

Fatal Flaws of Selection



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London, 2010: We all dream about a "match made in heaven" - but what happens when the dream doesn't become the reality? Making mistakes when choosing your life partner can not only impact upon your happiness, but also your children, family and fortune. According to figures released by the Centre for Social Justice, family breakdowns cost the country an estimated



£24billion per year, which equates to a significant impact on your wallet - but that's to mention nothing about the emotional cost of a family breakdown.

Choosing the right person to spend your life with is a serious decision. "Many people continue to fall into the same traps when making relationship decisions," says Dr Gian Gonzaga eHarmony.co.uk relationship expert and Director of Research and Development at eHarmony Labs. "Long term happiness within your relationship is based on many criteria. Some of these vary by individuals, whilst others such as sharing values and personality traits are universal. Often when forming a relationship people overemphasize the qualities

that are less important to happiness over the long haul. If the relationship falters, this is often why. " Dr Gian Gonzaga and the team at eHarmony.co.uk have thus created a compilation of some of the common traps people fall into made when choosing a relationship partner:

* **Too** **Fast**

Don't let romance cloud your judgement. Marriage or committing to a partner should be a serious decision that takes many aspects into consideration. Get to know your potential partner in as many different social environments and situations as possible before you commit to. In fact, some experts recommend that a couple dates for at least two years to make sure that they are making a good choice.

* **Too** **Young**

People in their 20s have some of the highest divorce rates. Whilst some people have experienced a lot by this age, for many that strong concept of self-identity won't have emerged yet. Knowing who you are and feeling comfortable with yourself is a vital part of a relationship.

eHarmony.co.uk is an **online dating** service that was launched in the UK in 2008, following extensive research into love and relationships conducted by eHarmony Labs and the University of Oxford's Internet Institute. Offering British singles a relationship service based on scientific models known as the Compatibility Matching System™, eHarmony has gathered and analysed data identifying patterns to predict compatibility for UK couples **dating in Birmingham**, London, Bristol and beyond. Dr. Gian Gonzaga is the senior director of research and development at eHarmony Labs, a California-based institute that conducts relationship research in the US and around the world.

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