

Is Reality TV to Blame for Divorce?

Over the past eight years, Jenifer and I have had the honor of having more than 500 couples come through our Marriage Prep Workshops. Investing in these young, teachable couples is perhaps our all-time favorite thing to do in ministry.

Several times a year, we set up a booth at a local bridal expo to promote our workshop. Amidst all the florists, photographers and cake decorators, we make our pitch: "You're here to plan your wedding, and I'm sure it's going to be beautiful. But remember, when the wedding is over, there's this thing that starts immediately after called a marriage. And it lasts longer than the wedding does."

Some brides (and the occasional groom) are open to our pitch. They want to be successful in marriage and know they need some coaching. But sadly, many brides won't talk to us. They are too busy planning their dream weddings to waste time thinking about the details and challenges of building a lasting marriage.

I blame reality TV shows such as "Say Yes to the Dress" and "Four Weddings." These shows and the bazillion-dollar wedding industry have convinced many young women that the key to marital bliss is the perfect wedding. Their message: "You must have decor that dazzles, food that amazes, and an event that takes people's breath away. In a nutshell, you must impress your friends and family. The more awesome the wedding event, the more awesome you are. In turn, the more awesome your marriage will be."