

Managing Money As Husband And Wife

June — the most popular month for weddings in America — is upon us.

In the midst of preparing for (or enjoying) wedded bliss, how many brides and grooms actually stop to think about how they will handle money once the honeymoon is over?

Whether you're a newlywed or a bride whose wedding gown has gathered a little dust, you'll undoubtedly find that managing money in your marriage is a challenge all husbands and wives face on a daily basis.

Saying "I Do" To Communication

Most problems don't stem from a couple's inability to trust one another or one partner's selfishness. Rather, the culprit is often a lack of communication about budgeting, expenses and financial goals.

Communicating about money is key; otherwise, how are you going to know things like whether your spouse already paid the phone bill?

It's important to decide how you will handle expenses. Will you pay some of the bills while your husband or wife pays the other? Or, will you both deposit all your money into one account and pay everything with your combined money? Either system can work, as long as there is a clear understanding of who is responsible for what.

The need for communication is particularly apparent when a couple shares a joint account. With the conveniences afforded by debit cards and ATMs, many people fail to record every withdrawal they make in their checkbooks.

This can be a problem if you spend without leaving a record of it, and then your spouse spends money thinking that your joint checking balance is higher than it actually is.

The obvious solution is to write down every transaction you make, and discuss purchases with your spouse.

Help Is Just A Few Clicks Away

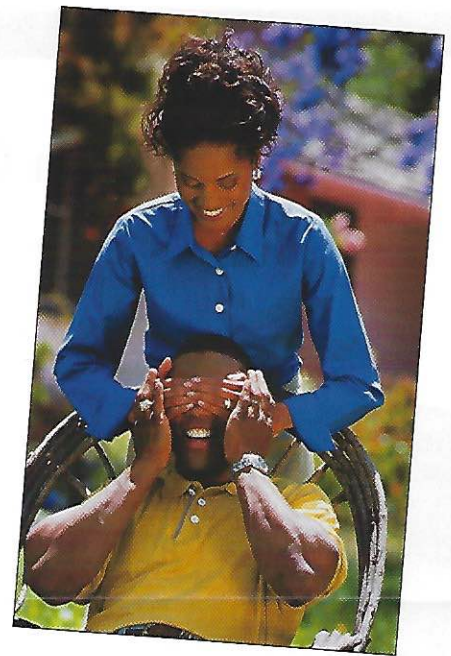
There's also a tool Regions offers that helps many couples stay abreast of their bank account balances and every transaction made. It's called RegionsNet® online banking.

If you've never tried online banking, visit www.regions.com to learn more. You can try the free demo, which gives you a glimpse into all the features and benefits of RegionsNet.

This popular online banking service lets you view your accounts via the Internet, so you know where you stand financially at any time of day or night, no matter where in the world you happen to be. Each transaction you or your spouse makes is recorded in your online register, so even if you forget to write an expense into your checkbook, you have a record of it.

Viewing this information is safe, too. Regions supports a 128-bit data encryption system, an advanced method of securing information you view and send on our Web site.

In addition to viewing your accounts, RegionsNet allows you to transfer funds online, and you can pay your bills using RegionsNet, too.



Avoid surprises when it comes to your finances.

The Bill Pay feature is a nice option for couples to use to help them manage bill payments. With this feature, RegionsNet users can set up recurring payments to designated payees. For example, you can arrange to have your car payment deducted from your checking account and sent to your lender on the same day each month.

These payments can be set up to automatically occur from month to month. Or, you can log on to RegionsNet each time you want to initiate a payment.

The options are boundless. Check out www.regions.com to learn about more of the capabilities you can get with RegionsNet. You can enroll online or at your local Regions Bank.

Consider RegionsNet a wedding or anniversary present that you can give yourself and your spouse. Your marriage will thank you.

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