



EVERYDAY WEALTH, EVERYDAY INSIGHTS

LOVE, MONEY, AND THE VALUE OF COMMUNICATION

One of the most stressful conversations any couple can have involves their family finances. It is completely natural – and expected – to have differences of opinion. One partner might view a certain



I always suggest coming up with solutions that fits you best as a couple. In my household, we figured out that separating our finances into 'His, Hers, and Ours' buckets works the best. This allows us to make independent decisions when it comes to minor financial matters without feeling like we need permission from the other. Meanwhile, we're able to work together on major financial decisions like buying a car, a house, retirement savings, kids' college, and building our emergency savings as a couple. We also committed to having transparency into credit card debt and any other expenses we may incur independently. ■■

ROSE NIANG

ADDRESSING PROBLEMS AROUND MONEY HELPS BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS

Financial tension affects couples across all ages and wealth brackets:

- Almost half (**46%**) of all respondents said they fought about finances and money with their partner.
- About **one-in-five** said that unhealthy money issues were a threat to their relationship.

While it's unlikely for couples to avoid all financial arguments, addressing money issues at the right time and in a proactive manner can help them reach consensus in a productive way. According to the data:

- **83%** of couples confirmed that talking about their finances can resolve disagreements.
- More than **one-third** agreed it helps them a lot.
- Those who discussed finances in detail were twice as likely to say their relationship had never been stronger (**42%**) compared to those who only discussed them in passing (**21%**).



“ Making significant financial decisions when emotions are running high is like going grocery shopping when you're hungry. It's probably best to let emotions calm down before diving into those financial decisions, just like you should satisfy your appetite before you head to the market. Eventually, at some point, those financial decisions and discussions do need to occur. By finding the right time and forum to have them, you and your partner improve the chances of building a stronger, healthier relationship. ”

BRIAN LESLIE

PLANNER
EDELMAN FINANCIAL ENGINES

KEY INSIGHTS

With the economy creating extra challenges, it's important to understand how financial matters can impact marriages and other long-term relationships. While conversations about money can be emotionally charged and difficult to bring to the table, the potential for problems down the road is even greater if chronic disagreements are left unaddressed today.

Open and honest discourse, as part of a broader approach to financial planning, is a way for couples to better understand each other's perspectives, make informed decisions, and avoid unnecessary friction. The guidance and support of an objective financial planner can increase a couple's chances for success, as they look to build trust, resilience, and a path to achieving their long-term goals.

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