

## Failed Relationships

Falling in love is easy. In the blink of an eye, two absolute strangers can suddenly find themselves pledging a lifetime of undying love and devotion. But, if it's so simple to fall in love, why are there so many failed relationships?

Not all relationships are alike. Some are healthy, lasting partnerships, while others seem doomed to become failed relationships. How you and your partner handle life's obstacles can determine whether your union will continue to grow. If your current relationship is suffering, you need to step back and take a good look at whether your romantic bliss suddenly took a turn for the worse, or whether it has been stuck in a slow decline. Ask yourself what you may have done wrong, and what your personal shortcomings might be.

To avoid a failed relationship you need to be able to spot the signs of trouble:

### Poor Communication

In order for your relationship to thrive, it needs to be built on a solid base of open communication. Lack of communication keeps both you and your partner from having a clear understanding of what is really going on, and you may not even be aware that a problem has arisen. This can cause an otherwise healthy relationship to quickly turn sour. Inadvertently, poor communication creates more conflict. Without open discussion neither you nor your partner will know what the other wants or expects from the union. Staying silent when a problem arises serves no purpose, and actually aggravates the problem. It's better to express your true feelings and risk dispute, than to stay quiet and say nothing at all. The only purpose poor communication serves is contributing further to a failed relationship.

### Pride

Every relationship is subject to conflicts and petty arguments from time to time. These are nothing to be afraid of, and they can actually help to strengthen your union. When pride comes into play, however, the fights can turn from bad to worse. When you and your partner disagree, it's important that you're able to put your pride aside and be a little humble. If you've made a mistake, have the courage to acknowledge your fault and apologize for it. Pride has no place in a loving relationship. Know how to ask for forgiveness, and be flexible enough to give your partner some slack. Building a satisfying union is not about being "right" or "wrong". It's about voicing your views and respecting your partner's opinions.

### Infidelity and Dishonesty

These two acts are often tied together. When a person is unfaithful, he or she will also be dishonest in an attempt to hide the infidelity. When the truth arises, trust will be lost and the jilted partner will be too enraged to listen to reasons or explanations. If your partner admits to being unfaithful, you may find that this is the culmination of a string of lies and deceit. Your once happy and romantic relationship can quickly fail, as the very basic element of trust has been taken out of the equation. You will be suspicious and jealous, your partner will be guilt-ridden and ashamed, and the negative feelings can lead to an ongoing cycle that will eventually lead to a failed relationship.

Good partnerships can turn bad, but they do not necessarily have to become failed relationships. Know the warning signs and take steps to improve the situation. If you choose to stay in a relationship that's beyond repair, it's time to look into your heart and consider ways to bolster your self-esteem.