

# Do Age-Gap Marriages Last?

---

A big age difference between spouses *can be* a real challenge. It's common for a couple to encounter opposition from friends and family with strong opinions on age differences. If the age difference is noticeable, they might even get leering stares and judgmental looks from total strangers!

But there are other challenges, too. Because of their age difference, the spouses might have different world views based on how their generation was raised. And, the older spouse might have much more experience with relationships, careers, and other things, while the younger spouse might be just starting out.

All of these challenges can trigger arguments and conflict. So what you should do? Not get married if there's a big age difference? That's not the answer. Love should be the guiding principle, not age.

Here's some advice for dealing with age-gap relationships.

## **Dealing with family, friends and strangers...**

Although some families respect the decision of their loved ones who choose an age-gap relationship, other families feel obligated to share their thoughts on the matter, whether invited to or not.

The best way to deal with negative comments and attention from family, friends, and even strangers is to be HAPPY and confident in your relationship!

It's your life, not theirs! It's hard to be bothered by doubters and haters when you're happily married! But, if you have doubts of your own, other people's comments will amplify them. Your job is to not give too much attention or importance to external feedback. But if other people's views and comments are hurting your relationship, consider seeing a marriage counselor who has experience with age-gap couples.

## **Dealing with differences in world views and experiences...**

There are two steps in dealing with differences in world views:

*Step one:* Focus on your common interests. Something drew you together in the first place; focus on those things.

*Step two:* Learn to see the value in your differences. The younger spouse can help the older person enjoy a more youthful point of view. And the older spouse can use their experience and knowledge to help the younger person. It's a win-win situation, unless the relationship slips into a parent-child dynamic; both partners **must** be equals.

*Lastly*, please recognize that your spouse's world view isn't wrong; it's just different.

## **Planning for the future...**

You can't slow the aging process. If there's a big age difference, one of you may reach old age while the other is middle aged. For instance, one of you may retire as the other's career is taking off. In addition, there's the likely chance that the younger spouse will be a widow or widower later in life.

It's important to discuss these issues and make plans early in the relationship.

Age gap marriages can be a bit challenging, especially if there's opposition and negativity coming from family and friends. But, what marriage ISN'T challenging?!

Instead of focusing on the challenges, couples should learn to focus on common interests, appreciate their differences, and support each other no matter what, which, when you think about it, holds true for *every single marriage on the planet!*

*Until next time, this is Mike Tucker and I want YOU to be mad about marriage!*