Marriage has historically been the key institution for household formation, and research has shown a strong relationship between marital status and subjective wellbeing (SBW). Married individuals have consistency reported having higher levels of SBW than non-married, with marriage providing both economic and emotional support. The objective of this study is to investigate how marital status is related to wellbeing within the South African context where marriage rates are low and declining, and to investigate if this relationship changes over the life course. This research analyses five waves of panel data from the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS). The analysis of this dissertation is done using transition matrices to observe how individuals switch between the different marital statuses, ordered logit models for the regressions and the fixed effect ordered logit estimator as a test of robustness. Demographic variables such as age, importance of religion, number of children and education were controlled for. The results suggest that individuals do not frequently transition between the different marital statuses in South Africa, which adds to the body of literature that suggests that in South Africa marriage or cohabiting rates are on a decline. Results also suggest that there is a significant relationship between marital status and SWB with those who are married reporting higher levels SWB. The significance of this relationship varies across the different genders, age cohorts and races. Different possible mechanisms for the observed results are discussed in this paper including discussions on matters such as lobola.