

## Fighting the Fairytale

One of our favorite family vacation spots is Disney World. Even as an adult, you can still experience the magic of Disney. While the rides, events, food, etc. is all wonderful, it is the experience itself that sets Disney apart. It brings a fairytale to life and you become a part of story. Each time we have gone, we go with high expectations and have yet to be disappointed.

While planning a future trip, it crossed our mind how many couples approach marriage with similar expectations of a fairytale experience. Our expectations of marriage are often set through childhood fantasies, movies, and books. We also want the fairytale experience. We want the marriage that we dreamed about. Once married, that perspective runs into the reality of living with another imperfect human. Unlike Disney World, many couples came face to face with unmet expectations.

Marriage is rarely a fairytale experience where challenges are short-lived and easily overcome with some pixie dust. And they shouldn't be. Marriage is a relationship where two people can share the challenges of life together, and where their experiences, when handled appropriately, can bring them into a closer relationship with God. God never designed marriage to be "heaven on earth," but instead a relationship where we become stronger and better people. We become stronger through adversity.

Whenever, you and your spouse go through difficult times, take comfort that the experience will make you stronger as an individual and a couple. Try not to view the issues as an impediment to a happy marriage, but instead, an opportunity to grow. Couples that stick through the tough times, find that they are often much happier in their relationship 5 years later.

Blessings,

Brian and Trudy

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend

- Proverbs 27:17