



## *5 Pointers To See Eye to Eye with The Ones Financing Your Wedding*

You have found your life partner. When you announced your engagement to your loved ones, everyone (hopefully) was truly happy for you. Now it's time to plan and pay for the day.

Traditionally, the bride's family pays for the wedding day.

Best case scenario, you can have whatever you want. More realistically, you have your ideas, and the ones financing your wedding have their ideas, too. Like who's invited, what you wear, who your attendants should be, etc., etc. You may be finding out your must-have lists are not synced. You begin to feel controlled like a little kid being told what to do. But you are a grown up, right? This is YOUR day, or isn't it?

There is a way of seeing eye to eye so the process from beginning to end becomes a an experience in harmonious compromise in order to create a fabulous wedding day. Seeing eye to eye boils down to YOUR clarity and YOUR compassion. (We can never control another person's perceptions, only our own).

Here are five pointers to promote cooperation so you don't give up your dream wedding and keep the purse strings from getting tangled.

1. **What are the most important reasons you want to get married?** You love each other, of course. But what are other motivations propelling your decision to get married? For instance, some brides feel the need to prove they are now a grown woman by getting married. Another bride wants to follow tradition in order to feel a part of the family. Often a couple wants their marriage to be legal for the sake their children. I've helped more than one couple tie the knot in order to become eligible for their spouse's insurance coverage. Is the wedding an opportunity to gather the people who mean the most to you to witness and celebrate the commitment you are going to make?

Next, find out what the bill payer's reasons **they support** your getting married is. If they don't support your marriage, then you are probably already on footing the bills.

Naming the reasons you are getting married establishes a foundation for your wedding day. Knowing "why" helps you stay clear with whomever is paying the bills of what you want the end result to be. You are less likely to get waylaid by objections and insertions that don't refer back to the purpose of your wedding. If disagreements happen, you can ask, "How does this support the reason we are getting married?"

2. **Why did YOU get married?** Ask whomever is paying for your wedding why they got married. Find out what their wedding day experience was about. Ask them how it felt. If they had a chance to do their wedding the same way over again, would they? If not, what would they do differently? Listen, and ask questions.

Getting the background of what may be motivating the bill payers helps you empathize with them. Connection is always preferable to tension. Show you are open to them by appreciating their experiences.

3. **Set Ground Rules.** Before you start sharing lists of what you want included in your wedding day, set GROUND RULES. The big GROUND RULE to set: Who makes the final decision?

Realistically, you will have some disagreements. But these bumps in the road don't have to be paralyzing or traumatic. If worse comes to worse, what person can you all agree on to ask for advice? Then set GROUND RULES regarding budget. Is this amount non-negotiable? Adopt a question you can ask to help you all make the decision, such as: "In five years, how will we feel knowing we had to live with this decision?"

Setting GROUND RULES gives you a foundation to build on, rather than bringing in "yeah buts" or "but he or she said" or comparing your preferences to anyone else.

4. **Know your non-negotiables.** What kinds of things will you uncategorically not do or have? Will you absolutely not wear a veil? Invite your alcoholic aunt? Get married by a minister in the church?

Pick your fights, and be willing to let go of a few of the things you really aren't committed to. It's how you create a win win.

5. **Offer to pay back the cost of what matters most to you.** Take what you want off the discussion table by being willing to be responsible for it yourself should the bill payers not agree.

Granted you may have more debt than you want to. BUT -- when you imagine looking back in five years and you know you will be sorry you didn't do what you matters most to you, you may regret not going for it.

*Rev Crystal Yarlott has been officiating weddings since she became a Unity minister in 1990. She has helped 600+ couples have a ceremony they and their family loved and treasure. Contact her today to discuss your vision for your ceremony.*



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