

# For Keeps

By Tresa Erickson  
*Ad-Builder*

When a bride and groom exchange vows, they hope it is forever, but no one knows for sure. While some couples remain together "until death do [them] part," others split up within days after. The reasons behind the success of one marriage and the failure of another are not always clear, but here are some quotes on the matter.

"I used to believe that marriage would diminish me, reduce my options. That you had to be someone less to live with someone else when, of course, you have to be someone more."  
– actress Candice Bergen, married to Louis Malle from 1980 until his death in 1995 and to Marshall Rose since 2000

"People shop for a bathing suit with more care than they do a husband or wife. The rules are the same. Look for something you'll feel comfortable wearing. Allow for room to grow."  
– humorist Erma Bombeck, married to Bill Bombeck from 1949 until her death in 1996

"My wife tells me that if I ever decide to leave, she is coming with me."  
– singer Jon Bon Jovi, married to Dorothea Hurley since 1989

"The heart of marriage is memories; and if the two of you happen to have the same ones and can savor your reruns, then your marriage is a gift from the gods."  
– comedian Bill Cosby, married to Camille Hanks since 1964

"Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without."  
– evangelical Christian author James Dobson, married to Shirley Dobson since 1960

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers."  
– writer Ruth Bell Graham, married to Billy Graham from 1943 until her death in 2007

"Every good relationship, especially marriage, is based on respect. If it's not based on respect, nothing that appears to be good will last very long."  
– singer-songwriter Amy Grant, married to Vince Gill since 2000

"What a happy and holy fashion it is that those who love one another should rest on the same pillow."  
– writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, married to Sophia Peabody from 1842 until his death in 1864

"I think what makes our marriage work amid all the glare is that my husband is my best friend. He inspires everything in my life and enables me to do the best that I can. I want to hang out with him more than anyone."  
– singer Faith Hill, married to Tim McGraw since 1996

"I have a terrific marriage, but unlike a lot of relationships where they ebb and flow, no matter what happens you fall deeper and deeper in love every day. It's kind of the best thing that can happen to you. It's thrilling."  
– actor Hugh Jackman, married to Deborra-Lee Furness since 1996

"One of the good things that come of a true marriage is, that there is one face on which changes come without your seeing them; or rather there is one face which you can still see the same, through all the shadows which years have gathered upon it."  
– writer George MacDonald, married to Louisa Powell from 1851 until her death in 1902

"I'm most proud of the longevity of my marriage, my kids, and my grandchildren. If you don't have that, you really don't have very much."  
– actor Bob Newhart, married to Ginnie Quinn since 1963

"My husband is a homebody and has nothing to do with the celebrity world. We've been married 44 years and have worked so well together because we're not in the same business."  
– singer-songwriter Dolly Parton, married to Carl Dean since 1966

"I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life."  
– comedienne Rita Rudner, married to Martin Bergman since 1988

"Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads which sew people together through the years."  
– actress Simone Signoret, married to Yves Montand from 1951 until her death in 1985

"And in a marriage you can't TRY and be married. You're married or you're not married...as far as I'm concerned."  
– singer-songwriter Ringo Starr, married to Barbara Bach since 1981

"I suppose it's about keeping love alive, learning how to fall in love over and over again, not taking each other for granted, forgiveness, trust."  
– actor Patrick Swayze, married to Lisa Niemi from 1975 until his death in 2009

"I once read that in any good marriage, one partner is the gardener and the other is the garden. We take it in turns to be either."  
– actress Meryl Streep, married to Don Gummer since 1978

"Love seems the swiftest but it is the slowest of all growths. No man or woman really knows what perfect love is until they have been married a quarter of a century."  
– author Mark Twain, married to Olivia Langdon from 1870 until her death in 1904

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