment completely. Marriage from this position (at least the way marriage is setup right now) does feel like a huge vulnerability. If things go south, I am the only one that loses from the arrangement so it feels stupid to get married.

trolltaskforce • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 11:21 AM

Marriage (in America+Canada at least) is just nonsense and can not be supported by any reasonable thinking person.

briiiana1122 • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 07:45 PM

It seems pretty different in the US. In Canada it is for sure, it's pointless unless you are religious I suppose. All the expense of my divorce would have occurred weather or not we had the also expensive party. Common law, time of cohabitation, shared property owned ect, ect, ect are the metrics, not the legal document.

trolltaskforce • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:31 AM

Canada is a grade A shit hole.

briiiana1122 • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:44 AM

□□♀□ k

MelodiousTones[□] • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 12:04 PM*

Mothers often stay home with children, sacrificing earning potential. It's not fair for a woman to have sacrificed 10 years of no income to her three kids and then upon divorce, be abandoned with few prospects very low income and three kids to take care of. That's why child support and alimony exist.

Secondly, you act as if love doesn't exist and marriage is purely transactional. People get married because they are in love, people who get married for other reasons end up divorced. You don't understand the kind of deep and abiding love that exists in a marriage such as mine, which is almost 21 years long now.

Stop pretending true love doesn't exist. Relationships are not transactional.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:37 PM

Mothers often stay home with children, sacrificing earning potential. It's not fair for a woman to have sacrificed 10 years of no income to her three kids and then upon divorce, be abandoned with few prospects very low income and three kids to take care of. That's why child support and alimony exist.

True. And if one partner does sacrifice his/her earning potential to take care of the kids and household he/she does deserve to be compensated in the case of divorce.

However if there are no children, there is no need to take care of the household... partner which earns less will get "compensated" for sacrifice he/she didn't made. Why would higher earning partner want to marry?

Secondly, you act as if love doesn't exist and marriage is purely transactional. People get married because they are in love, people who get married for other reasons end up divorced. You don't understand the kind of deep and abiding love that exists in a marriage such as mine, which is almost 21 years long now.

Stop pretending true love doesn't exist. Relationships are not transactional.

In case of a divorce one partner has to give stuff to other partner... by definition marriage is transactional.

If you want a relationship which is not transactional then... don't get married.

MelodiousTones[□] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:43 PM

A parent has to give the child stuff too. Is that relationship also transactional?

There's no law saying the higher earning spouse owes the lower one money or more than half their stuff.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:10 PM

A parent has to give the child stuff too. Is that relationship also transactional?

That's a problem with you women... you don't really know what transactional relationship means. But you sure do like to throw that term around.

*A transactional relationship is when couples treat marriage as a business deal. Kind of like someone brings home the bacon, and the other partner cooks it, sets the table, wash the dishes, while the breadwinner watches football. **Traditional gender roles are excellent examples of transactional***

relationships.

Parent gives stuff to children, and it turn parent doesn't get anything. That's a non transactional relationship.

There's no law saying the higher earning spouse owes the lower one money or more than half their stuff.

Actually lower earning partner can sue for alimony money.

MelodiousTones[] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 03:14 PM

Yes, I'm arguing that marriage is not by default "transactional" as you define it here.

True love exists and many old couples die within hours of each other. I have been married for 21 years. How long have you been married? How can you possibly even know anything about marriage generally.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:52 PM

So you wouldn't be able to have a loving relationship without getting married?

You literally started loving each other just after signing the marriage certificate?

That sounds romantic as fuck.

MelodiousTones[] • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 03:57 PM

Yeah no, we fell in love and then felt like we wanted to be married because of that.

I'm saying people generally get married for love. Not for some "deal".

MelodiousTones[] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 03:15 PM

Am I allowed to say "you men"? Why is that valid?

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:49 PM

Am I allowed to say "you men"? Why is that valid?

When I say "you women" I am generalizing, if you say "you men" I will assume you are also generalizing and no harm done.

Swapsta • 0 points • 29 April, 2022 03:27 AM

Mothers often stay home with children, sacrificing earning potential. It's not fair for a woman to have sacrificed 10 years of no income to her three kids and then upon divorce, be abandoned with few prospects very low income and three kids to take care of. That's why child support and alimony exist.

See compensating them is fine and all but giving them a % of money rather than just a set amount of \$/day.

If somehow person a is married to b, and b is the SAHM and a becomes a multi millionaire. A divorce would give millions to the SAHM... For being a SAHM. The man took the risk of making a company but loses millions to the SAHM(in case of a divorce) who took 0 risk. Giving % of your wealth instead of a flat fee to the sacrificing partner is just wealth transfer disguised as equality.

Case in point bezos's wife.

liefelijk • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 10:56 AM

Jeff Bezos founded Amazon *with* his wife. She worked at Amazon for years while they grew the company, then stopped to focus on caring for their children and her writing career.

They were married for 26 years while Amazon grew into the behemoth it is today. She was heavily involved with getting Amazon off the ground and her Amazon stock reflects that.

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 12:13 PM

[permanently deleted]

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 11:27 AM

[permanently deleted]

wtknight[M] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 12:14 PM

No personal attacks

pearllovespink • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 02:18 PM

Stop trying to reverse gender roles. It's getting pathetic guys.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:54 PM

Stop trying to reverse gender roles.

Never!

pearllovespink • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 05:05 PM

It will never work out in your favor. This situation is unrealistic just like the other 95% of reverse gender role concepts.

januaryphilosopher • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 11:57 AM

If you think that the higher earning partner is less willing to marry, it should follow that the less willing person should propose. Otherwise the less willing partner will probably propose when the other isn't ready and just get a no. If you think the marriage contract is one-sided and don't want it, then don't propose, and don't say yes if your partner does. But it's a burden on the less willing partner so they can't then say "well you were the one who forced me into it". (Which is, by the way, part of the reason why I feel it's my job to propose.)

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 12:36 PM

Higher earning partner is getting a shorter end of the stick in the marriage, but he/she also might be a more willing partner since not everything is about money.

Either way I am a higher earning and less willing partner and I'm being asked to ask her to marry me.

Which frankly seems like a bunch of B.S.

januaryphilosopher • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 12:56 PM

If someone is the higher earner and more willing, your argument doesn't even apply. You haven't said anything meaningful against my argument.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:24 PM

OK something meaningful against your argument.

If you only ask when you are less willing partner that means that you will never ask for a raise.

Because your employer is never willing to give you a better pay.

You will also never ask a person which you think is hotter then you out.

Your fear of rejection will result in you being an underachiever in every aspect of your life.

If you want to get things then sometimes you have to risk getting burned.

januaryphilosopher • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 02:53 PM

You're talking about completely different situations and dynamics now. These people might want to give you the thing you want or might not, you're uncertain of whether they want to give you the thing rather than knowing they're not ready. It just doesn't make sense to ask someone to marry you when they're not ready. Which is why you should ask if you're the last one to be ready.

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 02:23 PM

[permanently deleted]

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 02:52 PM

[permanently deleted]

Mrs_Drgree[M] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:42 PM

Be civil.

[deleted] 28 April, 2022 03:47 PM

[permanently deleted]

Mrs_Drgree[M] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:48 PM

You can appeal in modmail

Mrs_Drgree[M] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:42 PM

Be civil.

mandoa_sky • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 12:19 PM

so you're saying that you don't believe in "traditions"

it's traditional for the guy to "ask her father for permission to marry" and then propose.

if you don't like the split there's always something called a legal pre-nup and lawyers

smallstarseeker[S] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 12:29 PM

To heck with traditions.

She is the one which wants to get married... so she needs to propose to me.

If she want's to ask my mother for my hand that's fine with me.

mandoa_sky • 4 points • 28 April, 2022 12:53 PM

tell her that.

then let her decide what she wants next - problem solved

smallstarseeker[S] • 2 points • 28 April, 2022 12:58 PM

This is not me asking for advice or trying to find support from internet strangers for my decision.
I just shared my life experience and opinion as open for debate.
I had told her that I'm not going to ask me to marry her.

mandoa_sky • 3 points • 28 April, 2022 01:18 PM

ah i see. you don't want to marry HER. so long as she knows then it's all ethical

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:28 PM

Yeah like at the beginning I told her that I'm only interested in marriage if there is a kid on the way. I had told her that I do not want to marry her.

So I'm not leading her on, or being dishonest or anything like that...

My whole point is that if she wants a marriage she is supposed to ask me, not ask me to ask her.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:43 PM

She's most likely going to break up with you and that statement was more of a "warning" or a hope that you had changed your mind on marriage. She's not going to ask a man that has flat out said that he isn't interested in marriage, that's stupid.

smallstarseeker[S] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 01:54 PM

OK.

Swapsta • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:28 AM

Don't get married

Swapsta • 1 point • 29 April, 2022 03:29 AM

No use

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 06:11 PM

Great do not get married.

Rushbyb • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:55 PM

I love you sooo much lets get the government involved, gross no thanks. Most genders have no commitment today so im not about to lose half my shit.

AutoModerator[M] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 10:47 AM

Attention!

You can post off topic/jokes/puns as a comment to this Automoderator message.

For "CMV" and "Question for X" Threads: Parent comments that aren't from the target group will be removed, along with their child replies.

If you want to agree with OP instead of challenging their view or if the question is not targeted at you, post it as an answer to this comment.

OP you can choose your own flair according to these guidelines., just press Flair under your post!

Thanks for your cooperation and enjoy the discussion!

I am a bot, and this action was performed automatically. Please contact the moderators of this subreddit if you have any questions or concerns.

Basketballjuice • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 03:56 PM

I mean, you'll get cheaper taxes and insurance and stuff. A good prenup and you'll be alright.

[deleted] • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 05:37 PM

Yeah, I can see what you're saying. Like, why would you be the one to ask to give the other person more than they give you?

Maybe the issue is in how you feel about the particular person? Or in how you uniquely process the intersection of marital norms to your relationship? Because the problem really is the misalignment between expected practices and how you feel about the relationship. If you were with a partner who you felt comfortable and confident with what she was offering in relation to what you were offering, this question/idea wouldn't make sense.

briiiana1122 • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 07:29 PM

You don't need to do any of this kind of rationalization for marriage if you just choose your partner on the basis of them being your equal partner.

The whole trajectory men seem so keen on sets them up for the exact scenario they scream and faint over when talking about divorce. If you want marriage and kids, do it with someone who brings what you bring to the table. Don't use your money to get a younger wife with no job prospects and make her a stay at home mom. Divorce from that relationship is exactly the scenario that alimony exists for.

BadSpanglish2 • 1 point • 28 April, 2022 07:54 PM

As a higher earner which is equipped with a penis, and thereby I do not have a full control of who the father is there is no PRO's in marriage for me.

I still think the high earner needs to propose in a good relationship. Otherwise you basically have the poorer partner asking for a lifelong handout. If you, as the higher earner, are willing to make the commitment and look after the lower earner - and take the majority of the divorce risk - then you are free to propose.