



Northern Light Christian Counseling

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Predicting Divorce

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Approximately:

- 2.5 million Americans marry each year.
- 40% of these marriages will end in divorce.
- Half of the marriages which end in divorce will do so within the first 7 years of marriage.
- 75% of those who divorce will remarry, and 50% of them will divorce again.

8 Predictors of Divorce:

While these factors do not necessarily cause divorce, they are associated with higher incidents of marital instability. Some are matters of morality and personal decision making. Others are simply matters of fact that are outside the couple's control. Being aware of these, being able to discuss them rationally, and making plans accordingly are signs of health and maturity.

1. Age—the younger people are on their wedding day, the more likely they are to divorce.
2. Educational Level—the less education people have, the more likely they are to divorce.
3. Income—the less income people have when they marry, the more likely they are to divorce.
4. Differential Factors—The likelihood of divorce increases when a wife has a greater income and/or educational level than her husband.
5. Parents' Divorce—having parents who have divorced increases the likelihood of divorce.
6. Cohabitation—when a couple have lived together before marriage, they are more likely to divorce.
7. Premarital Sex—when a couple have had premarital sex, they are more likely to divorce.
8. Religious Faith—significant differences in religious faith increase the likelihood of divorce.

If you see some of these predictors in your relationship, you can protect yourselves by:

- Extending the engagement period. Some researchers believe 6 months to a year is an adequate time to get to know each other and your families.
- Going back to school. A high school diploma and additional education increase the likelihood that you will be able to earn a better income.
- Taming your passions. If you have been having premarital sexual intercourse, make a commitment to "Secondary Virginity"—that is, stop having sex, live in separate homes for 6 months, marry, and resume your relationship in holiness and honor.
- Contacting your minister or a Christian counselor to discuss, clarify, and settle serious religious differences. A strong, unified faith in Christ will see you through the difficult times.