



The young Indian bride glowed in her wedding dress. Her special day had finally arrived. The man she had been arranged to marry stood, ready to take her hand and sweep her off her feet. Before the ceremony began, however, the bride-to-be had a single question for the new man in her life.

With this being an arranged marriage, neither the bride nor groom knew each other very well. Imagine the questions which darted through the young woman's mind as she anticipated her new life with a man who was all but a stranger. Perhaps she wondered what he thought about her family, where they would spend their honeymoon, where they would live, and how many children they would have. During the festivities leading up to the wedding, she stepped aside to share a private moment with her espoused. Then she unloaded the question. The groom's answer told more about him than hours of casual conversation would have ever revealed.

"How much is 15 plus 6?"

"17," the groom replied.

At the groom's answer, the bride turned and left the ceremony, feeling deceived and cheated. The groom had lied about his education — and the young woman did the math: If he was dishonest about this basic fact, what else had he been hiding from her? Something obviously didn't add up.

The young woman made one of the best decisions of her life that day. If more marriage seekers followed her lead and asked the right questions before getting into marriage, there would be far less trying to get out of it.

What are the right questions to ask a potential marriage partner? Try open-ended ones, for starters. "Yes" and "no" questions yield shallow, hollow responses which produce relationships with about as much depth as a pancake.

Think about the process you would take to select a new car:

- Would you ask if the salesperson likes the car better than a vehicle from another make, or would you ask how the vehicle distinguishes itself from its competitors?
- Would you ask if the car has a warranty, or would you ask when the manufacturer last had a safety recall?
- Would you ask the salesperson if the vehicle is capable of surviving extreme conditions, or would you ask how it will prove itself practical for your winter commute?



Each question in the above examples is valid, but the open-ended questions will provide more information about the vehicle than the "yes/no" questions. Relationships work the same way. "Yes/no" questions often initiate relationships: "Would you like to join me for coffee?" or "Are you doing anything this weekend?" Without the use of open-ended questions, however, the relationship rarely progresses any further.

When a relationship has progressed to the point where both parties are considering marriage, the man typically uses a question to express his intent for marital commitment: "Will you marry me?" Before a husband and wife are legally wed, questions are used to prove publicly their commitment to one another: "Will you have this man/woman to be your lawful wedded husband/wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the Holy Estate of Matrimony? Will you love . . . comfort . . . honor and keep him/her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others keep yourself only unto him/her as long as you both shall live?"

Anyone can answer the first date question and the engagement question by saying yes. . . . [Read the rest >>>](#)

Leave the Knot Alone

"Once the knot is tied, leave it alone." If every married couple or prospective couple followed *Washington Post* editor Colbert King's wise advice, they might stand a chance at celebrating 50 years of marriage as he and his wife, Gwen, did in 2011. We would see fewer "soda-pop" marriages which last about as long as the carbonation in a can of soda.

King's wisdom is best understood in his own words, quoted from his online article, "Marriage Wisdom Gathered over 50 Years":

Marriage is like baking bread, roasting a chicken, or whipping up a dessert. Once it's prepped and starts cooking, no testing, tasting, or stirring. Don't poke or flip it once it's on the grill. When it's done, let it rest.

Too many folks get married, only to end up worrying their marriages to death.

. . . Consider this: clocks, computers, cellphones, radios, televisions, guns, electric toothbrushes, light switches work . . . or they don't. Marriage isn't a thing. It can't be taken apart, fiddled with, and fixed.

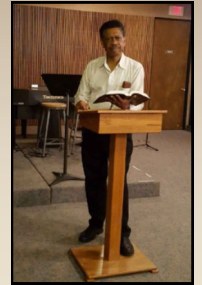
While I realize some marriages are in desperate need of repair, I speak as a young, single man. What kind of advice can King's words provide for people like me — or for the rest of you who may have a spouse, children, and/or grandchildren of your own? King offers insight into the sometimes-hard-nosed reality that it takes time for relationships to mature — with a spouse, a friend, a neighbor, a boss or co-worker, and even with God. Nothing worthwhile happens overnight. When time is allowed for growth instead of rushing through this process, there is a deepening in the relationship and a greater appreciation for the other person. Those of you who are married can hopefully look back over the years and see how your relationship with your spouse has grown with time. That is exactly how God intended it. The Bible says, "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time." (Ecclesiastes 3:11a)

Have you tied the knot? Then follow Colbert King's advice and learn to leave it alone. If you're like me and still waiting for God to bring the right person into your life, then get practice by building up the relationships you have right now. Most importantly, take time to grow your relationship with God. This is one relationship which will positively influence all others. In fact, if the relationship you have with Him is first priority in your life, then He will make your other relationships last — longer than any soda-pop relationship ever could. - *Article by Cameron Edwards*



Last Tuesday was our final Bible Class at the Prospect Christian Church (PCC). PCC has merged with Bridge Church. As a result, the old PCC will be demolished and

replaced with a new building in 2017. After more than a decade, we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Pastor Bradshaw and the PCC family. We wish them much success. Please keep Bibleway Ministries in your prayers as we seek a new location in the interim.



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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