

LESSON 2

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

Introduction

The high divorce rate indicates that many young people do not make adequate preparation for marriage. Mr. Harry Cole, chairman of the matrimonial law committee of the Chicago Bar Association, believes that if young people were trained for marriage the divorce rate would drop to almost nothing. The home, the church, and the school are responsible for preparing young people for marriage. Since marriage is ordained by God, the Christian home and the church should assume primary responsibility. Little attention is given to preparation for marriage in the home because parents are unaware of what needs to be done. Few churches have training programmes or emphases in marriage preparation, and many pastors have not developed skills for premarital counselling.

Marriages are not automatically successful. People who achieve success in marriage must work for it as in any other endeavour. A person will not be a skilled carpenter unless he is trained. Neither will a young person be a skilled builder of a home without training. Part of this training comes from the example of parents, but if their marriage is less than successful then the preparation will be weak or negative.

Since young people have not had experience in making marital adjustments and in solving conflicts, they often develop fantasies regarding marriage. Their fantasies leave them disillusioned when their marriages do not progress smoothly. When conflicts intensify, the only alternative they know is separation and divorce.

In preparation for marriage, young people should have a correct view of God's plan and purpose for the home. This subject has been treated in the first lesson. This lesson will focus on psychological, personal, moral, and spiritual preparation.

Psychological Preparation

Recognizing the mutual benefits of marriage

In the previous lesson, a note of warning was sounded concerning the inadequacy of romantic love as the basis of marriage. Young people should understand the realistic and enduring purposes of marriage. They should recognize that mutual benefits require giving on the part of both. Marriage is not for lazy or selfish persons.

The high divorce rate indicates a need for more adequate p_____ for marriage.

(preparation)

Preparation for marriage should contribute to more s_____ marriages.

(successful)

and woman for the purpose of propagating the race and of companionship. As long as they are exercised within marriage, they are wholesome and holy. The birth of children and their presence in the home satisfy a deep desire in the hearts of most adults.

Fourth, marriage should add to the happiness, fulfilment, and development of each. For some, however, marriage brings only disappointment and disillusionment. Success in marriage depends to a large extent upon the psychological attitudes the partners bring to it. Personal growth often comes as a result of overcoming hindrances to successful marriage. Physical problems which arise in marriage can either defeat or become the means for maturing.

Accepting the permanency of marriage

Immature persons often rush into marriage because of physical attraction to one another without considering the more mundane aspects of daily living and partnership. They may have the idea that, if they find themselves to be incompatible, they can get a divorce. The attitude that marriage is not necessarily permanent makes the partners less determined to work out problems which arise.

A successful marriage does not depend on a fortunate choice of perfectly matched partners. It is a lifetime process and requires many choices and many adjustments before the partners develop a unity of personalities. Each one brings unique qualities which will enrich the life of the other, but each also brings his own characteristics which may annoy the other. If emphasis is placed on the negative characteristics of marriage partners, they can be magnified to the point of justifying divorce in the minds of those who have no convictions that marriage is to be permanent. Those who know that it is permanent will accentuate the positive, understand that each has undesirable characteristics, and be willing to compromise. Problems can be solved and success achieved if both partners set their minds on these goals.

Understanding the nature of love

The Greek language distinguishes between three kinds of love by using three different words, but unfortunately English has only one word for all three. Eros focuses on physical attraction and has as its goal the possession of that to which one is attracted. Philia speaks of the mutual concern and consideration of friends. Agape refers to one's concern for the other person. A successful marriage relationship involves all three.

Eros centres in physical attraction and is a basic part of marriage; however, this type love is inadequate as the sole foundation of marriage. It is usually the first step towards marriage as two individuals are attracted to one another. It is grounded in the instinctual desires and is natural to most people. It

Another mutual benefit of marriage is _____

(to add to the happiness, fulfilment, and development of each.)

The attitude that marriage is permanent helps prevent divorces in that there is more determination to work out _____ that arise.

(problems)

List three other ways the attitude that marriage is permanent helps prevent divorces.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(1. To accentuate positive characteristics, 2. To understand each has undesirable characteristics, 3. To compromise in solving problems)

One Greek word for love is _____.
Describe this kind of love. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Achieving emotional maturity

The age for emotional maturity varies in different people. An indication of maturity is one's ability to deny himself immediate desires for future achievements. A mature person is able to analyse a situation objectively rather than responding on the basis of subjective emotional desires. The emotionally immature person is more self-conscious and self-centred. As emotional maturity develops, a person is able to see things in their true relationships and to be more impartial in his evaluations. No one is able to be objective all the time and always separate himself from selfish desires, but a person who is completely ruled by his desires reveals immaturity and is not ready for marriage. One who is psychologically prepared for marriage should be able to evaluate himself and his partner with some degree of objectivity. Otherwise, the immature person will be able to see only his side of the issue when conflicts arise.

The emotionally mature person is able to develop a philosophy which will guide him in life. He understands the purpose for living and is able to relate each of his activities to the central purpose of his life. His conduct is regulated to a degree by his ultimate goals. His choice of a marriage partner is not based upon impulsive physical attraction but upon compatibility, common interests, a common philosophy and similar goals in life. A healthy marriage contributes to a person's achieving his goals in life. An unhealthy marriage resulting from immaturity will become a hindrance.

Conclusion

A person's psychological make-up may be partially the result of his early environment and unhappy experiences, but his nature, patterned after God's image, guarantees that he is not altogether a victim of circumstances. Much anxiety can be alleviated through forgiveness and removal of guilt. Insecurity, causing instability, is solved by faith in which one's life is grounded in the power of the One who created the heavens and the earth. Self-centredness and lovelessness are cured by inviting Christ to abide within and to control one's life. The most successful marriages are those in which each partner has committed his life to Christ. It is wise for a person to marry in the Lord and to give attention to the development of spiritual characteristics in order to achieve happiness in marriage.

Personal Preparation

Self-evaluation

What kind of person would you like to marry? Do you possess the attitudes and maturity that you would like to see in your companion?

List three indications of maturity.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(1. Ability to deny immediate desires for future achievements, 2. Ability to analyze situations objectively, 3. Ability to see things in their true relationships and be impartial in evaluations)

Another indication of maturity is to have a _____ which guides in life and to which all activities can be related.

(philosophy)

Match the psychological problem with its spiritual solution.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Anxiety | a. Christ abides within and controls |
| 2. Insecurity | b. Forgiveness and removal of sin |
| 3. Self-centredness and lovelessness | c. Faith |

(1-b, 2-c, 3-a)

A person should be able to evaluate his own motives and maturity. He may know that he has reached a degree of maturity when he has learned how to deal with his problems constructively. Confusion, discouragement, and despair are indications of lack of maturity. Failing to face up to problems by running from them indicates immaturity and denies a person the experience of growth that results from overcoming them.

A person should be able to analyse his own motives that control his actions. He should recognize that attempts to dominate indicate feelings of insecurity. Heavy drinking becomes a means of escaping problems. Jealousy is an expression of insecurity, and gossip is motivated by a desire to build one's ego while trampling underfoot the reputation of others. One who rushes into marriage with an immature person will pay many times for the mistake. One who contemplates marriage has the responsibility of presenting his mate a mature and stable companion. Many divorces result from immature individuals' entering relationships that require responsibility and stability.

Willingness to accept responsibility

Unhappy persons often blame others for their failures. The philosophy of determinism holds that personality and behaviour are determined by external factors and the individual is not responsible for what he does. Although a person is influenced to a great extent by external factors, he maintains a degree of freedom and internal strength with which to direct his own life. Any person has the potential of building a worthwhile life despite the psychological handicaps he has faced. The first step is to accept responsibility for what has happened and to profit from the experience. One must not allow himself to dwell on his failures but rather to set his mind on the opportunities before him. Tolerating disappointments without despair and facing problems without frustration are within the control of the individual. His own will determines whether he reacts to experiences negatively or positively.

Accepting oneself

About ninety-five percent of the people have feelings of inferiority to some extent, and many are hindered from achieving happiness because of the extensive feelings of inferiority. Everyone is inferior to someone else in certain areas of life. Billy Graham excels as a preacher, but many ministers and preachers are superior to him as theologians. The shoeshine boy can make a pair of shoes look much better than the average successful businessman. Everybody is superior to someone else in some respect. A person is not inferior because he cannot perform as well as others in all areas. Each person has unique characteristics and abilities which enable him to do a superior job in certain areas. He should not expect to be an expert in all facets of life.

Four indications of immaturity are:
 e _____, d _____,
 d _____, and failure to face up to
 p _____.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

A determinist holds that personality and behaviour are determined by external factors and the individual is not responsible for what he does.

Give the Christian view of responsibility.

(An individual is influenced by external factors, but he has a degree of freedom and internal strength for directing his own life.)

Inferiority is not caused by actual limitation of skills and knowledge but rather from an attitude that one allows to develop. Some people do not accept themselves and their abilities because they have developed the attitude that they must excel in every area, and their being second best causes misery, despair, and sometimes jealousy. The person with inferior feelings reacts in two ways: he criticizes those who have succeeded in order to bring them down to his level or below; he strives for superiority. The striving for superiority or perfection gets him into more trouble and causes more frustration. The greater the misery, the more negative the person becomes. His feelings of inferiority make it difficult for him to relate to other persons since no one enjoys being criticized or living in an atmosphere of negativism.

Since marriage involves such a close relationship between two people, feelings of inferiority can create serious obstacles and hinder the development of love. The prescribed remedy for inferiority is quite simple, but people have difficulty following it. A person needs to realize that he was created by God and his dignity is based on the image of God. It is not intended that he excel in every area in which other persons succeed. He can excel only in those areas for which God has equipped him. Each person is a unique individual with a specific, divinely appointed purpose. He should not attempt to imitate others nor mope when others are promoted in economic or social structures. God has an important task for each, and no one else can do that task quite as well as the one who has been designed for it. Perhaps others are envious of the ability which the person with inferior feelings has.

The real solution to inferiority feelings is Christian faith, that is, believing that God made each person for a specific purpose. A person should thank God daily for what he is. This practice gives him self-esteem and acceptance of himself. Recognizing that one's abilities come from God excludes pride and an attitude of superiority.

A good relationship in marriage depends on each partner's accepting himself as he is and accepting his companion for what he or she is. This does not mean that efforts should not be made to overcome weaknesses in personality and performance, but it does mean that one should not judge his partner in the light of the accomplishments of others. Relationships are strengthened when the attitudes of companions are positive and supportive and each appreciates the uniqueness of the other. Relationships deteriorate when attitudes are negative and each finds fault with the other because the other fails to be like someone else or like the partner thinks he ought to be. Accepting one another requires adjustments, but these adjustments are not possible if one or both bring closed minds to marriage.

Give the two reactions of a person with feelings of inferiority.

1. _____

2. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

The solution to inferiority is a realization that one is created by _____ and in His _____.

(God, image)

Also the solution to inferiority includes recognizing that God made one, for a specific _____.

(purpose)

Accepting one's situation

Many personalities deteriorate instead of developing because they spend most of their time envying the good fortune that has come to others. It is true that life does not treat every person the same, but this inequity is not corrected by brooding over the favourable circumstances which appear to surround others. While life may seem good in obvious areas for others, they likely are suffering in some less noticeable areas. For example, a person who is enjoying financial success may be experiencing family problems that are not known to others. Children may be disobedient or disrespectful and wayward. One may be born with a physical defect, or the wife and husband may not have a happy relationship. Television, movies, and novels have over-dramatized the pleasure that unfaithful partners find in intimate relationships outside the home, but they fail to depict the guilt, shame, fear, and agony that is experienced when a person attempts to live two lives.

A person must accept the fact that difficulties and undesirable experiences arise in the life of everyone. Success comes by facing the realities of life and making the most of one's own situation. The person who complains about his situation or pines for the fortunes of others will waste his life and live in defeat. A person can learn to live without being overwhelmed by the anxieties which surround him all of the time. If one does not learn to cope with the realities of life, he will be unable to master the unexpected which comes his way in marriage. Life will never fall into place at every step. Personal preparation for marriage requires that a person be able to see and deal with the difficult experiences in life without blaming his partner.

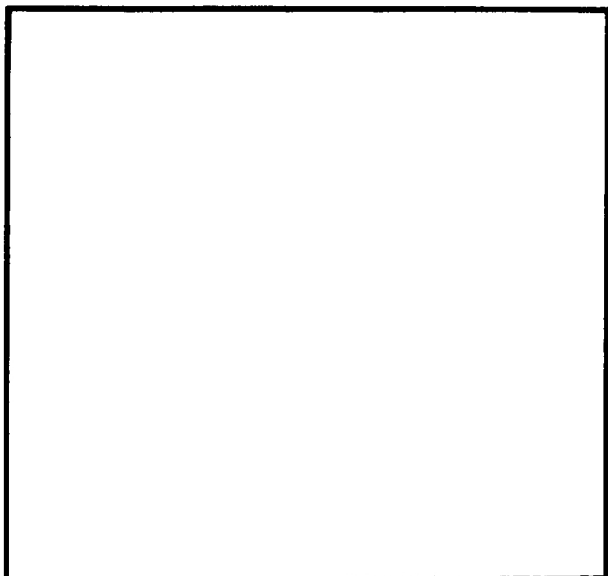
Learning to control hostile impulses

Every person experiences periods of hostile feelings and impulses. The lack of physical health and vitality contribute to these feelings. If a person is tired and frustrated, he is more likely to express hostile feelings towards others. Guilt feelings, personal mistakes, defeats, and anxiety also cause emotions of hostility to arise. If the relationship of marriage partners is to develop, each must learn how to deal with these emotions without turning them on his family. Sometimes a person needs to express his emotions, but he must learn to be honest by analysing their true origin instead of blaming his companion.

Moral Purity as Preparation

Maintaining moral standards

Although the news media and shady television programmes have given the impression that most young adults live immorally, the facts have been exaggerated. Deviations from traditional moral standards make news,



Three attitudes which help one to accept his situation are:

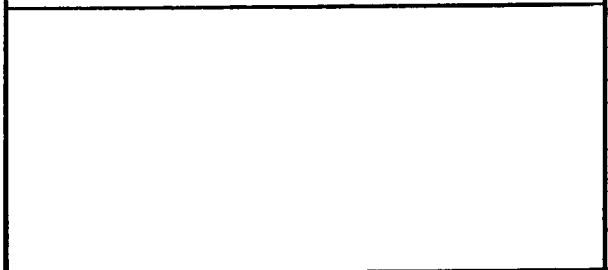
- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

- (1. know that difficulties arise for everyone,*
- 2. make the most of one's situation,*
- 3. do not be overwhelmed by anxieties)*

Hostile feelings should not be expressed towards _____.

A better solution is to be honest about hostile emotions by analysing their true _____.

(family or companion, origin)



but the fact that crime and immorality fill the headlines does not mean that everyone is living an errant life. The majority of college young people in the United States recognize that drunkenness and pre-marital relations do not dignify personal freedom.

The mature young person is able to control his social behaviour. Some young people have taken a firm stand on moral issues. An open letter in a campus newspaper reads in part:

We are in revolt against the line of the "new morality" that is forced down our throats by books, magazines, television, films, professors, and some churchmen. Sex, violence, lust, and godlessness are taking over the nation. When venereal disease among young Americans rises 130 percent between 1956 and 1961, when 13,000,000 children come from broken homes—who is responsible? We are.¹

The thrills of sin in adolescence and early adulthood have their way of paying wages throughout the rest of life. Even though various types of crime and immorality are practised widely, persons who participate can never escape guilt nor experience the maximum potential of life. What could the thief, who is in and out of prison, have become had he applied himself and used his ability to benefit himself and others? What can life be to the person who has constantly to hide his actions and who lives in fear of being discovered? How much deep satisfaction is there in life for the person who experiences shame each time he faces a neighbour or acquaintance who knows about his deviate behaviour?

Developing the deepest relationships in marriage requires integrity on the part of each partner. If one has been guilty of breaking moral standards and tries to keep his actions covered, he cannot be absolutely honest with the other. If he lives a life of deceit, he cannot help but wonder if his partner is doing the same thing. Suspicion does not contribute to strong relationships. Companionship must be based on integrity and trust.

Although the Seventh Commandment condemns adultery and numerous other Scriptures warn against fornication, the average church member today has less fear of God's judgement than Christians of the past. Theologians and preachers have emphasized God's forgiveness and mercy but have neglected in recent years to say much about His judgement and righteous indignation. Even so, religious training and a happy family environment are the primary influences in maintaining

¹Quoted by Evelyn Millis Duvall, Why Wait Till Marriage? (New York: Association Press, 1968), p. 9.

Maintaining a moral standard is important because drunkenness and pre-marital relations do not dignify personal freedom.
(Compare your answer with the text.)

Maintaining a moral standard is important because sins in adolescence and early adulthood pay wages throughout _____.
(life)

Maintaining a moral standard is important because marriage requires _____ from each partner.
(integrity)

Finish reading this paragraph on the next page before doing the following exercise.
Two of the primary influences in maintaining a moral standard are:
1. r _____ t _____
2. happy f _____ e _____

(1. religious training, 2. family environment)

moral standards and in restraining sexual impulses before marriage. Surveys show that young adults who have been raised by parents with happy marriages and with less permissive attitudes towards pre-marital sexual freedom have stronger religious convictions than those from families with the opposite experiences. Their chances of building happy, successful marriages are much greater than those with weak convictions.

Hindrances of increasing permissiveness

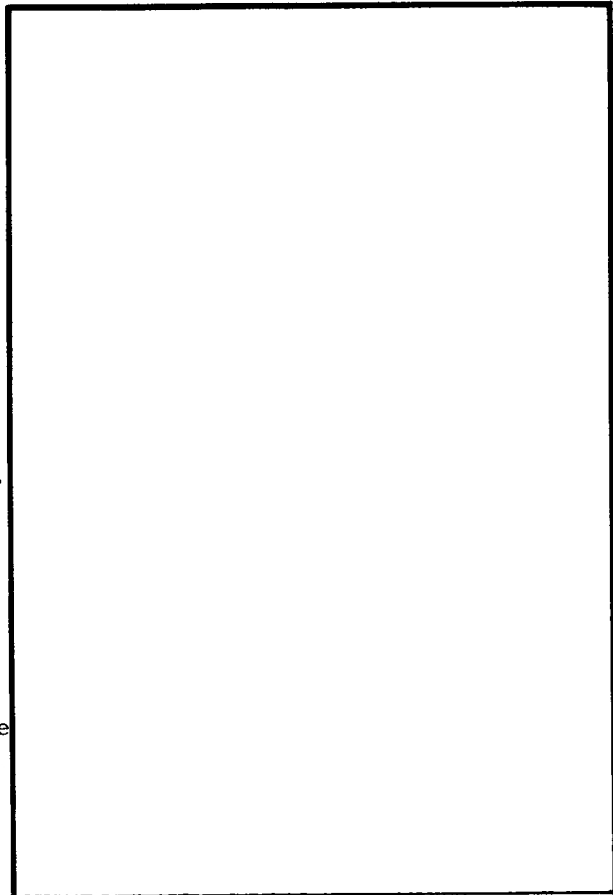
Attitudes of young adults concerning acceptable sexual standards have changed during the last decade. Society has become more permissive in attitude, but the numerous problems involved in illicit sex continue to restrain and influence the behaviour of many people.

Because of the immoral lives of many parents, they have no strong objections to the immoral activities of their children. Often there is more concern to prevent conception which will require an expensive abortion or bring shame to the family than to supervise the lives of young people in order to help them avoid getting into trouble. It is shocking that many mothers get prescriptions for their daughters to enable them to prevent conception rather than to teach them moral codes. Mothers would be wiser to instill in their daughters the wrongness and danger of pre-marital sex.

Problems of pre-marital sexual relations

Feelings of guilt.—Although more people approve of pre-marital relations now than in the past, feelings of guilt have not subsided. These feelings have been explained by psychiatrists as coming from three sources: fear of the implications for the future if one feels that he must tell his companion some day about his or her illicit relationship; betrayal of the family and its expectations; and failure to live up to self-expectations. A theological explanation of the rise of guilt feelings is the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Even so-called "liberated girls" have been unable to escape guilt which can bring about constant hurt and endless despair.

Danger of pregnancy.—Pre-marital pregnancies frequently lead to emotional and mental problems. If the couple marries, one or the other may conclude that the marriage was forced on them and feel that he or she was trapped without knowing for sure whether the marriage was desired or not. If the woman considers abortion, she has to live with her own feelings of guilt with regard to taking the life of the foetus. If the mother gives birth to the child and permits her family to raise it, she has to live with the shame of having committed an act of immorality and becomes the object of repeated immoral propositions by men. If she tries to raise it herself, she has to face the scorn of society and the problem of supporting herself while looking after the child. Also, she has to face



List four sources of guilt feelings.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

List four problems of pre-marital pregnancy.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

(Compare your answers with the text.)

the fact that a child raised without the presence of a father is deprived. If she gives the child for adoption, later when she marries and has other children she might suffer mental anguish for having given away her first-born.

Since the majority of pre-marital sexual relations are unplanned, pregnancy continues to be a real possibility in spite of improved birth control techniques. Over half of these relationships "just happened while the couple was petting." Since the boy does not have to face the problem of pregnancy, he is likely to be much more aggressive and often deceitful in persuading his girl-friend to experience this most intimate relationship. Such an exploitative approach will not lead to respect and a happy marriage.

Lives wrecked.—A girl who had been brought up in a home with moral standards found herself in college associating with older girls who had come from permissive homes or were in rebellion against the authority of their parents. Her standards were criticized as old-fashioned, and her dorm-mates found them amusing. During her second year in school, her boyfriend began to demand privileges and argued about the "rightness" of intimacy between two people in love. Her dorm-mates advised her to forget her scruples, suggesting that sex was exciting, desirable, and even healthy. After months of intimate relations with the boy, she was stunned when she received an unexpected letter from him telling her he was returning home to marry a girl he had known since childhood. Within a few days, she discovered that she was pregnant. She had an abortion and tried to return to her studies but could no longer concentrate. Her world had crumbled about her.

Those who have pre-marital sexual relations usually do not consider the responsibilities involved in the results of pregnancy—childbirth and child-rearing. The desire for pleasure controls actions at the expense of the innocent. Children born out of wedlock become the victims of neglect and often are unwanted. Although sexual impulses are natural, expressing this natural instinct outside of God's laws brings disaster. God's plan is for one man and one woman to establish a stable and loving relationship that gives the right kind of atmosphere and influence and that assumes responsibility for the well-being of children born into that home. Some persons escape immediate judgement for their violation of God's laws, but eventually they will pay.

Values forfeited.—When persons establish temporary relationships and the predatory male moves from female to female, he forfeits the lasting satisfaction of family life, the tenderness and care that permanent faithfulness to a loving wife provides, the comfort and security of a lifelong companionship, and the chance to be a part of the flow of generations as the father of a family. Some males do not even know their children, but their immoral and irresponsible actions

Exploitation that leads to pre-marital sex will not contribute to r _____ and h _____ in marriage.

(respect, happiness)

To express the natural sexual impulses outside of God's laws brings d _____.

(disaster)

List some values forfeited in temporary or pre-marital sexual relationships.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

contribute to those children's becoming delinquents, living lives of misery, and bringing the same to others. Such irresponsible men and women live on the level of animals and never experience the glory of humanity which allows them to find fulfilment through stable relationships.

Immoral patterns established.—Once the pattern of sexual freedom before marriage is established, chances are it will continue after marriage. If a man has always played fast and loose with women, what assurance is there that he will drop those habits once he gets married? If a woman has been available to other men before marriage, what assurance is there that she will be faithful to her husband after marriage? Pre-marital sex often is the cause of unsuccessful marriages and divorces, and divorce is the cause of many wasted lives. The transgression of God's law brings destruction to the home, heartache to the companions, and delinquency to the children.

The injustice of a double standard.—Some societies have accepted a double standard for men and women. They expect the woman to maintain sexual purity while allowing the man sexual licence. Society will not benefit by reducing the standard of women to that of men. The movement to legalize abortion has been based in part upon the argument that women should not be required to have babies if they do not want them. This argument implies that women ought to be given the same liberty as men to engage in sex without the responsibility of bearing children.

The double standard has existed because of man's irresponsibility. Although it is not right, the solution is not in the direction of women's becoming irresponsible to be like men. Rather women should require that men live according to the moral standard placed upon women.

Spiritual Preparation

Contribution of Christian convictions to successful marriages

A genuine Christian experience goes deeper than external rules for guiding one in marrying. Conversion affects the total personality; therefore, the attitudes and actions of young people who have committed their lives to Christ are different from those of persons who have not. The person who has received Christ is concerned about obeying Him and doing His will. He will search the Word of God to find divinely revealed truths concerning God's requirement for individual conduct and His purpose for the home.

Before reaching a marriageable age, a young person can begin to develop spiritually—growing in personality and preparing for a lasting relationship with a future companion. One who is serious about his commitment to Christ will be serious about his

Give some effects of immoral acts of adults on children.

(Compare your answers with the text.)

Are these statements true or false?

- 1. Even though a partner has been involved in sexual freedom before marriage, this practice will be stopped or changed after marriage.*
- 2. There is danger that a pattern of sexual freedom has been established and will continue after marriage.*

(1. false, 2. true)

Underline the solution to the double standard.

- 1. Women be given liberties taken already by men.*
- 2. Men be required to live by moral standards placed on women.*

(2)

A Christian experience (conversion) prepares for marriage by affecting the total personality:

- a* _____
a _____
c _____ *to God's will.*

(attitude, actions, commitment)

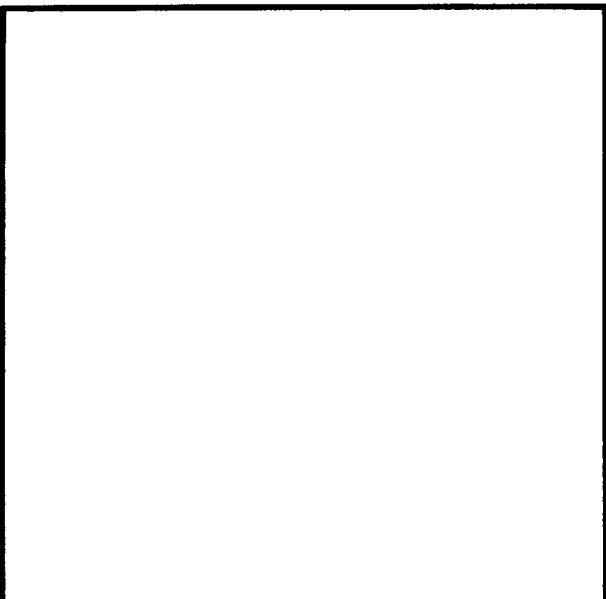
marriage vows. One who heeds the commandment to love his neighbour will apply the same principles to home relationships. A person who begins before marriage to build Christian character will be able to present himself as a stable, loving, dependable companion to his mate at the marriage altar.

Developing worship and devotional patterns

Many young people who have been raised in religious families and been taken to church go through a period of rebellion after they get out from under the control of parents. Not all, however, turn away from church during their latter teens and early adult years. A larger per cent of those marriages in which both companions are devoted to Christ and active in church succeed. Regular attendance at worship services is commended, but one's spiritual life needs fuller developments than is possible only through church attendance.

A daily devotional life is essential for satisfactory spiritual growth and personality development. A young person who has found benefit in reading the Bible daily and spending time in prayer will likely continue these activities after marriage. A well-worn cliché states that families who pray together stay together, but the cliché continues to be true. Young people who have established the habit of prayer before marriage will likely bring their problems of adjustment before God. The attitude reflected by those who pray prepares for the solving of problems. The person who prays sincerely does not demand to have his own way nor does he pray selfishly. Stubbornness (refusal to communicate and compromise) and selfishness are two of the most common causes for the breakdown of marriage relationships. A person who prays will not become entangled in either of these vices.

When two young people who have committed their lives to Christ and have established practices for a daily relationship with Christ come to the altar for marriage, they have laid a proper foundation for a permanent and happy marriage.



1. A couple which prays will bring its problems of a _____ before God.
 2. A prayerful attitude prepares for p _____-s _____.
 3. One who prays sincerely does not demand his own way or pray s _____.
- (1. adjustment, 2. problem-solving, 3. selfishly)



Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3). Do the following exercise.

1. Give two reasons why young people need to be prepared for marriage. _____

2. List four mutual benefits of marriage. _____

3. List four ways in which the attitude that marriage is permanent helps prevent divorce. _____

4. List three Greek words for love and give a brief explanation of each. _____

5. Describe the proper ingredients of marital love. _____

6. Give some indications of maturity. _____

7. Give four evidences of immaturity. _____

8. Contrast the views of responsibility held by determinists and Christians. _____

9. Give two possible reactions of a person with feelings of inferiority. _____

10. State the solutions for feelings of inferiority. _____

11. List three attitudes that will help one to accept his situation. _____

12. Give three reasons why maintaining moral standards is important. _____

13. List four sources of guilt feelings. _____

14. List four problems that may arise from pre-marital pregnancy. _____

15. How are children affected by immoral actions of adults? _____

16. How does a Christian experience prepare one for marriage? _____
- _____
17. How do prayer and Bible reading strengthen marriage relationships? _____
- _____
- _____

Supplementary activity (Levels 2 and 3).

Read pages 35-39, 40-46, and 54-58 in The Marriage Affair, edited by J. Allan Petersen, and answer the following questions.

1. Give three arguments Dr. Jacob Conn uses to support his view that parental failure does not necessarily mean failure of the children.
2. What does Dr. Conn define as the cause of mental illness or neuroticism, and what does he say is the psychiatrist's job?
3. Briefly describe the four temperaments discussed by Tim LaHaye.
4. Illustrate how different temperaments may cause conflicts and require adjustments in marriage.
5. Give seven yardsticks for measuring your emotional maturity according to William Menninger.

Advanced activity (Level 3).

Read pages 47-49, 50-53, and 59-64 in The Marriage Affair, and answer the following questions.

1. After reading "Love Yourself" by R. Lofton Hudson, do you agree with his statement that "selfish people are starving for love because they do not love themselves" or with the statement "a person does not need self-love which is selfishness, but self-respect based on his being created in the image of God"? Why?
2. What does Maxwell Maltz suggest to be the causes and solutions of an inferiority complex?
3. List ten causes for failure in leadership according to Napoleon Hill, and state the benefit of setting goals.

Seminar Discussion

1. To what extent is a person the victim of bad experiences in childhood? Is it possible for a person to improve his personality and character?
2. What are mutual benefits of marriage?
3. What are the causes and solutions to feelings of inferiority?
4. What is the difference between agape love, self-love, selfishness, self-respect, and pride?
5. What problems are caused by pre-marital sexual relations?
6. In selecting a marriage partner, how can a person determine the degree of maturity of the other?
7. Ask Level 2 and 3 students to share the answers to their supplementary and advanced assignments.