

4 Tips For Fixing Financial Issues In Your Marriage

By Casey and Meygan Caston - Thriving Marriages Blog - August 27, 2021

Financial issues are a *LEADING* stressor among marriages all over the globe! It's an emotional topic, and it means something different to every person. For some, it's security and freedom, and for others, it's a trophy of success. Some people were raised to be generous with money, and others were raised to hold it tightly. It's very possible that you and your spouse were raised with *different* "money values". That makes it a messy subject, so it's important that you both remain united. Here are tips to keep you on the same team:

1. Financial Issues Tip #1: Have a Weekly Budget Meeting

Marriages can have business meetings, in fact, we encourage it! Have a regular (*weekly or monthly*) budget check-in to ensure that together you tell your money where it's going, instead of your money telling you. This is a great time to make sure that all your bills are on track to be paid on time, that you are saving enough for your future, and that you're working to pay off any debt you may have.

2. Financial Issues Tip #2: Have Personal Spending Money

We call it our "*mad money*." Each of you gets a set amount of money per paycheck to spend freely. That way if you feel that you **MUST** have that new game or you **CAN'T** live without a Starbucks, you *already have it budgeted* and you won't worry about breaking the bank. You can even save up your "mad money" for something big. It has done **WONDERS** for our marriage. The one rule to follow is that you can't judge or make comments about the way each other spends their mad money.

3. Financial Issues Tip #3: Use the Phrase "OUR" Money

The quickest way to let money come in between you and your spouse is to start using phrases like "It's my money and I can do whatever I want with it." When you got married, you pledged your lifetime and everything that comes with that to your spouse, good or bad. That means all of the frustration that comes with your credit card debt or school loans, and all of the joy that comes with being responsible with your savings account, or retirement plan. When you use phrases like "*my money*," you are telling your spouse that there's something in your marriage that comes before them, and that's painful and dangerous. *You're in marriage together*; highs and lows of money and all. You're a team, so don't forget that.

4. Financial Issues Tip #4: Keep Open Communication

If you are feeling like you and your spouse are not handling your joint finances well, talk about it! Keeping it to yourself causes bitterness and resentment to grow against your spouse, so be sure you're having regular conversations about your budget so that you are both on the same page!

Here are some connecting questions to get you started:

- *Do you consider yourself a saver, a spender or a little of both?*
 - *What does being financially comfortable look like to you?*
- *What one thing do you really want to purchase but can't afford?*