

The key to Success: Date and marry the right person

By Tim C. Lee

When thinking of factors that contribute to an individual's success, the average person thinks that being focused, determined, hard working, and possessing a high sense of perseverance are relevant attributes to have. Some would even add to the list, educational level, how one was reared as a child, and choice of friends. I must admit, all of these factors would be included in my answer too, if I was asked, "What is the key to success?"

It was not until I saw a poster titled, "21 Suggestions for Success" by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., that I began to develop a different perspective to the question.

Brown's number one suggestion was, "Marry the right person. This one decision will determine 90% of your happiness or misery."

Choosing the right person is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime.

With the divorce rate greater than 50% in this country, obviously a lot of us are not taking the time or putting forth the effort to choose our partner wisely.

A study on the subject was done by researchers at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Their study revealed that people with relatively prudent and reliable partners tend to perform better on their job, get more promotions, make more money, and feel more emotionally satisfied.

When speaking recently to a Human Resources Director, she stated to me that the number one reason employees give when being reprimanded for under achieving or performing was, personal issues and problems at home with their spouse.

When you are dating or married to someone who is not reliable, unsupportive, not understanding in regards to sacrifices that need to be made, it plays a huge role in your potential to succeed in accomplishing your goals and aiming for success.



You can not remain focus if you are constantly arguing, feeling insecure due to emotional or physical abuse, or have trust issues due to lying or infidelity with your partner.

In my opinion, success is not defined by the amount of money you make, the number of assets you have accumulated, or whether you own a business. Success can be defined as being financially independent, having a peace of mind, possess the ability to inspire others, and living life to your fullest potential.

Many have said that opposites attract, and this can be beneficial in most cases. If you are unorganized or a procrastinator, then being with someone who is the opposite, could make you become a better you, in regards to those tasks. Another example, if you are considered a "nerd" or "too serious," then being with someone who is "free spirited," could encourage you to make time to have fun and relax.

Even if you choose a partner who is the opposite of you, you must agree on core values like, children, communication, finances, and many others, in order for the relationship to last and prosper.

Some might even date or marry a person knowing they are not compatible to them. They are hoping that they can be a positive influence to the person, forcing them to change for the better. When doing this, you

must remember the old saying, “Before you bring someone up, they will bring you down.” So be careful!

Remember, choosing the right person is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. The person you choose to date and marry is a key factor in your success. So take your time to find your “best friend.”

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