Marriage is a major milestone in everyone’s life. It requires planning, a great deal of effort, and strong communication skills. There are a few things couples need to discuss before they get married. The major three points are the financial situations for both people, if the unpaid work around the house will be done by both you and your partner or your children, and how each of you will relate to your own relatives and your partner’s relatives. Additional points to discuss include if you and your partner want to have children, what are the overall educational goals of both you and your partner as well as your children, what are you and your partner’s attitude toward friendships with people of the opposite sex, how much time alone do you and your partner need apart, and how much time do you need with your partner together. Having these answers before marriage will save you and your partner a lot of trouble and will help with communication.

The financial situation of both you and your partner is a very important thing to know going into marriage. Knowing how to budget and manage not only your money but also your partner’s money will serve as one of the major checks and balances within marriage. Another important conversation to have is who will do most of the unpaid work around the house. The solution to this problem could be whoever is not working will be the stay-at-home parent. Their job will be to ensure the house stays clean and they do most of the basic chores around the house. On the other hand, if both you and your partner work then both of you will work on it.

The last major point to discuss before marriage is how will you and your partner relate to your own and your partner’s relatives. This is a very important thing to consider around the holiday seasons. This conversation will sort out which side of the family gets each holiday. Another conversation to have is if you and your partner plan to have children. This is very important and could be a deal breaker if both parties do not agree with each other. This question should be one of the first to be discussed.

Two other important questions to bring up are the educational goals of both you and your partner and what your attitudes are towards friendships with people of the opposite sex. The educational goals aligns with the question about the financial situation of both you and your partner. If you or your partner plan to go to college this could require some extra funds. And this question could be asked to see if you and your partner plan to send your kids to college. Another important question to ask is how you and your partner views friendships with people of the opposite sex. This is a great question to ask as it will provide clarity on how you and your partner view this situation. But if your viewpoint doesn’t align with your partners this could cause some trouble later in the marriage.

The final two questions to ask are how much alone time do you need for yourself, and how much alone time do you need with your partner. Maintaining a balance between your marriage, work, and your mental health is something most people have trouble with. So having this additional alone time to yourself could help you align these three major things in your life. Likewise asking the question for how much alone time do you and your partner need could help situate any problems that could arise. This could be used to continue your emotional and physical connection to your partner, or it could be to help each other with their work-life issues.