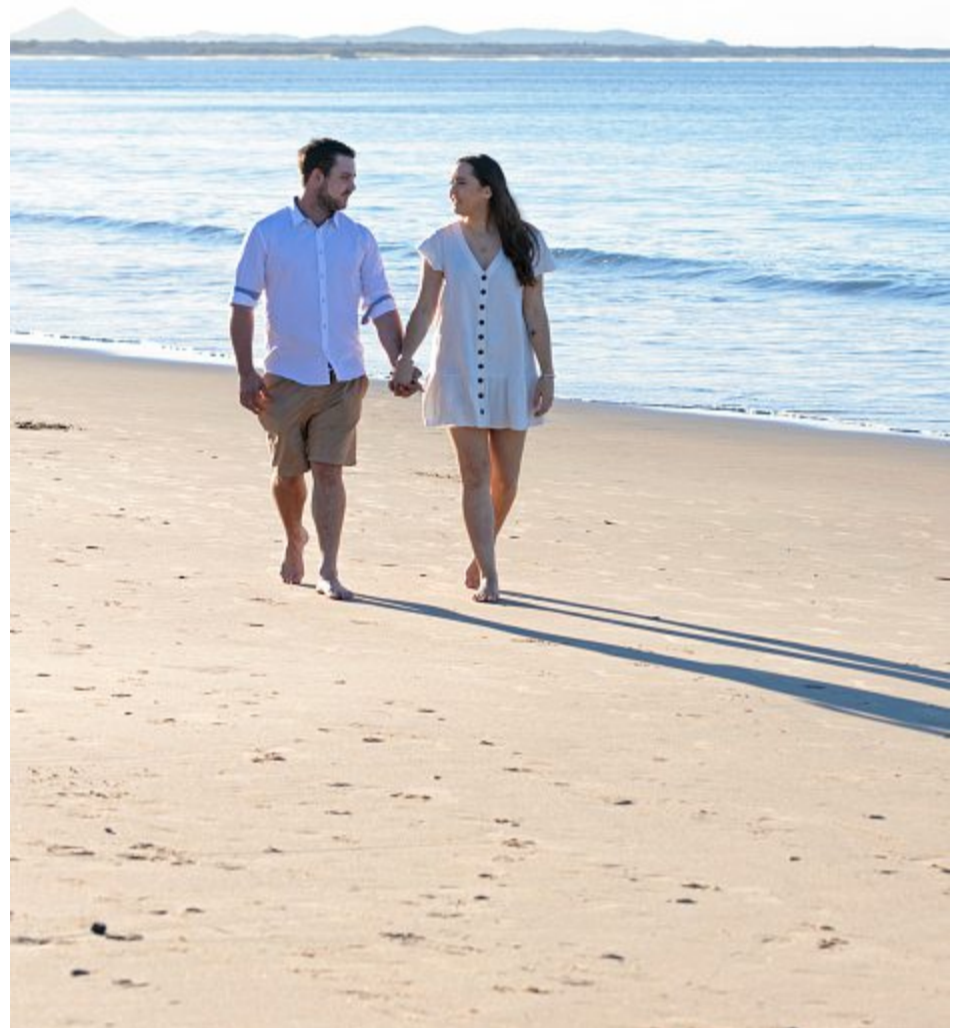


'TIL DEATH DO US PART

SPENDING YOUR LIFE WITH SOMEONE CAN HAVE MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS FOR YOU, YOUR PARTNER AND YOUR CHILDREN

WORDS: JOANNE WILSON



Did you know there is such a thing as Marriage Week? I realise there's a week for most things these days, just in case you didn't know it's Talk like a Pirate Day this week, so go crazy with that one.

Anyway, back to my speciality.

Wrapping up from Marriage Week, which has just concluded, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the physical, psychological, emotional, social and financial benefits of stable, loving relationships for men, women, children and even society.

The Institute of Family studies unveiled last year that parents around the globe who want their children to enjoy the benefits of a stable childhood should marry rather than cohabit.

Their report found that children whose parents were living together but not married at the time of their birth are by age 12 a lot more likely to see their parents split.

We do need to factor in unplanned births along with many cohabiting couples often being younger and some less educated.

Even in those countries where cohabitation has become culturally acceptable, it is found to be so much more a fragile union than marriage.

Here are just some of the benefits of being in a happy and committed marriage (some are according to me versus the researched ones):

- Statistically, couples who marry stay together longer, provide stability for their children therefore society may enjoy less crime and other social problems.

- Many women are naturally gifted with higher visual perceptiveness in many situations, so marriage brings lifelong support for a man trying to find his wallet

and keys.

- As a reward for this, many women may choose to benefit from the time saved to shave their legs once that ring is on.

- The public display of commitment at the wedding can provide greater stability and intention to bond for life.

- You have a "get out of events" pass. "My husband is so sick" can get you out of all sorts of boring work office parties than maybe the term "boyfriend" (but this is debatable).

- For Christians, a religious marriage can be a way for a couple to deepen their bonds to each other, as well as help them form a deeper relationship with God and receive His blessing.

- Two parents can provide a balanced perspective as role models, twice as much support emotionally and practically.

- Male children are less likely to display delinquent behaviour and substance abuse.

- Female children are less likely to be promiscuous.

- There are often financial benefits and other associated simplicities associated with inheritances etc.

- Your swiping finger for Tinder can be used for other more beneficial tasks.

- Emotional wellbeing is higher because of sharing stress and the burdens of child-rearing.

- A long-term committed marriage can lead to intimate gestures such as the armpit sniff test, pimple squeezing and checking for nits.

- Monogamy in marriage reduces sexually transmitted diseases and even a more fulfilling sex life as couples grow in their knowledge of their respective desires

based on trust.

- Your marriage partner keeps you alive by reminding what you're not so good at, such as buying that too-big-for-you motorbike or attending the Spanish tomato throwing festival when you're allergic.

Happy Marriage Week and remember to appreciate this special and sacred union that provides you with someone to annoy forever.

*Photo: Richard Grenfell Photography
Photo location: Mooloolaba Beach*

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