

Healthy Marriage Tips from A to Z
by Matt and Laura Coppinger
HeavenlyHomemakers.com

Mentoring Relationships

What School are You Paying for? - Matt's Thoughts

"How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver!"
(Proverbs 16:16) I'll Amen that.

"Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."
(Proverbs 4:7) Amen to that too.

Now, how do I get me some of that wisdom and understanding that I so desperately need?

Most of my life I've been enrolled at UHK (University of Hard Knocks). UHK has an amazing presence. There are satellite campuses everywhere I go. But in my shining moments I've sought out a mentor and avoided the expense of UHK.

As Laura and I have aimed for a healthy marriage, we also have looked to some couples modeling a healthy marriage who are farther down the road in their marital journey. We have watched them from a distance and visited with them couple to couple. We've been encouraged from afar and challenged by their words. We've heard their regrets, taking them to heart so as to avoid UHK for ourselves, and we've taken mental notes regarding their victories so that we can attempt to gain the same outcome.

Why don't we do this more often, rather than paying room, board, tuition and fees to UHK?
Many times it's because I'm chasing gold and silver rather than wisdom and understanding.

How can I get me some wisdom?

"Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise." (Proverbs 19:20)

Red Flag Relationships - Laura's Thoughts

Most of us tend to gravitate toward those who are in the same stage of life we are in. Singles like to hang out with other singles. Young marrieds like to spend time with other young marrieds. Parents with babies like to get together with other parents of babies. And on it goes. This is all great and truly - many of our best friendships are based on the fact that we have so much in common. There's absolutely nothing wrong with spending time and enjoying others in your stage of life - unless those are the *only* people you spend time with.

We've seen marriages destroyed because couples were not willing to look beyond their 20 or 30-something age group for companionship, guidance and encouragement. We've been heart-broken to see relationships crushed because young couples were spending too much time with other young couples. It's *dangerous* - watch and be aware of how close you are becoming with other couples, especially if these relationships are purely for fun and hold little spiritual depth. Let a red flag be raised and make changes in your couple-to-couple friendships if you begin to find yourself becoming too "comfortable" with your friend's spouse.

Be intentional about spending time with couples who will sharpen you, encourage you and make your marriage stronger. Seek out couples who have been married longer than you and who know more than you about maintaining a healthy marriage. Don't be afraid of people who are older and wiser than you. Sit at their feet, ask questions, soak in what they have to say.

Your healthy marriage depends on it.

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