

Modern Dating

Key to Success or Failure in Marriage

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***...KEY to Success
or failure in Marriage!***

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Printed by Ambascal Press Pty-Ltd.
132 Arthur St., North Sydney, NSW, Australia
Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a book.



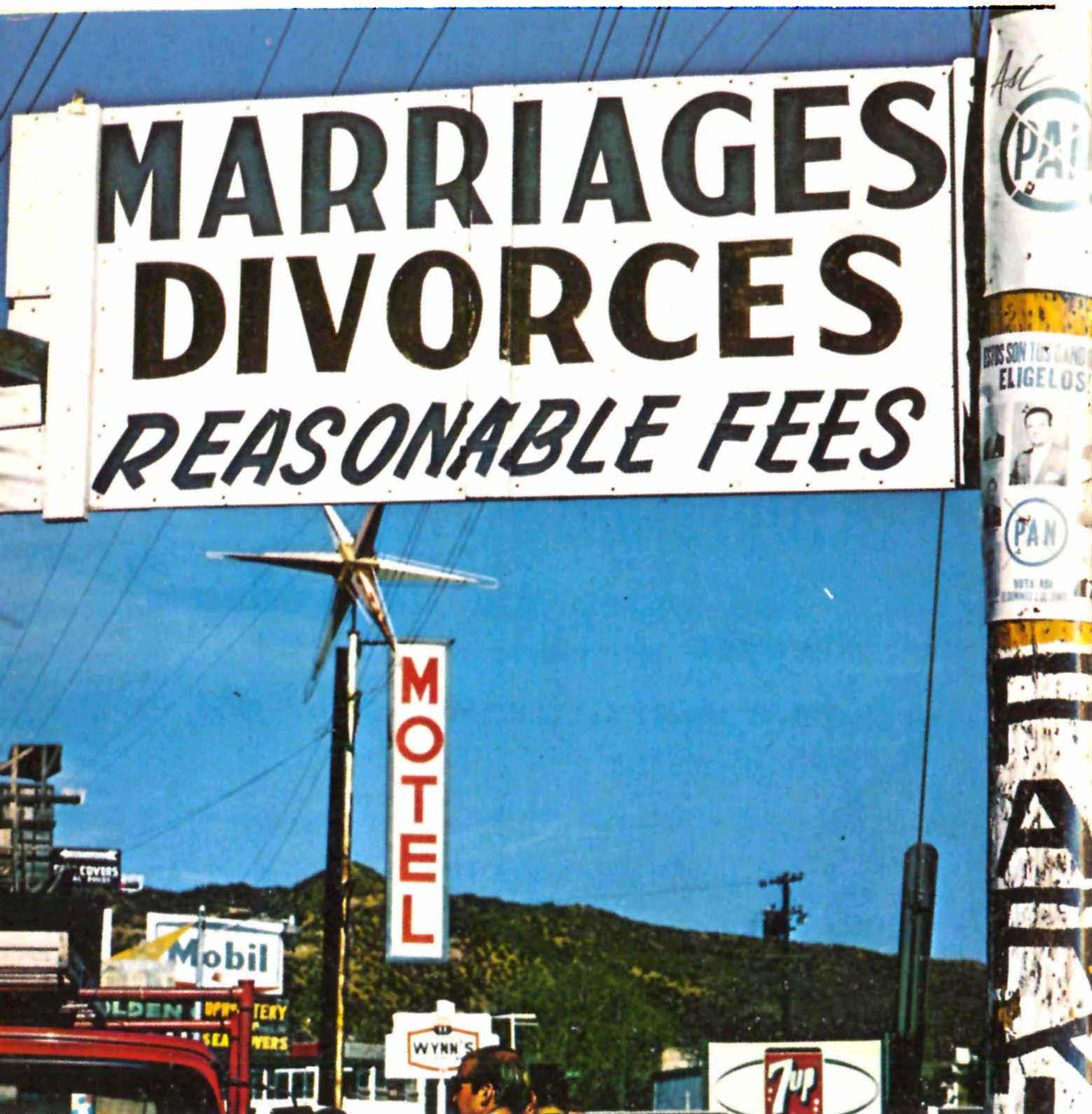
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**What's really wrong
with marriage today is
COURTSHIP.**

**Too many are discovering
— AFTER marriage, instead of
before — that they should not
have married.**

**Lack of preparation for marriage,
lack of understanding the sobering re-
sponsibilities of marriage, and marrying
too young are leading causes of divorce,
according to sociologists.**

**It's about time young people learned
HOW TO DATE — learned what right
dating IS, and what to LOOK for in a
potential mate.**



Ambassador College Photo

"STEP RIGHT UP — GET MARRIED, GET DIVORCED!" — Legal offices south of the United States border hawk their services. The existence of such establishments reveals the sad state of the marriage union — as multiple thousands of couples jump into the merry-go-round of marriage and then divorce.

Why Shattered Marriages?

DIVORCE is an admission of defeat. It's a public statement of failure. Divorce is commonplace, court sanctioned. It is socially acceptable, in most cases. But divorce isn't happy.

Divorce proves something is seriously wrong in too many marriages. No one marries "just to get a divorce," in spite of the brave smiles through tears of the emancipated woman over 40 who announces to her friends at the piano bar about how "free" she feels.

Like setting up a business or planning a career, marriage is a truly big step in life, not to be casually entered into.

This book speaks frankly about how to date, with whom and how often. It answers the following questions: What about going steady? Should the girl pay her own way? How late should young people stay out? What about necking? What about dating a member of another race? What about age differences? If a couple feel they're "really in love," are intimacies more allow-

able? What if parents don't approve? What about religious differences?

It's time our young people were told the truth about these questions, and a whole host of others. Here, then, is the sometimes shocking, sometimes amusing, and always *frank* truth about the lost art of dating — and the proper preparation for marriage!

The Staggering Statistics

Every forty-three seconds there is another American divorce. That's about two thousand divorces *every day*.

Each year over two million eager, hopeful couples get married. Between *one in three* and *one in four* become divorced. In California and some other states the figure is one in two! In Los Angeles County recently there were over twenty-seven thousand domestic relations cases including suits for divorce, annulment and separate maintenance. At the same time there were only fifty-three thousand marriages.

The United States divorce rate is four to six times that of Canada, Belgium, Norway and the Netherlands. It's three to three and one-half times that of France.

Meanwhile, Australians have their divorce problems, too. In that country, there is more than one divorce *per hour*! Britain has about fifty thousand marriages end each year. That's *four times* the figure of prewar days.

In the "Soaring Sixties," nearly ten million men and women in the United States were divorced, and there were more than *six million* children under eighteen whose parents had been divorced. No other Western civilization comes even close to the United States divorce statistics. Even the *most conservative* statisticians estimate that one out of every four of the current year's rapturous brides will wind up in the divorce court.

Parade Magazine took a nationwide sampling on the question: "Is the American housewife happy?" Al-

though there were many exceptions, the general answer was NO!

Some very revealing facts have been brought to light by recent studies of representative groups all over the world.

For instance, it was found in London, England, that vast percentages of supposedly "happily married people" would very readily SWAP PARTNERS, and great percentages of these married people openly admitted they *would not marry their present mates again.*

But *why?*

One major factor was the high incidence of YOUNGER MARRIAGES taking place in the world today.

Young Marriages Today

Today — believe it or not — 45 percent of the brides of first marriages in the United States are between fifteen and eighteen years of age. In half the cases, the parties had known each other *less than a year!*

Why did they get married? What happened to them after they were married?

Of all these teen-age marriages, forty percent HAD to occur. You see, the girls were already pregnant. Fifty percent of teen-age marriages (where *both* partners were under 20) ended in divorce *within* five years. And a large percentage of the rest simply lived with their misery.

A domestic relations court judge spoke out very strongly on teen-age marriages.

"Teen-age marriage has almost NO POSSIBILITY of succeeding. Two people, who are immature and emotionally unstable, one often pregnant, are thrust into a society where pressures on them are as great as on their parents."

Divorce occurs three times more often among those who marry *under* the age of twenty-one than among the twenty-one-plus brides and grooms. Another major contributing factor in the high teen-age divorce rate was,

according to one authority, that over forty percent were *forced into marriage* as a result of premarital pregnancy.

Another great problem was simply that husbands and wives could not communicate.

Hugo A. Bordeaux, director of a marriage counseling service, said, "All over America, husbands and wives *cannot talk to each other*. This, I am convinced, is our NUMBER ONE marriage problem."

The Institute of Family Relations in Los Angeles listed sexual maladjustment as the leading cause of marital discord. One study of five hundred consecutive unsuccessful marriages found all but one placed the blame on sex.

An internationally conducted UNESCO poll recently revealed that sixty percent of American and European married women felt *deceived, frustrated*, unhappy and dissatisfied — mainly, they believed — because no one really understood them! Another survey found almost ninety out of one hundred divorce cases filed by people who are head over heels in debt.

As you can see, the answers as to why marriages fail are varied — and every one of them actually APPLIES. Actually, at the bottom of wrong marriages and early marriages is the misuse of sex. But then sex misuse is intricately associated with wrong dating practices. That is why we say what's wrong with marriages today is the practice of dating in the "courtship" stage.

Sex and the Teen-ager

T EEN AGE IS the discovery of sex. Adolescence, puberty — the beginning awareness of one's self and of other people — is all part of the natural human process of becoming sex conscious.

At this time of life, and actually *long before*, discerning, loving parents *should* have been teaching their children the *true meaning* of sex — its proper place *in marriage* — and the absolute **FACTS** that it is a **SACRED** and **WHOLESOME** thing with **NO** feelings of guilt attached when confined to *marriage*. Children *should* be taught that there are true **SPIRITUAL** values to sex — and absolute, living, spiritual **LAWS** attached to it which exact a fearsome penalty when they're broken.

But how can parents who **DO NOT KNOW** these things be expected to teach their children? And how can pastors who **DO NOT KNOW THESE THINGS** be expected to teach parents how to teach their children?

Very few 'teen-agers, even in this age of vaunting frankness on such matters, are taught the really essential knowledge they must have on the subject of

sex! Much of what they learn is from the proverbial "gutter."

In the clinical atmosphere of classes on anatomy and biology, they learn much of the purely *physiological* aspect of sex.

But they are not taught the deep emotional, psychological and *spiritual* truths about sex. They are not taught this by their parents, their ministers, or their teachers.

Let's face the truth! The sum total of "sex knowledge" possessed by MOST teen-agers came from other teens, from movies, television, books and magazines — many of them bordering on pornography!

We like to convince ourselves out-and-out fornication is NOT the motive of most teen-agers in dating practices. And there are surely many where this is *not* the direct motive. But whether we admit it or not, or like it or not, it IS the goal — the objective — in MUCH of modern dating.

Even where actual attempts toward premarital intimacies are absent, the basic *desires* in dating — what to wear, where to go, what to do, and when to get home — are motivated by sex consciousness. Many a girl somehow wants to APPEAR as "sexy" to others — even though she may be pristine in character. Many a fellow brags about his exploits when in actuality he is shy around girls, and is still a virgin.

Teen-agers, be mature enough to admit a few things.

Admit to yourself that teen songs, teen customs, teen dating habits are largely SEX ORIENTED. And then find out whether this is RIGHT or not.

Authority for Morals?

Today, educators, religionists, psychologists, sociologists and others generally proclaim complete freedom to do as one pleases — that is the new religion.

Listen to a Senior Editor for *Look* magazine: "We

are witnessing the death of the old morality. . . . Conditions are changing so fast that the established moral guidelines have been yanked from our hands. *No single authority rules our conduct.* No church lays down the moral law for all. . . . We are heading into danger. We are in the midst of a moral crisis — because the great majority of Americans, who want to try to live moral lives, *no longer can be certain what is right and what is wrong.* . . . We are groping, painfully and often blindly, for new standards that will enable us to live morally and decently.” (Emphasis added.)

What is meant, here, is that people now want to adopt a moral standard which calls fornication, adultery, homosexuality “moral.” They want Society to approve and adopt a standard which enables them to be promiscuous, unfaithful, or perverted — and have it accepted as living morally and decently. But to continue, the *Look* Senior Editor said:

“*The experts feel strongly that we cannot turn back to earlier, more rigid behavior patterns. . . . We must find a new moral code that will fit the need of the society we live in.*”

It’s the same old dodge used from time immemorial: “Since *people* just NATURALLY tend to be contemptuous of the laws — let’s CHANGE THE LAWS to suit the *people!*”

The tragedy is that every day millions of teens are gobbling up literature openly advocating exploratory and experimental sex. The bookshops’ shelves bulge with exciting titles for teens — from outright pornography to the more subtle forms of erotic novels.

The high school classroom and the college discussion group have become open forums for sex talk. It all falls on very willing ears.

Teen-Agers Need Factual Instruction

It is not exactly a paradox that millions of teen-agers have had considerable sex *experience*, and yet pos-

sess little sexual *knowledge*. It is largely because of ignorance — or lack of right instruction in the right manner at the right time — that adolescents seek to satisfy curiosity by *experience*. And, of course, they are “sheep,” and when it becomes a trend — when “it’s being done” — human nature wants to “belong.” So they go with the crowd — and parents know nothing of it.

Even when growing children and adolescents do receive some formal sex education, it is always presented from the physical, the material and therefore the sensual approach.

If teen-agers had been properly taught what they *needed* to know about sex, from the very first and second years of their lives, by informed and loving parents, the frightful tragedies of teen-age and premarital sex would have been reduced to the barest minimum.

Today, if you tell a teen-ager that “necking” is **WRONG** — that it ought *never* to be indulged in — that it robs his future marriage of much of its possible joys, delights, and blissful happiness — the young man or woman will probably look at you rather pityingly, wondering how you could be so naïve!

He would probably *reverse* the truth and exclaim, “Oh you poor, poor ignorant soul! Why, *where have you been*, that you don’t know the *facts of life* yet? **WHY DON’T YOU GROW UP?** This is the twentieth century!”

Actually, it is the adolescent who is untaught in the **TRUTH** about the *facts of life*!

“Automania”

As the American youth, together with his counterparts around the world, has experienced new mobility and freedom; a free-wheeling, free-spending, wildly abandoned youth has plunged into the swinging new age of sex, marijuana and the pill with almost intensive dedication, openly flaunting their new freedoms in, often as not, obscene and defiant fashion.

The automobile became not only a status symbol

for youth — but the absolute requirement. It provided the basis for a whole new youthful culture — beginning with the old jalopy era, with rumble seats, mud flaps, fox tails on the antenna, and painted signs on the sides, to the hot rod era of the late forties and early fifties, to the status symbol of the foreign import, or sporty American model. The automobile has been part and parcel of the shifting patterns of youthful behavior.

Not only do some youths so desperately desire an automobile that they steal one, but in several instances, *murder* has been the result of denial of the family automobile.

But are the *fruits* of these new freedoms GOOD?

What are the actual *results* of all the new youthful affluence and mobility?

A large portion of the divorce statistics must be cited first, because thousands of the shotgun marriages began in the backseats of cars. The whole dating patterns of modern Americans have been formed and shaped around the automobile.

To be without a car, or fairly regular access to one, has become regarded, in middle and upper income families, as a virtual social disaster to a teen.

To the average 16-year-old person, an automobile is an altogether lovely, exciting, powerful, glamorous, opportunity-filled possession that can be a virtual glazed-eyed obsession to him. The desire to burn rubber on take-off, to wheel around corners at ridiculous speeds, to swoop over the crest of steep hills, whip around slow-moving trucks, and screech out of drive-ins in a cloud of dust and candy wrappers, to the craning necks of dutifully impressed buddies in other cars, is an overwhelming temptation to most youngsters.

Just “driving around” to “see what’s happening” in the favored teen-age hangouts is an obsessive sport that is like drug addiction, even to normal and mostly wholesome youths who wouldn’t think of sampling a little pot.

And most of their parents go along with it.

Some parents are bullied into it. But most just per-

mit it because it's done — it's "the thing," and others do it. Many a 16-year-old in an affluent family is handed an automobile as his first important toy.

Most youngsters today wouldn't know HOW to date without an automobile. Where would they go? How would they get there? What could they *do*? And — how could they neck in private and comfort?

But it's about time discerning parents took a searching look at the real facts of teens and automobiles, not only from a safety standpoint, but from a moral one. It's time the car was controlled. It's time it was recognized as a means of practical locomotion, and not thought of as a person's second or third most precious possession outside his home.

It's time discerning teens recognized the potential *danger* in wild rides, or in long parked sessions, time they considered the *end result* of these things.

It's time more of them began exercising the character to *deny themselves* certain modern luxuries, if they recognize their potential for possible physical injury or death and the potential for a shattered life because of intimacies granted in the seat of an automobile.

Some will think this is an out-of-date, terribly droll analysis to suggest that automobiles should be controlled.

Yet, serious government authorities scream about gun laws and controls — recognizing them as lethal weapons used by murderers and assassins — while vastly greater numbers are killed by the automobile.

No one screams too loudly about controlling the use of automobiles among the age group most represented in both the accident statistics and the illegitimacy columns.

The screeching of tires braked to a sudden stop, the tooting of a familiar horn, and the vision of a happy, flushed face, shining eyes and tossing hair as daughter blurts out a hasty "Good-by, Dad" on her way to Dad knows not where — all this has become as normal and

natural as ice cream sundaes and cherry pie to American families.

And so has divorce, resulting from hasty, unplanned, unintended weddings.

Are you a teen-ager? Do *you* have a pretty severe case of "automania"? Are you truly adult enough to make your own decisions?

Remember, MOST teen-agers whose lives were either snuffed out in a smashing instant, or whose marriages were the legalized result of backseat intimacies, DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ THOUGHTS LIKE THESE.

It's your life, of course.

Going Steady

The "steady" date is almost on a par with the automobile as a teen status symbol. It's just custom.

A few years ago, the going steady custom was followed by a vast percentage of senior high-school students and collegians. Youngsters' magazines, comics, motion pictures and the like showed steady dating to be the "in" thing of the day.

But soon, even junior high school students were practicing it — with full parental approval (grudging, maybe, but approval nevertheless). Today, even little children of 11 and 12 are known to have "dates" and be considered as the "steady" couple.

Parents have become unwitting hosts to evil social pressures that have tried to make mere children so sex-conscious, they begin thinking of girl- and boyfriends in the tenderest years of grammar school.

The entertainment media are no help in combatting it. The clothing industry created of the little toddler a little "man" complete with suit and necktie, and made of the little girl a sex symbol. When most children would be totally unaware of any feelings of sex, or either excitement or guilt over such feelings and would play together at softball, kickball, or just jump rope — a gullible and permissive society has contrived to force-

feed its youth on sex awareness and dating almost faster than it can teach the children to read.

Should youngsters pair off that way?

Is it *good*? Again — what are the ultimate RESULTS, in most cases, of the teen-age practice of “going steady?”

The *reasons* for going steady are important contributors to the results.

Most teen-agers say they date “steady” for reasons of security, or because it’s just “easier” or because “others do it.” Economically, it’s much easier for a boy to speak frankly of his financial condition, and expect a steady girl to share in costs. Fine.

But finances aren’t all he usually speaks frankly of. And it’s not all he expects her to share in. Not that she doesn’t usually expect that this would be so.

In a “Teen-age Mail” column of a leading newspaper, the writer said, “Some time ago when I conducted a national poll on teens going steady, 72 percent of the girls and 74 percent of the boys answered ‘yes’ to the following question: ‘Do you think dating only one person leads to more physical intimacy [fornication] than dating more than one?’ ”

They weren’t asked whether they *approved* of the practice — but rather their opinion about whether it occurred. But put the two factors of the automobile and steady dating TOGETHER, and you have a ready-made spawning ground for illegitimacy, frustrated, confused sex lives, hasty marriages, and a host of other social evils including venereal disease.

Going steady may be “convenient” because the boy can always *expect* a date, and not have to ask for one. It may be easier, because he can dress and act more casually than he might in trying to impress a new girl. It may be the custom — and it may be defended by the majority who do it.

But to either a fellow or a girl who truly wants to learn the RIGHT KIND of dating, for the RIGHT purpose,

with wholesome and *good* results, it will become obvious that going steady is NOT GOOD. It's merely another example of modern permissiveness — and a type of society-sanctioned pre-engagement betrothal — a kind of accepted living together, where, like as not, the couple actually see more of each other through the week than do their own parents. And such relationships have proved to be disastrous in about 90 percent of all cases!

Fun is fun. And what IS fun? Fun is when it's still fun tomorrow — and next week — and next year. Fun is still fun to tell your children about. ALL about.

But if it isn't fun tomorrow, or next year, or to tell your children about — then it's not "fun." It's something else, entirely.

CHAPTER THREE

Modern Romance — The Great Delusion!

BELIEVE it or not, it is utterly *impossible* to fall in love. A “fall” is an accident. And love should most definitely NOT be accidental!

It would require several chapters to begin to survey the avalanche of false propaganda which has been foisted upon many an unsuspecting generation about “falling in love.” So many dozens of our songs, our motion pictures, our novels and magazine articles, and a tremendous amount of our conversation involving the whole situation between the sexes, dating, and romance involve the idea of “falling in love.”

It’s supposed to be an indefinable something like “being twitterpated,” or feeling those icy fingers running up and down your spine, as you glance “across a crowded room” at that someone who could become a “stranger in the night.” You will, you are sagely assured, “know at a glance” when you “fall in love.”

However, the kind of “love” into which most people “fall,” is not love, but *lust*. It is desire for intimacies and sexual experience with one another; a desire to be seen

in each other's company, to "have" or "possess" the other person — but that most assuredly is NOT *LOVE!*

Love is an outgoing attitude of *concern* for the one *being loved*.

Love is *giving*; it is *sharing*; it is a feeling of ADMIRATION and RESPECT for the *qualities of character* in the other *individual*, and not just hot-cheeked lust while clutching hands in a darkened motion picture theater!

It's about time an adult society, and all teen-agers, learned that love is something which must be *grown into*.

To truly LOVE — a person needs to want to *share*: to share life's experiences, thrills and joys — to share sorrow and trouble, to share success or failure, to share sickness and health. How many times in your life have you seen a completely wonderful sunset, or experienced a sensational thrill, or made a deep observation concerning wildlife or something in your environment, and wished you had someone who could thoroughly understand and SHARE the moment with you?

How many times have you yearned for someone to deeply *understand* your innermost longings and desires? How many times have you been irritated over a particular political, social, racial, or religious situation and desperately desired to get your point across to someone — someone with whom you could SHARE your own personal feelings?

When you find a completely compatible person who helps you to appraise your own actions and ideas, complements and helps balance those actions and ideas by added actions and ideas of his or her own — then you may be, if all other factors are equal, headed toward a feeling of genuine LOVE.

Very obviously, if we are only mature enough to admit it, NO ONE, not in all the history of this world, has ever "fallen in love" at first sight!

But how many youngsters have ever been TAUGHT what love is by their parents?

How many people can even give a DEFINITION for

it? "Love" has been the subject of volumes and volumes of poetry, short stories, lengthy novels, scripts for plays and motion pictures — and television serials. The idea of "falling in love" is such a part of modern social consciousness it pervades practically everything people say, think, and do.

Behind it all is the insistent voice of entertainment and the mass media — even including advertising.

Think of the "feelings" youngsters are assured they will experience, via the fast-selling songs of our modern era. Their hearts beat faster, their hearts grow "tipsy" in them, or "down, down, down" they go in some sort of "spin." Songs assure them their hearts will be "afire with such a burning desire" — that it's all "magic," and that "they say [no one ever seems to identify who "they" are] that falling in love is wonderful."

And so "love" is defined as "groovy," "cool," "exciting," and a plethora of pulsating, powerful, heady sensations. It's like a disease — with symptoms such as: loss of appetite, dizziness, calf-sick near-nausea, double or blurred vision, breathlessness, sleeplessness, and dozens of other subtle physical and psychological phenomena.

That isn't love!

But you have been led to believe it *is* by all the songs you sing, the movies you watch, the magazines you read. That's infatuation, desire, lust, curiosity, excitement, physical attraction. But it *isn't* love.

And "so they lived happily ever after" makes good nursery rhyme copy — but like finding out about Santa Claus — young people become soon aware (but usually too late) of the fact that it SELDOM HAPPENS. It certainly *doesn't* happen by the accident of "falling in love," which, after all, simply isn't real love.

Love is not frenzied. Love is not emotional in that sense, though emotion is certainly *connected with it*. Love is primarily an outgoing concern! Love is a deep regard, respect, and a desire to give and to share with the one being loved. True love is totally give — *not get*.

Those Songs We Sing

Music is a tremendous force. And your teen-agers are being affected by it as they listen to it, dance to it, cry to it, moan to it. Oh yes, you hear all kinds of songs about love. "I want to hold your hand; I just can't stand it because you left me; I got tears in my ears from lying on my back in my bed, crying over you."

And there are all those songs — about the wailing, weeping, jilted individual. "She done left me for another" — there must be five hundred twenty thousand of them. They all sound alike. They're all built around the exact same tune. The weeping, wailing, nasal, forlorn sound of the twanging of guitars and banjos of these poor, heartbroken cowboys, whose chaps are frayed and hearts are torn.

Teen-agers — listen to some of the words of the songs you sing and listen to. Parents — YOU LISTEN to some of the songs your teen-agers are hearing.

Have you ever investigated some of the words of the songs you sing? Have you ever thought about what some of them mean?

For one example, some time ago there was a song with a very catchy tune and melody. It had a powerful message.

"Strangers in the night," the popular song began, "exchanging glances." It was talking about two people, who *never laid eyes* on each other before.

But they were wondering what the chances were they would be sharing "love" — that was the term used in the song — "before the night was through." Even before the dawn of morning, they were going to be sharing "love."

The song continued: "Something in your eyes was so inviting."

As the record played, the teen-agers danced away — and they were being told unconsciously that something in somebody's glance at night was so inviting, and something in a smile was so exciting, and something in a

heart just *told* this other person: "I must have you."

The song continued about "strangers in the night," two lonely people who were, just up to a moment ago, totally lonely. But "when we said our first hello," the song said, "little did we know that love was just a glance away, a warm embracing dance away," just a little distance away, "ever since that night" they had been together, and they were lovers at first sight. Now they were going to stay in love for ever and ever. It turned out "*so right*" for these strangers who met in the night.

Now, that's just some FANCIFUL DREAM that could NEVER take place. But that is the type of copy making up the music that people hum and sing.

Infatuation Is Powerful

That doesn't mean romantic "love," infatuation, lust — or whatever you like to call it — isn't powerful. It does attract.

This childish infatuation has been called by a famous playwright as the *most insane*, the most illusive and the most transient of all passions.

The first time the fifth grade boy has the girl wink at him, hit him with a spit wad or pass him a note that says, "I like you," he walks out on a cloud. That happens in grammar school every day.

Parents encourage it. They think it's cute. Or, they think it's necessary. Many teachers and psychologists encourage it.

This adolescent infatuation is a powerful, heady wine to youngsters. It's status to "have a girl friend" in the tenderest years, even *before* junior high school, these days.

Tender teen-age sex consciousness has destroyed many a promising career by launching a girl-struck young boy on a floating cloud of juvenile imagination. He conjures up every combined movie, book and television romance he's seen, and lives them all vicariously. He imagines himself in dozens of exciting, romantic situations — dreams about the day-long date on a lonely

beach, with the transistor radio, soft drinks, and her in that “itsy bitsy, teeny-weeny, yellow polka-dot bikini.” Staring transfixed, he may while away hours of precious time in his classes, only half aware of what’s happening around him — because he’s “twitterpated” or “in love.”

Most parents don’t even CONCERN themselves that this happens as a daily struggle with their children. And, of course, many APPROVE.

Nostalgic mothers can’t see why a little romance can’t be a part of their tender children’s lives. They like to conveniently FORGET their *own* past mistakes, and see the whole gamut of teen-age emotions in a pink cloud of Hollywoodized vanity — stressing its supposed harmlessness.

Please, think again, mothers. You probably never really KNEW the effect a young, blossoming girl can have on a young boy of 14 or 15. You probably never *knew* the half-sick, totally preoccupied, glazed-eyed day-dreams *your own* winks and shy glances of yesteryear created.

Millions of parents would argue all this is good. The fact that it does as much to dull the mind and destroy education as almost anything, plus the heightened possibility of the habit of autoeroticism (masturbation), does not seem to occur to these naïve ones.

But it SHOULD BE KNOWN. The direct connection between the mentally and physically DAMAGING habit of masturbation and early teen-age “romance” should be exposed and made PLAIN to parents who are not afraid of the *truth*. Today, as a further mark of the hideous proportions of the “new morality,” some libertine doctors have said autoeroticism is not harmful.

Sadly, too few parents take an active interest in the really *tremendous* drives and compulsions placed upon their children in early school years. They just don’t TALK to their children about their school lives. All too often parents do not make it their business to FIND OUT about their teen-agers’ desires, hopes, dreams, or emotional entanglements.

And so the teen-agers are left to fend for themselves.

Struggling to act like adults when they are neither physically nor mentally *adult*, many teen-agers develop habits, personality traits, and even postures which mark them for the rest of their lives.

A self-conscious teen-ager with pimples can grow into a hunch-back as his normal height develops, simply from his continual attempts to shrink into the woodwork to keep from being noticed. And a struggling teen who earnestly desires approval and admiration from others will compromise himself in almost ANYTHING — morals included — to gain that approval!

He'll shoplift, and hand gifts to others, just to be thought of as "tough" and "experienced." He'll lie, make cutting remarks against his parents and teachers, and seem to reject society, if he thinks it will make him one of the "in" gang, accepted by others.

Further, he'll indulge in petty infatuations, girl-conscious daydreams, and attempt to "have a girl friend" *because others are doing it!* It becomes STATUS. It's the "in" or "out of sight" thing to do. *Others* do it — so why shouldn't he?

Believe it or not — if youthful "romance" were NOT the generally accepted standard, and if dating at early teen-age, including "going steady" were NOT BEING DONE by the majority — many others *would not do it.*

They would play together, enjoy the company and companionship of members of the opposite sex *without* the undue emphasis on SEX CONSCIOUSNESS that is FORCE-FED them from society!

Many a young fellow has literally felt FORCED to "date," and "have a girl friend" when he would *rather* be concentrating on basketball, or football, or his studies.

It's time we looked into what the teens say, themselves, about each other — and about dating and romance.

Ask young girls what they think about young boys. They'll say, "Cool," or "Groovy, man," or "Like good-looking" or "Smooth dresser," or "Exciting" — or "In."

But do teen-agers consider some other qualities — like being a good wage earner, intelligent, solid, stable, full of wisdom, having plenty of knowledge, being a good provider. Generally not.

What's Happening Today?

It's no wonder many think, "Marriage is a dull meal with the dessert first."

Now, any marriage based upon the *unsound notions* of romance of our Western world will probably turn out to be exactly like that.

Dr. William Hollister of Birmingham, Alabama, said something that deserves repeating. He says, "You don't fall in love, you CLIMB UP to love." That certainly is true. Love is an outgoing concern, a love that desires to give, to serve the object of one's affections, to share, to give of one's self. That love is *entirely outgoing*. That love is *selfless*. But lust, infatuation, physical attraction, romantic fluff love — that's all *incoming*. That's all wanting to get, to grasp, and to have, and to take for one's self!

All too many marriages are based upon sheer infatuation and lust.

What's Wrong With Modern Dating?

IN A RECENT survey of dating practices, boys were asked what they liked in the girls they dated. The answers were revealing.

Boys like girls who could carry on a good conversation, for one thing. And, surprisingly enough, (or is it, in this time of changing roles and identities?) they wanted the GIRLS to make the final choice in *deciding where to go!* They didn't like girls who kept asking what time it was during the last half of the evening, nor girls with bad complexions, poor figures, or out-of-date clothing.

They didn't specify what they meant by stylish clothing — and, in today's ever-changing variations, it would probably depend on each individual. One might be chagrined to find his date in a knit suit, and another might be horribly put out if she showed up in anything more than a mini or "micro" skirt.

Boys, like the girls, didn't want their dates talking about other dates.

Also, boys didn't want girls who collected items,

like souvenirs from their cars, or the ash trays from the restaurant, or book matches from all their stops.

They complained about their pockets being used as catch-alls for girl's scarves, shoes, lipsticks, cigarettes, earrings or other items of apparel.

And they wanted girls who were attractive to other men as well as to themselves — girls who weren't "gushy" with anybody — and who didn't keep them waiting.

Does this list of boyish likes and desires tell you anything special? Look at the girls' dating likes also!

What Girls Look for in a Date

Perhaps many of the girls questioned gave only the above-board, expected answers — but many were quite candid. They began by talking of some of the more innocuous dating requirements. Girls did not want last-minute dates — didn't want to be treated so casually that the last-minute boys seemed to be boys who thought, "I can have a date with *you* any time I'm ready" or, "You're the third one I've asked."

Girls questioned said they wanted their dates to arrive on time — and to be dressed appropriately — neatly and cleanly! Surprisingly, though the teen "image" seems to be the long hair, sloppy clothes, and bad complexions, honest girls will tell you they far prefer seeing fellows with neatly trimmed hair, clean clothing, and healthy, radiant faces! Those who say they LIKE their boyfriends to look like beatniks and freaks are kidding themselves — and living in pretense.

Some of the rules the girls felt should be observed were having their dates avoid talking about *other* dates they had been on. Many times, they observed, the boy would seem determined to spend the whole evening lauding and praising some other girl, or commenting on what a wild time he had with someone else!

Girls liked being with men who took them to nice places (though they generally said the most expensive

ones were not necessary), and dates who noticed and complimented them on their appearance.

They also wanted dates from boys who didn't brag, were not loud talkers, and who included the girl in decisions about the evening's plans. They didn't like boys who sounded their horns to announce that they were waiting outside.

They wanted their fellows to be "cool," "smooth," "exciting," and "popular." They preferred interesting personalities to good looks, but wanted a combination of both — and would usually choose a date with a quiet, clean-looking type over the athletic, loud-talking, big spender.

Notice one thing! No one said **ONE WORD** about whether the fellow was "trustworthy," "faithful," "moral," "honest," or had any particular quality of **CHARACTER!**

How he **LOOKED** was important. How he **DRESSED** was important. When he *arrived* was important — as was what he talked about, and where they went. **WHO** he was was of some minor importance — but **WHAT** he was did not seem to seriously matter.

Almost no one seemed to wonder about the intelligence of his partner, or about his physical condition. No one voiced any concern about whether the partner was of a certain racial background, or from a certain religion. No one seemed to fear a partner with mental problems, or violent race hatreds. Nor did any seem to be concerned about honesty, integrity, loyalty, faithfulness, dedication, principle, chastity, or high moral standards!

No one seemed to care what kind of family background was represented, or even express interest in meeting other members of the same family.

Here we have youngsters who eagerly jump into relationships which **CAN LEAD TO MARRIAGE** (by either accident or design!!) but with **ABSOLUTELY NO THOUGHT OR PREPARATION TOWARD MARRIAGE!**

No one is trying to say every date is something that leads toward marriage.

But let's face it — all marriages are preceded by "dating" of some kind or another; and, eventually, some dating DOES lead to marriage!

Actually, proper dating SHOULD lead to marriage — and should be the very BEST method to find the RIGHT mate for life, and to insure a wonderfully HAPPY and LASTING marriage!

That kind of dating, however, is not the completely selfish, sex-conscious, "good times" type of dating that is teen custom today.

Modern dating, as practiced by most youngsters today, is one of the most thoroughly SELFISH institutions in all society! Most people on dates think only of THEMSELVES — of *their own* pleasures and experiences — *not* on constructive thoughts of sharing and giving in an UPbuilding sense.

Look over what the girls and boys said they "wanted" in a date again, and you'll see an obvious pattern. All their desires were selfish ones, and most of them were matters of appearance and minor conduct.

But remember one thing, girls.

That fellow who arrives on time, dresses neatly, looks "cool," and asks you where you want to go may be a TERRIFIC partner on a one-night stand for dinner and the movies. He may also be a potential wife-beater, or child molester, or a habitual drunk. Also, boys, that gorgeous girl may not be a good wife or mother. Or both girl and boy may find themselves married — victims of romance — when they simply weren't ready for it.

A Classic Example

In a letter we received recently, a distraught mother told the shabby details of the final OUTCOME of the wrong kind of dating practices in her own son's case.

"I'm desperate. I'm sick from worry," she wrote to us, "Ever since I remember, I have had a rough time,

and I could fill a book with it, but I won't. I'll just start from about two years ago. This is my immediate worry, and *I mean worry!*

"My son, at 16, quit school. I tried every way I could to keep him from it. He never liked school and was always behind. So, when the day arrived, he quit and went to work. He's a good kid, he's not lazy. And by the time he was 17, he had found a little girl and talked his dad into signing for him to get married. It was not a case of having to, by the way, he just wanted to.

"A year later, he had a son. Now this was a big expense to a kid with no insurance and no job. Three months later the baby had to have surgery. Also, my son. Three in the hospital is quite a bill all in one year. We stripped ourselves trying to help them out. We have sold, lost and mortgaged everything we worked hard for, for 30 years, and we didn't have much to start with. I am in a mess of debts on account of it, and worse off than I was in the Depression.

"One thing led to another with them. One bad break on top of another. To raise some quick money for rent, food, and so on, my son sold a couple of things that were not even paid for yet, thinking he would still be able, with that additional money, to keep up with the payments. But it got worse all the time, and so finally he was put in jail.

"They don't have any money. He doesn't have a job. They're expecting another baby in a month. Their rent is overdue, and they're expecting to be put out tonight.

"No way to go to the hospital when the time comes, and no one to go to. Don't know where they're going to sleep. I lost my home. We wound up in a small trailer, and I've got a 14-year-old son to raise and educate yet, and I can't make it if this worry and dread is not removed. I have fought a losing battle."

But is this just an isolated sob-type story?

No, not at all — but a very real example probably not too much unlike a few examples *you* know about,

personally. Not all young fellows who marry hastily and too young end up in jail for sale of furniture not their own — but entirely too many of them end up in horrible debt, trying to hold down a boring, physically exhausting manual labor job, or signing a military dependence form while they kiss a tearful, young pregnant wife goodbye!

This woman's son SHOULD still be in school — finding out what kind of occupation he's best fitted for, and what will interest him the most, so he can be a real success! He *should* have a few years hard effort to find OUT WHAT HE IS and where he's going, and to accumulate enough of this world's goods to really make a start in life. He *should* have had the kind of teaching that would have inspired him to *finish* at least the essentials in high school before quitting his education, and to find some challenging and rewarding vocation which was not only financially rewarding, but one that would be mentally and emotionally *stimulating* so that he could really GIVE himself to it.

Had he been thinking of a future son — of a FAMILY of his own, and thinking stable, mature thoughts for the FUTURE, he would have done very differently.

But like so many millions of others, he thought of fun, frolic and sex. But the fun was soon over, and the sex led to huge bills and unwanted children. His attempts to solve the dilemma landed him in jail and broke up the whole financial structure of those dear to him.

A pity — a pity he couldn't have read this book first. A pity someone couldn't have told him the truth. Of course, the churches could have. The parents could have. But no one did.

The Art of Dating

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT to gain from dating? Why do you date? And what is a “date”?

Most people today simply do not date for the right reasons. They have no conception of what dating is supposed to accomplish.

A date is, after all, a day marked off on a calendar. As applied to teen togetherness it’s a spoken contract to meet together for some specific purpose. It could just as easily be called “meeting,” or “contracting,” or “calendaring” as dating — but social customs prevail.

Today dating has degenerated into a state of merely “being together” for most teen-agers — the simple practice of *spending time with each other*. What they DO, and HOW they do it — where they go, and with whom, and WHY they go there — all have become totally secondary to the mere expediency of BEING TOGETHER.

So — revolutionary as it may sound to younger ears — the KIND OF DATING which most teens indulge in today SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN AT ALL!

We didn't say teens should not be together, play together, talk together, share moments of life together. We said the **KIND** of dating indulged in by **MOST** is harmful.

Young people ought to have free access to other people the same age. But that access should be for wholesome, broadening social purposes and for *up*-building, constructive, educational, recreational and enjoyable purposes that are **STILL FUN** next month, and next year!

As old-fashioned as it may sound to many young teen-agers whose parents have already abandoned them into the subculture of teens — there is **NEVER** a need for two young people to be in an automobile on a "date" **AWAY** from others, from their parents, or from members of a group! We repeat, **NEVER** a need! There are "reasons" and "excuses" — but no true socially, spiritually defensible **NEED!**

But there is a definite *need* for a wide variety of social contacts for *every* person as he grows toward maturity. To help teen-agers develop a truly balanced and outgoing personality, a much wider variety, not only of social contacts, but of the right kind of activities, should be encouraged.

Teen-age Dating Should Not Be "Romantic"

Dating should be a fresh, wholesome, constructive activity that is intellectually stimulating and physically **UP**building.

It means taking a look at group activities, such as skating, tennis, volleyball, golfing, horseback riding, square dancing, or a barbecue and a sing-along. It means a completely *fresh approach* to dating. Instead of thinking of the opportunities for immoral and **DANGEROUSLY HARMFUL** intimacies while lying around the beach with practically nothing on, or in the darkened movie theater, drive-in, or parked car, it means thinking of out-of-doors — refreshing, and uplifting events.

This different kind of dating means the sharing of clean and wholesome ideas, fun, frolic and laughter —

sharing a sunny afternoon on a bridle path, or on a tennis court, or relaxing after a hamburger around the warm glow of red coals as evening comes on and singing favorite tunes. It also means a pleasant "thank you — it was lots of fun" and cordial goodbyes — and not prolonged and breathless attempts at *sexual* experiences by trying to kiss and paw one another!

Why should wholesome activities with members of the opposite sex have "romantic" overtones? They *shouldn't*. It only leads to frustrations, to the broken-hearted split-up of the former steady couple, the jealousies and hot-faced embarrassment when someone else is seen talking intimately to "your" girl or boy, and to secretly imagined amorous events. But it DOES NOT lead to happiness. It DOES NOT lead to wholesome attitudes, balanced mind, good health, and a happy marriage!

Where Parents "Fit" in the Dating Picture

Why not have FAMILY activities, where groups of youngsters can enjoy the company of each other *with one or more of the families* present? After all, if you're dating for honest and clean purposes — *what have you got to hide?*

Suffice it to say *most* families have already reached such a state of BREAKDOWN, that either the teen-agers could not stand the thought of other teens even *meeting* their parents (what a rotten shame!) or the parents could not *stand* the thought of having any of the "friends" of their own child in their home!

Actually, the family activity — where teen-agers are invited along on an outing, and where there is NOT always a "pairing off" between the sexes, but even unequal numbers of both sexes present in family cookouts, short trips, or recreational activities — is the one very BEST form of "dating," which ought to be a *standard* practice.

In this way, the youngsters learn to act the SAME WAY around their friends as around their parents. They don't "put their best foot forward" in the sense of pre-

tending to be this or that type. The parents would be quick to sense embarrassment, strange talk or actions, in the teen-agers present. Conversely, the teen-agers could learn to be with the *parents* of their friends, without self-consciousness or any feelings of "guilt."

All teen-agers go through agonized stages of being "embarrassed" by their parents.

This is a sad commentary on the whole structure of family life in the Western world. But it's absolutely true. Teen-agers by the millions **DEPLORE** the every move of their own fathers and mothers — resenting their physical appearance and being ashamed of their job, the type of home they live in, their personal habits, their speech, and even their race!

But a family that had always followed the practice of encouraging their children to have friends *into the home* would be given a very fine chance of never experiencing any alienation or embarrassment from their children.

Children **OUGHT** to admire, respect and deeply love their parents.

Their parents **OUGHT** to be worthy of and deserve the admiration, respect and deep love of their children. Sadly, this is only a rarity in our societies today. But for many families, it is not too late. It is **STILL** not too late for many of them to change — if they only will.

To say teen-agers must always be "chaperoned" calls up visions of the "watchdog" *watching* them — and says they cannot be trusted. But to ignorantly assume they **MUST** be off by *themselves* in unsupervised activity is a far worse situation.

The term "chaperoned" is a poor one to use. It connotes a person whose sole activity is to supervise and **WATCH** the actions of the ones involved in the dating. But wholesome group activities with one or more families involved is never chaperoning. After all, they're a **PART** of the activity — right there in the pool, or in the sing-along, or at the barbecue, or on the tennis court, with their children.

If we all lived in an agrarian society, our children could have the wonderfully refreshing and constructive opportunity to get to know each other in neighborhood gatherings, or the harvest season. They could learn to know each other as they learn to know about life, about growing things and about God.

They *could* be sharing in their discoveries of wild-life, musical talents, or sewing.

By the simple necessity of neighbors helping one another, small farmers would find it natural, and inescapable, that their youngsters would be growing up in an environment of normal, fresh, casual relationships with members of the opposite sex.

Unfortunately — which is putting it mildly — we are not all farmers. So our children must create oftentimes artificial reasons to share one another's company.

Also, they are "shoved" at one another by mindless parents who believe it's a shame if their tender 11-year-olds don't know how to bob up and down (they call it dancing now) or hold hands in a theater with their girlfriends.

If families *did* take an active, loving interest, not only in their own teen-agers, but in their children's *friends*, they would quickly find their sons and daughters responding wholeheartedly. They would discover their children WANT that kind of activity — and they WANT their parents to be interested in them, and in their friends.

What Is the Purpose of Dating?

As already mentioned, dating will, in due time, lead to marriage.

Secondly, dating *is* necessary for personality development. There is something to what psychologists tell us about the shy boy and wallflower girl — both of whom have stunted personalities and lack personal charm.

But you *don't* learn charm playing spin the bottle. You *don't* develop your personality in the backseat of a

car, parked on a dark roadside. You *don't learn* to converse about important things stretched out across a seat in a movie house.

The type of dating that DOES develop personality is the kind where many people can get together, play together, talk together.

Dating is also useful for having plain, down-to-earth fun. But not the kind of fun that ends up in pre-marital pregnancy or marriage to the wrong person. It's the kind of wholesome fun that is fun today, tomorrow and forever.

Why don't you ask yourself what your plans are in life. What do you expect out of dating? What are your *intentions* concerning marriage?

Are you aware of the *seriousness* of it? Are you preparing for the responsibilities of it? It's about time you asked yourself questions of that nature if you're a teen-ager, and you wonder what your life is going to be like.

There isn't a person who doesn't think about whom he is going to marry, when it will happen, where this person is. Yes, it is a great blessing. Marriage is something to look forward to — AT THE RIGHT TIME!

But too many people throw away a happy future for a one-night fling. They get thrown together in dates, as immature teen-agers. As a lark, they get involved, maybe sexually. Perhaps they get married. And their whole lives are usually *wrecked* from that moment on.

There are some mistakes that you can't do much about. If a young girl loses her virginity, it's lost. No matter how much she wishes she were still a virgin as she comes to herself in later years — it's just too late.

And you fellows, once you get married at 18, and if a child comes along at 19 — or probably sooner (if you get the point) — there goes that education you needed. You may earn enough to survive. But what a pity — when you could have done so much more with yourself.

This thing of dating is mighty important. And par-

ents must guide their young children BEFORE the youngsters are ready to understand what life is about. It's a real crime for parents to push their children into the kind of dating they do — when they should be doing everything to KEEP their children from such unwholesome situations.

Hints on Dating

Quickly then, let's get a few hints on right dating.

You shouldn't date the same person over and over again. Date as many different girls or boys as possible — of many different personalities. Don't think that every date has to be some Hollywood romance.

Date individuals of high moral standards. Avoid people of the opposite sex who are weirdos, oddballs, goofoffs, hot rodders. They might appear to be the "in" crowd. So you're not "popular" in high school. Wait two years. Look at the crowd you knew — premarital pregnancies, separation, venereal disease, miserable marriages.

But let time pass, you'll find *they* are "way out" — out of fun, out of a job and out of luck.

Have the courage to buck the crowd. Ask the boy or girl over to your PARENTS' home for a date — and *not* in front of the TV set. They don't like that kind of a date? Well, forget them!

One of the Proverbs says iron sharpens iron. The people you hang around with are going to build you up or drag you down. *Don't let yourself* be dragged down. And you parents — watch whom your children are dating. Be cognizant where your children are. And you teen-agers COOPERATE WITH your parents.

Don't think you know it all about dating. Seek your parents' *counsel* about dating. Remember, they've lived a whole lot longer than you.

It's simple to date properly — if you remember the purpose of dating is not for marriage or romance *until you are old enough*. It's to develop personality and cultivate feminine and masculine fellowship.

Avoid Wrong Dating

When you date from the right point of view, you know a date in a parked car, in the smoke-filled balcony of a movie, or sprawled out over a blanket on a beach is NOT a wholesome date for you. It's going to get you into trouble.

When you know the purpose of dating — you'll know what kind of individual to *avoid*. You don't want to date the long-haired freak; you won't listen to the smooth talker who wants to "get" something from you; you won't be deceived by a loose girl.

You'll watch what comes into your mind. Hollywood fluff, false advertising about romance, the weird surf-board set, jangling music, dancing the frug, watusi, or whatever — *isn't for you!* You don't want that type of date.

You don't want a necking date. You turn off the jangling, sensual music on the radio. You don't go to movies that get your mind on sex or romance.

Does that sound "way out" or perhaps a bit old-fashioned?

But how can it be "old-fashioned"? After all, no one has ever DONE it before! The *right kind* of dating has been RARELY practiced! Actually, if you're willing to try it, you'll be conducting the most forward-looking, "new" fashioned kind of date anywhere around!

Too few people have ever recaptured the *true* values in dating, learning to know members of the opposite sex. So don't think we're advocating a return to the horse and buggy era, and the "spooning" of yesterday. People didn't date the right way nearly so often then as you might think — but at least, the broken homes, teen-age crime, illegitimacy, venereal disease, drug abuse and forced marriage picture was drastically different.

And why call the right kind of date "old-fashioned" and reject it before you've *tried* it? Doesn't a stimu-

lating, intellectually rewarding, wholesome date sound like FUN to you?

Date Constructively

Don't accept any date that's going to drag you down. If you're the only one on the block, the only one in the school, the only one in the crowd — DATE CONSTRUCTIVELY! Maybe you need to find new friends.

Get the picture? Realize the purpose in dating. Avoid the pitfall of wrong dating.

But what about marriage? There is a time when you *should be ready* for marriage. What should you look for in a mate? Most people never give any thought to this. They just fall into marriage and wake up the next morning regretting the mistake they made.

It's about time someone stood up and told some of our youth about the education of the WHOLE MAN, the development of character, the forming of willpower, the rounding out of the whole personality, the development of moral strength, of honesty, of integrity.

Teen-agers need to realize that life doesn't consist solely of some romantic social whirl that ends in a premature marriage.

It's about time our clergy stood up and thundered out the laws of God on the subject, and showed the teachings of Christ, who said in the Sermon on the Mount, that you should not only not commit adultery, but also that even *lusting is a sin*.

It's about time educators, instead of giving way before the demands of the free moralists, began to stand up and talk about the results of immorality in no uncertain terms — about the broken lives, the wretched minds, the hideous mistakes that are being made today.

It's about time someone began telling our youth that there are hidden, unseen, spiritual laws which, if they are obeyed, are going to cause tremendous dividends and blessings.

Physical Health

EVENTUALLY, dating can and *should* lead to marriage. But it should lead to the *right* marriage at the *right time*.

It has been substantiated time and again that what's wrong with most marriages is the *courtship* that led to the marriage. In this light, it is quite clear that *dating* customs need to be totally altered!

Here, then, are *seven major keys to selecting the right mate for you*. Each one of these, considered separately, OUGHT to be a fundamental part of each young person's KNOWLEDGE. Naturally, you're not considering whether or not a certain person would be a "good mate" when you're sitting next to him in a sing-along at about age 17.

But when marriage is a definite possibility in the years ahead — each of these vital principles *should* be carefully considered. Read them thoroughly — and *use* them as everyday, practical helps in your life!

Teen-age complexions can be problems. But the

long-range considerations of basic *health* are more important than a case of acne or temporary pimples, even if these *are* the cause of many a full-bloomed inferiority complex.

First Law: PHYSICAL HEALTH

In dating, important, vital health considerations should prevail.

In this world, many couples are outwardly healthy, normal, robust, and nice-looking. But they can't have children. Why? No one knows. But they just can't. So *remember*, there are enough UNSEEN health problems in this day and age that can be terribly disappointing later in life, without casually passing over the obvious, discernible ones. The RH factor has resulted in terrible disappointments to many an expectant father and mother, and many, many deformities and deaths. Believe it or not, the diseases of mankind are becoming so diversified and nearly "man-made" that by the time serious dating is FIRST CONSIDERED it would be wise to find out about blood types BEFORE any romance occurs!

That's making "love" sound rather clinical. But read on.

Today, more than *one third* of American adults suffer from arthritis. That's about 37 out of every one hundred adult civilians. Does that mean in the future your mate is going to be hobbling around, barely able to walk, be pushed in a wheelchair, unable to write, unable to perform simple household tasks, and complaining of terrible pains in the joints?

One in four Americans will ultimately be struck by cancer! That's a prediction of the American Cancer Society. It is said that one American will die of cancer EVERY MINUTE AND A HALF next year. If the present rate continues, fifty million Americans alive today eventually will become victims of cancer. It will strike two out of three families. If your prospective mate eats unhealthy

food or smokes heavily he may be a candidate for future cancer.

Approximately 750,000 *people* DIE of heart disease each year! If your prospective mate is overweight, smokes, avoids exercise, and suffers excess nervous tension, he or she is a prime candidate for an early death from heart disease.

Sterility is increasing by leaps and bounds. Perhaps it's "in" not to have children. But many couples CAN'T HAVE children.

Venereal disease is reaching epidemic proportions.

And that's just a smattering. Our people are sick, sick, sick. You probably know several people in your immediate circle of friends and relatives who have a disease or have had an operation.

Now, what about pure physical health? Are your prospective mate's teeth his or her own? Does he wear a hair piece? What about ear and eye problems?

Face the Problem

Today, the world is subject to strontium-90, DDT, chemical preservatives, smog residues, tars and nicotine — and a host of other impurities.

We pop pills, take injections and gulp down drugs until it's a wonder we can live at all. Deformed babies are born at an alarmingly increasing rate.

But somehow, our teen-agers NEVER seem to think about it, nor, apparently, do a lot of parents. When romance is on the mind, reality goes out the window.

Cattle raisers at an auction can look at stock and tell you what kind of calves they're going to get. They're pretty selective about it because they know their livelihood is at stake. They know that a certain kind of cow is going to produce a *definite type* of calf.

But teen-agers and young people can't seem to tell much about their prospective mate except that he or she is "way out," "Mr. In-Between," or "in" or "out of sight" — whatever the current word is for someone who is supposed to be "cool."

VD

**CASES
REPORTED
YEARLY**

650,000

CASES IN U.S.A.

58,000

**CASES IN ENGLAND
AND WALES**

*More than half are incurred by teen-agers
and young adults under age 25.*

**SOME AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE
UP TO**

90%

***of all venereal disease cases
treated by private physicians
in the U. S. are not reported.***

What's going to happen to your prospective mate in fifteen years? Is the wife going to become horribly fat, sloppy and unattractive?

Is your husband going to end up as a little, wizened, dry country philosopher?

You can't find out these things by deciding that he or she is a smooth dresser and a good looker.

What are his ideas about foods? What about diet, health and exercise? Does he like sports? What about his weight? Does he or she take an interest in learning about the RIGHT KINDS of foods? We don't mean a food fanatic — and there are those — but one who is *soundly concerned* about what he pops into his mouth and gulps down. Most people today don't know and don't care to know the first thing about diet.

That cute teen-ager who drinks soda pop, eats french fries, hamburgers — who doesn't like vegetables, milk, fruit and good lean meat — is going to have health problems and maybe even a fatal disease if she continues on such a diet. But it seems the boyfriend isn't too concerned.

What is your prospective wife going to feed *you*? Are you going to live on TV dinners and coffee? If so, it's going to affect your health. Does she have enough get-up-and-go to learn about diet, shop judiciously and take the time to cook you wholesome meals?

But doing the watusi or frug, watching a movie, or parking in a car isn't going to tell you anything of this sort about the girl.

If you want to find out the physical health of an individual, you've got to get to know him or her. Discuss things such as exercise. Find out whether he or she smokes.

We can only hint at some of the more horrifying aspects of poor health, such as venereal disease (and the fact that it can be and is spread through HOMOSEXUAL CONTACT!) and the possibility of deformed children. No one wants to marry under a cloud of doubt! Then why date **BLINDLY**?

Mental and Emotional Health

WHAT about the mental and emotional stability of the boy or girl you think you'd like to marry?

Is he optimistic — or a cynic? Is he easy to get along with — or will he be a tyrant? Will she be a loud-mouthed virago? Is this potential lifetime partner free from excessive tension, fear and anxiety? Or is he an emotional and mental wreck?

Does he or she get angry — fly off the handle? Is he an actual or potential compulsive gambler, child molester, drug addict, murderer?

You need to *consider* these things very deeply. But how many teen-agers, young people or prospective marriage partners ever think about them? Sadly, very few **EVER DO** — until it's too late.

Most think only how "in" or "cool" or sharp this or that person is. Or how romantic it is to be with so and so. Or how "sexy" such and such a girl looks.

The second major consideration, mental and emotional health, is *directly related* to physical health.

Second Law: MENTAL HEALTH

The world has more than its quota of weirdos, homosexuals, neurotics, psychotics, child molesters, and mentally unbalanced people.

The American Medical Association has declared mental illness — in all its forms — one of America's *most pressing problems!*

Teen-agers at the rate of one out of ten boys — and probably about the same number of girls — have mental aberrations. Now, not all of them need to be in mental institutions in a straitjacket. But many of them need help.

They can't find the nerve to get a job, they stammer when conversing and generally feel inferior about everything. A lot of others easily fly off the handle — and could KILL someone before they realized what was happening. It occurs all the time. Just read your newspaper.

Many others have odd ideas, idiosyncrasies, moodiness. You would be dumbfounded to find out that huge numbers of people have tremendous problems.

On the basis of present trends, one in twelve Americans will spend part of their lives in a mental institution. That means every twelfth person (as a national average) whom you know or date.

The many health hazards around us are the subject for dozens of books and periodicals — and our overcrowded hospitals, beleaguered psychiatrists and tired nurses speak of the massive problems of physical and mental debilities. What with alcoholism (growing alarmingly), drug usage, and just everyday pill swallowing, practically every person you meet seems to be using depressants or stimulants of some sort — and often habitually.

So mental health is a MAJOR consideration. Here is some sound advice on how to approach the problem as you date.

Here are two young people in a parked car. Their parents don't know where they are or with whom. They

don't really know very much about *each other*. Either one of them could be mentally unsound. But they feel that they'll "just die" if they can't marry each other.

What kind of a rude awakening is it going to be for these two young people who go skipping down the aisle to get married and say, "I do," when they find out just a little later that the mate they thought "fate had created them for" turns out to be a child molester, a homosexual, a lesbian, a rapist, a murderer, a wife beater, a neurotic, or a hopeless psychotic?

You say it won't happen to you? How do you KNOW?

There's only one way. Take your time. Don't rush into marriage. Be sure you get to know this person. See him or her in all conceivable types of situations. That means over a LONG SPAN of time, so that you've had opportunity to thoroughly discuss all types of subjects.

What are their attitudes toward their parents? Are they secretive? Does this young man that you think has such a "kooky hairdo" *hate his father*? Does he or she have some WEIRD IDEAS about religion or diet? Is the person going to be too much of an introvert to even find a job?

A lot of mental quirks can run in families. Does this prospective mate have an aunt, a sister, a brother, or a parent who has been confined to a mental institution?

You can't answer these most important questions by immediately allowing intimacies in a parked car. How he dances, or dresses, or kisses won't tell you a thing about his deepest personal beliefs and attitudes.

So *when* you date — *don't* date the traditional way! Don't sit hunched over in the motion picture theater, allowing your mind to be swept along the usual channels of violence and sex, while learning *nothing* about the person next to you! It's a rare thing to find a movie that is REALLY, in God's sight, *fit* to watch, anyway. And let's not be naïve! Thousands of wrecked lives — premarital sexual experience and pregnancies — have been *started* while two young people sat clutching hands

or pawing one another in a movie theater, living vicariously the near-pornographic scenes being shown in modern films. The girl somehow attributes all the marvelous qualities of the hero to HER DATE. And he vicariously sees a little of the sexy actress in *his* arms.

If you want a really happy life, healthy children, peaceful sleep and robust health — then dating in darkened automobiles and movie theaters is not for you.

Find out about your friends. Come to *know their minds* — *know* their likes and dislikes and how they react to trying situations. Obviously, you *can't* come to know any of these things in a no-conversation, selfish, sex-conscious date.

Think Before You Marry

A real good surfer may wind up a psychotic. A smooth dresser may end up a neurotic pill-swallower. A smooth dancer may end up a sexual deviate.

Wouldn't it be better to find out before you marry? Also, are you mature enough to marry?

You need to take the time and be sure. Date with your eyes wide open. Realize the kind of world we live in. Don't "fall in love" — which you can't really do, but *grow* to love the *right* person at the right time!

Be sure anyone you even begin to possibly think of as a marriage partner is sound mentally and emotionally.

Heredity and Environment

THE third principle in selecting a mate is heredity and environment. This is a most important consideration.

Contrary to what many feel, you **CANNOT** change a person's heredity. If a person has a certain limit to intelligence — that's all he has. That's nothing to be ashamed of. But it should be recognized and **CONSIDERED** in choosing a mate.

Generally, the man should certainly be equal in overall intelligence to the woman he is to marry. If he is not, there are going to be severe problems in the marriage.

If the woman has a stronger personality, or is more intelligent than the man, he simply will not be able to properly assume his responsibility as head of the home.

Third Law: Heredity and Environment

Do you want to marry a woman who is more intelligent than you? How about you women? Suppose you

have the potential to be a college graduate. But your future husband does not have the level and kind of intelligence to succeed in college. Will you be able to look up to him, *respect him, rely on him* for making important decisions?

These hereditary hurdles can be overcome if one truly loves the other with a deep, outgoing concern. But if the problem isn't there, you don't have to worry about *overcoming* it.

You need to consider race, height, shape, weight, stature. Suppose you're barely five feet. Do you want to marry a six-foot woman? This happens.

Are you a 115-pound man? Certainly you don't want to marry a 160-pound woman. Now, maybe at 18 she isn't 160. But look at her grandmother and mother. If they are rather large, maybe that chic 18-year-old will blossom out in a few years too.

Get to know the parents!

What stock do they come from? What have they accomplished? Do they hate education? Are they heavy drinkers? Is there some hereditary weakness? Does your family have the SAME weakness?

Most cattle ranchers are a whole lot more careful about their *livestock* than some parents are about the people they let their children marry — or that their children decide they want to marry.

Parents! Again, we admonish you. Get to know the people your children want to marry. Keep them from making a mistake.

Mixed Marriages

It is not racism to realize there are many basic *differences* between the races. If people could only wash their minds of feelings of racial inferiority or superiority — racism — and come to realize that there ARE basic strengths and weaknesses among the races!

We think of these basic differences in our everyday living. It is not racism to acknowledge that the

Germans are a hard-working, efficient people! We think of the French people as being interested in cultural pursuits. On the other hand, we speak of the "industrious" Japanese, the "inscrutable" Chinese, the "slow-moving, patient" Russians, and the "stubborn and imperturbable" British.

We speak of the "volatile" Latins, the "unpredictable" Arabs, and the "shrewd" Jews.

The United States of America, and in a growing sense, much of the rest of the world, has become a virtual "melting pot" for the races. In the United States are many minority groups. In MOST cases, these minority and ethnic groups prefer to keep fairly to themselves, marrying among themselves, and retaining their own ethnic characteristics.

So THINK about ethnic differences. This is not to say that the average marriage will be contracted between two people of such OBVIOUS ethnic differences as skin color, but to say that even among the brown, yellow, black, and white communities, there are many more subtle differences which, nevertheless, will be VERY important when considering marriage.

Many of these differences can be decidedly *social*, as well as racial and ethnic. Many of the minority groups in the United States have a *completely different social environment*, which shapes and forms their attitudes. Coming from a different part of a big city, with a completely different ethnic background, will automatically result in a completely different attitude, character, and point of view in an individual person. Two people of widely varying backgrounds, and slightly different ethnic origins can, of course, make a successful marriage in some individual cases. But this is not USUALLY the case.

So you should be *aware* of these things, knowledgeable of them, and carefully consider both the heredity and the environment of any prospective mate.

And always remember that EACH ONE of these seven major keys to dating should be carefully considered BEFORE the "heart" is involved — not after!

What About the Environment?

Think about the education, travel, experience, religion, politics, and the social and cultural level of your prospective mate. Analyze these things. Keep both eyes wide open. Don't be swayed by "romance," before you have opportunity to think about these essential points!

What kind of language does he or she use? Can he hold down a job? Is she educated to be a homemaker? What kind of environment will both of you live in? Does he want to live in a crowded downtown flat? Will he ever afford anything better?

There are many other things to consider such as voice, accent, part of the country from which the individual came, his relatives, tastes, dress, etc.

But the point is be sure of the background and breeding of the individual you plan to marry. Be sure both of you are COMPATIBLE socially, culturally, mentally and personality-wise.

Think of size, weight, height, race, color and language. Be sure there are no hereditary diseases that may crop up in your children. Are you going to let romance or sex cause a hasty, ill-thought-out marriage that brings malformed, disease-ridden children into the world?

Think of these things before you marry. Don't make a *permanent* mistake!

Personality

How do you tell one human being from another — besides by the way he looks? Simply by noting the way he is — that is, his *personality*!

Find out about those particular traits, little ways, mannerisms, perhaps peculiarities of voice, expression, ideas, thoughts, opinions, experiences, heredity — everything that makes up an individual.

Fourth Law: Personality

Do you feel ill at ease with someone? Why?

Often it's because of personality differences. You've heard of the old cliché: "Birds of a feather flock together." People tend toward social groups. Fraternities are made up of people of *like qualities*, of the same interests — people who communicate with each other easily.

Perhaps the best way to know if you are of a compatible personality with another is to know if you can **COMMUNICATE** with each other.

In a book called *How to Marry Someone You Can Live With All Your Life*, Dr. Leland Glover said, "Intimate, friendly, and prolonged communication between a husband and a wife tends to weld them together whereas a decided *decline* in this type of communication tends to *break up existing* attachments.

"Partners who are going steady can, and should assess their ability to COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY. Studies reveal that couples who communicate well during courtship generally *continue* this wholesome pattern in marriage, while those who communicate poorly but get married anyway continue this negative relationship after the wedding" (p. 50).

But what does the average teen-age date consist of? Necking in a parked car. Stuffing down popcorn during a movie. Riding around in cars. Wild parties with gyrating "dances," drinking, and maybe dope and sex.

How can you find out what kind of personality your prospective mate has? How can you know how well you get along with someone you BARELY KNOW?

The Biggest Problem in Marriage

An individual marries the wrong person. Then he tries to REMAKE *that* person into an image of what he thinks he wants. Or some marry people to satisfy some deep emotional need of their OWN — without considering whether the whole personality makeup of the individual they are marrying would complement them.

As a result, they cannot communicate as a married couple. This inability of two people to communicate is one of the biggest single problems in marriage. It is cited as such by those who are involved in marital problems.

"It has been my experience that in at least 90% of all divorce cases, the reason for the termination of the marriage, if it had to be resolved in one phrase, would be '*lack of communication.*' . . . I have always made it a practice to determine the initial cause of the marital problems. It would seem that from little and perhaps

even indefinable disputes or misunderstandings, great problems grow. . . .

“It is my feeling that this INABILITY OF TWO PEOPLE TO COMMUNICATE gives rise to what may become a sexual problem and the sexual problem is then presented to the attorney as grounds for the pending divorce. It would then become apparent that, in fact, the sexual question is not the cause of the divorce [as some propound], but merely a symptom of the emotional problems that had preceded it.” (By Jack J. Rosenthal, an attorney who has practiced for almost 15 years and has handled a substantial number of divorce cases, Beverly Hills, *Los Angeles Times*, December 6, 1966.)

But communication has to do with *personality*. If both the parties' interests, goals, desires, are the *same* then they CAN communicate. If they are complemented intellectually, if they understand each other, have things in common — then they should be able to communicate.

Personality is one of seven principles! So you could have complementary personalities and still remain aloof — that's true. But it is *one* important aspect and should be *deeply* considered before any marriage is contemplated.

Are You Prepared to Know?

But teen-agers simply are *not prepared* to know who they should marry. The whole dating pattern of modern teens militates AGAINST their finding out if the personality of the person they have “fallen” for, will complement theirs.

Teen-agers! You are still in the formative years! A person's outlook and personality are *not fully shaped* until on into the mid twenties and later. Needs, standards and outlooks change.

Most people who are getting married simply DO NOT KNOW what their partners are like. In the *Life* series on marriage and courtship, the article, “Modern Courtship

— the Great Illusion,” described this shocking state of affairs:

“Numerous sociologists have pointed out that the desire of young people to be popular during the dating period often leads them into a considerable amount of **OUTRIGHT DECEIT**. They are on their best behavior, *try to hide* any disagreeable qualities they think they may have, and sometimes pretend to be entirely different from what they really are. . . .

“But nobody can continue to practice the deception successfully in a marriage that involves 24 hours a day of contact for a lifetime. . . . *It is a good idea to see a prospective mate in as many situations as possible, particularly difficult and unglamorous ones, and to study his family and friends, which often tell more about a person than he ever reveals himself. . . .*

“**THE STAKES ARE VERY HIGH.** Choosing the wrong person [one marriage counselor has written], can mean ‘life with an invalid, a neurotic or a lifelong enemy — or it can mean (tragic) divorce.’ ”

Know Before Marriage

Marriage is no time to **START** developing interests in common. You should have found out long before you even thought about marriage if you had any similar interests.

Ask yourself: “Can I marry this person as he is — *without* trying to change his personality? Do I really have no reservations about the way he is? His or her habits don’t bother me? Or hobbies, interests, values, goals generally do not vary?” No one is perfect. But everyone *should* be able to feel he has married just the **PERFECT** mate for **HIM!**

One important principle: The man ought to have a *stronger*, more dominant (not domineering) personality than the woman. If not, she is going to have a difficult time learning to respect his judgment and leadership.

Religion

WHAT do you know about the religious beliefs of the person you're marrying? Perhaps you think it doesn't matter.

Let's analyze it.

Fifth Law: Religion

Maybe the person you're planning to marry has some *strange or odd ideas* about things. Maybe he's riddled with superstitions. What does he think about the "immortal soul" or heaven or hell — or anything?

Maybe you're religious — you come from the "Bible belt." But your mate couldn't care less. In what religion does your future husband or wife insist on training the children?

What about your prospective mate's *moral standards*? Does he or she believe in God or the Bible?

To give you an idea of some of the religious beliefs and morality floating around today, we quote the comments teen-agers gave in a panel discussion on sexual conduct.

They were asked: "What holds you back [from immoral conduct]? Or does anything?"

(Answers):

"That's a good question," pondered one teen.

"I couldn't say," replied a second. . . .

"...the idea of God and concepts of religion," commented another youth, 'don't tend to be real things. They aren't something you can look at face to face. They're just kind of nebulous. In many cases, the reality can be too overwhelming.'

"The biggest problem is, *how can you know absolute truth* — about sex or anything else. It's so nebulous and so far away,' worried one of the girls. . . .

"You have to come back to the fact that we don't know absolute law,' said another boy. . . .

"There aren't any *specific standards*, like on the first date you only hold hands or on the second or fifth date, or whatever, you can kiss him,' answered a girl. . . .

"You set the standards for yourself, kind of playing it by ear at the moment,' said another girl. . . .

"I am sure I know and see quite a few people of our age who are very immoral — *by my standard*,' commented a senior boy. 'But who's to judge what is right and wrong? I believe there is an absolute truth. But I'm not saying I know it.' " (From an article entitled, "The BIG Question for Teens: Morality," in *Today's Health*, May 1965.)

Now, how would you like to marry someone with THESE ATTITUDES, "No specific standards?" Does that mean he or she condones homosexuality, trading wives and child molestation? Probably not — but how can you be sure? These hazy teen-age guesses about morality and religion could lead toward some *serious problems* later! No one wants to marry a potentially unfaithful mate!

Where IS God?

What about God? Does your mate believe in Him? Or does it matter?

The question "Is GOD DEAD?" was asked recently of some high school students in Oregon. Here were some of the answers:

(1) Boy: "Personally, I think God is dead because I haven't had anything or anyone prove to me He's alive."

(2) Boy: "*It depends. Perhaps God was never alive to begin with.* Of course, for many centuries now the concept of God has been 'alive' in people's minds; however, whether or not God has actually ever been alive is debatable."

(3) Boy: "I believe religion is on an *individual* basis. For me, a 'personal' God is dead. I think there is a Supreme Being, but I'm inclined to think He is divorced from the affairs of mankind."

(4) Girl: "No, I don't think God is dead. I think your *conscience* will tell you whether or not He is dead. For most people, God can be 'felt' in their conscience."

(5) Girl: "As long as there are *people* in the world who hope for good to come of a situation, I believe there *must be* a God."

(6) Boy: "*I believe that God is dead.* God was created by man with all His grandeurs at some period when man was in jeopardy (needed security). Presently man feels his sovereignty and worth, for man is directing his arrogance in all directions, not just to his inferiors. He has the ability to do whatever he wants. Therefore, man feels that he does not need a God."

Such is the vague, unreal guesswork concerning religion of many teens. Others have strong convictions toward this or that "faith." But how many have actually **PROVED**, carefully, any particular religious doctrine or philosophy?

Precious few. Mostly, we tend to just accept what others around us believe — be it a certain religion, or rejection of all religion, or a type of "don't care-ism" that seems mostly prevalent today.

But these teens were merely parroting what others

had told them. They were mostly *repeating* what "liberal" teachers had said, or what other teen-agers said.

Remember this! The traditional morals-shapers — the home, the church, and the school — have largely disappeared from society as an effective force in instilling strong convictions and beliefs. But religion and morals are inseparable.

Of course, you may fancy yourself a "free thinker" type. Maybe you feel there ARE no absolutes which ought to regulate moral conduct. But look at it this way. When it comes time to marry — do you want to marry a licentious, promiscuous woman, or man? Do you wish to marry one who has had experience with "only" three or four other people? What if they are close friends of yours — of your own crowd? What would married life be like when you're always meeting and seeing people who "knew" your mate before YOU did?

To carry it further, do you wish to marry a virgin?

In opinion samplings, you'll find the MAJORITY DO! But virginity is becoming a *rarity* today! And herein lies a great deal of the hypocrisy of the "line" handed many a trusting young girl who thought she was "in love." The thoughts the fellow presents to you during the ecstatic moment and his private convictions about the kind of girl he wants to MARRY may be vastly different!

Listen to this shocking commentary concerning average youth morals:

" 'Why shouldn't my boyfriend and I be able to have intimate relations if we — between the two of us — have decided it's what we want to do?' asked an attractive . . . university coed with long auburn hair.

"She was one of dozens of students and college officials interviewed in a [*Cleveland*] *Plain Dealer* examination of the so-called Sexual Revolution on the campuses. . . .

" 'The new morality is that it's ALL RIGHT TO SLEEP WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE,' observed [another] coed. 'I know of some girls who are taking birth control pills,'

she said. 'I suppose it's all right if they're not promiscuous and have relations only with the fellow they're going with.' . . ."

These juvenile reasonings don't take into account the feelings of these same people only months or years later, when the PRESENT relationship has broken up and now they're married! Later feelings of guilt — or the discovery of an unfaithful mate AFTER marriage — has directly contributed to THOUSANDS of fighting, squabbling divorces, and even to murder! When living moral laws are broken — they BREAK YOU!

So think carefully about religion, and morality. And at least be honest *with yourself!* While you're reading this book, you're not having to put on a front, or appear to be chic, worldly wise, and "experienced." You don't need to impress anyone right now — at this moment.

Do you want to know the sweetness of marrying someone whose very FIRST real experience in REAL LOVE is with you, and you alone? Think about it.

And *if* you do — then does that potential mate deserve the same kind of treatment?

Well then — it is worth "saving" your love for marriage, isn't it? After all — it's YOUR life. It's YOUR happiness we're talking about, not just living up to an "image" that someone else expects of you!

Is the Bible Important?

You can *prove God exists*, and you can PROVE the Bible is His inspired Word. (Write for our *free* booklets *Does God Exist?* and *The Proof of the Bible.*)

Have you ever looked into it?

Let's face it! Right now, there are two alternatives. Either there *does exist* a living God of Supreme mind and total power, who very soon will step in and interfere in the affairs of this world, and SAVE HUMANITY from itself, or else human extinction will soon occur.

There is no other alternative.

You may blind your eyes to existing facts and

trends and say, "Aw come on! I can't see what's so wrong with this world," or "It doesn't matter what I believe — NOTHING'S going to turn out right."

Not too many people today believe in *any* God. Very few are real Christians or know what it means to be a Christian. You can find out. We have a booklet, entitled *What Is a Real Christian?* You need to read and study it.

Don't think for a moment that religious feelings are not *important* considerations in dating and planning toward marriage. Parents pulling and tugging at children because of different religious convictions; mates fighting, arguing, and *literally breaking up homes* because of religion; these have *happened*. If you'll think about it — you'll probably realize you already *know* this is true— because you have probably known of several such cases in your own experience.

So think about it carefully. If you marry through LUST and ATTRACTION, and then later discover terrible religious BIAS in a person, you will have deep problems for years to come! There are too many extremes possible. You could marry a person with strong religion — even to the point of religious bigotry and prejudice, or you could marry an ultra-liberal with NO ideas on spirituality and morality. Either extreme is a mistake. If you marry a person whose MIND IS OPEN on questions of religion and morality — who is willing to PROVE what he has not previously proved, is willing to listen to *all* points of view without prejudice and then PROVE WHAT IS THE TRUTH, you have found a rare one, indeed!

Many homes have been shattered due to violent religious intolerance. Never pretend religion is unimportant to you, because it is a *major* factor in marriage.

Romantic Attraction

HAVE you heard such expressions as “They were *madly* in love,” “He sure is *crazy* about her,” “Are they ever *moonstruck*”? Chances are you have. No doubt you thought: “Are they ever in love!”

Believe it or not — the chances are, they WEREN'T really in love.

They were romantically attracted to each other, perhaps deeply infatuated with each other. But in love? Probably not!

In this chapter we want to talk about one of the most misunderstood of all topics, that of romantic attraction. We've already discussed it in terms of how this world views it, but is romantic attraction love? Is it wrong? What *part* does it play in courtship?

Sixth Law: Romantic Attraction

What does it mean to be in love — in relationship to *romantic attraction*?

Let's make it plain by citing two extremes.

A man may meet a woman who is so voluptuous and physically attractive that she makes him think of just one thing — the desire to get her into his arms and press her close to him in sensuous embrace. The sight of her makes him want to POSSESS — to have and to hold.

No man should EVER CONFUSE that attraction with love. That's "sex without love."

Then there is the opposite extreme, "love" without sex.

A man can know a woman whom he admires, respects very highly. She may even be a beautiful woman. He may even enjoy her company — at least occasionally. He dates her once in a while. But he feels he would just as soon put his arms around a cold iron lamp post and try to embrace it. She is a very fine person — he certainly holds her in the highest respect and esteem — but there is no physical attraction.

That is the other extreme — and *that* is NOT marital love, but merely respect.

What Is True Love?

True love is *outgoing concern*.

It is not, necessarily, wholly outgoing, devoid of a normal and right feeling of desire. The object of such love must be physically attractive — but not necessarily sensually arousing. She does not make him think of sex, physically. Even as God's GREAT and general command respecting humans is that we shall love our neighbors AS ourselves, so true love is that union of outgoing concern for the one loved AND her desirability to him.

True love does not produce sex arousal at sight.

Pure love involves respect, admiration, an unselfish concern for HER happiness and welfare, COMBINED with complete compatibility mentally, socially, culturally, and complete physical desirability. The girl is attractive, altogether LOVELY and physically desirable in that normal way that is NOT sensuous, and does not bring on thoughts of sex primarily.

He cares for her in a way he does not for any other.

He wants to be with her — in her company. She is the ONE he wants to talk things over with, to share with her his problems as well as his successes and triumphs. And he is so concerned for her welfare and happiness that he wants to protect her, provide for her, be always kind and gentle to her and considerate of her. He feels LOVE for her, not lust. He wants to share with her his struggles, his interests, his life. And SHE is the one he wants to be the mother of his children.

THAT is the LOVE that ought to be marital love.

The same thing applies to girls — but from their vantage point. A girl should want the man she really loves to hold her in his arms. He certainly should be attractive to her. But idle, immature, romantic ideas that here is some *perfect* prince charming that is going to make every moment of her life one great ride on a fluffy cloud does NOT constitute true love.

Real life simply *isn't that way!*

What Is Life About?

Yes, love has its romantic moments — its candle-light dinners, its scintillating trips, its ecstasies. But let's fill in the rest of the picture to get reality.

The wife is going to have to wash the clothes, do the dishes, change the baby. Does this mean a woman's life is dull? No, all these things ought to give a woman great joy. But they WON'T if she feels her EVERY MOMENT must be a pink cloud affair.

And men — marriage is NOT primarily sex. You're still going to have to sleep one third of your life, work one third of the day, eat, wash, drive, study, read, *talk* to your wife and a whole lot else.

As Dr. Clifford R. Adams said in a *Ladies Home Journal* article, "When 'love' develops suddenly or within a few dates, it is *almost always infatuation*. Real love is a developing relationship, not an abrupt awakening.

"Physical attraction is essential, and without it

there can be no genuine love between man and woman. But to conclude that mutual sexual feeling guarantees love, assures a good marriage, is to INVITE DISASTER.

“Realistic love depends upon the couple’s companionship, the values and interests they share and what they want from life and marriage. This is the non-sexual side of love and the one that is *often minimized* or ignored in infatuation.

“Infatuation is idealized sexual attraction: it is romantic, glamorous, thrilling and has a desperate air about it. But genuine love is not hasty; it is affectionate, tender and considerate and it is focused around the welfare of the loved one. It is unselfish and understanding. It is social and outgoing, it compromises and cooperates. But infatuation is possessive, demanding, urgent, unreasonable and self-centered.”

Wise words those. They hit the nail on the head.

Love Develops Gradually

As we mentioned, love develops gradually as you get to know the other person. Secondly, love is an outgoing concern. If you’re the smitten one soaked in your own misery as you “moon,” you’ve got a giant case of self-centered infatuation. If you think this person you’re supposedly in love with is perfect, you DON’T KNOW ENOUGH about that person to marry him or her. Jealousy is not a sign of true love. Of course, there will be some desire to protect and keep for yourself — to win — the one you love. But hate-filled, fear-riddled jealousy that you may lose this person is selfish possessiveness.

Now, this rather *contradicts* most of the Hollywood movies, the novels, the plays, the magazines where you read about this sort of thing. But it shows how far we’ve strayed from the real truth.

Taken in its balanced position, we see that, to really be in love, a person must be romantically attracted to another. But this doesn’t mean he has a sensuous desire, a moonstruck romantic feeling, hate-filled

jealousy or an empty-headed idea that the other person is the height of perfection. Romantic attraction has its crucial part — but really a *minor part* in the whole courtship situation. Certainly without it, there can probably be little real marital love. But it is only a *small part* of the huge base that forms a solid basis for marriage.

In connection with romantic attraction, we should discuss the physical act of “necking.” Just because a couple are romantically attracted to each other, should they engage in intimacies such as necking and beyond?

Is “NECKING” Wrong?

NECKING means various personal sex intimacies. It includes kissing, pawing, and much worse — depending on the interpretation individual teen-agers give it.

It is sensually arousing — FAR more to the boy than to the girl — and has been the DIRECT reason for many a case of rape. It is not only wrong in the sight of your Creator, who gives you every breath you breathe — but it is WRONG PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY!

Necking *belongs* in marriage! It is the first part of the right kind of lovemaking between a husband and wife — honorable, just, and good — and, when done in marriage, and out of a motive of *real* love — it’s FUN.

Promiscuous sexual practices are a major cause for rising venereal disease cases. Without explaining all the physiological aspects of it — it is also physically harmful because of the RESULTS of necking, which may include physically harmful sex HABITS!

How is it harmful mentally?

Simply because it creates LUST in the mind — causes the senses to be *dulled*, thinking only of passion, lust, and sensuality — and causes increased incidence of daydreaming! It takes away one’s concentration from constructive, wholesome things — and therefore can become the primary reason for LACK OF STUDY and POOR GRADES. That’s mental *damage*.

How is it harmful emotionally?

In many ways. First, it creates a *false* emotion —

by pushing lust and sensuality into the forefront and *true* feelings of concern and respect into the background. This is true in many cases where “necking” is the “EXPECTED” thing to do — even when any normal *physical* attraction may be absent.

Secondly, it SEARS the normal, wholesome emotions one SHOULD eventually experience in marriage by creating a FALSE emotion with perhaps a whole series of individuals where no real depth of mature feeling is present!

It is no wonder one noted individual said “Marriage is like a dull meal, with the dessert *first*.” This is because of the modern practice of “necking” and sex intimacies BEFORE marriage! Without realizing it, he was emphasizing the fact that young people are busily *depriving* themselves of the *real* romance, the excitement, thrills, joys and FUN of marriage by WRECKING their chances *before* marriage. They are SEARING their emotions and senses, becoming *calloused* where they should be tender — emotionally, spiritually and mentally — to the point where there is nothing left for them in marriage.

The heavy “petters” and habitual “neckers” of the teen sub-culture are busily DESTROYING their chances for any real mystery, anticipation, discovery *in marriage*! They’re busily RUINING their lives by breaking the living laws the Creator set in motion to *protect* and *preserve* them.

“Necking” belongs IN MARRIAGE! It’s GOOD, then. It’s FUN, then. And it’s RIGHTEOUS—and has the Creator God’s FULL APPROVAL! Done outside of marriage, it’s equal to stealing, lying, and murder! Those aren’t the views of sociologists, incidentally — but the LAWS of God!

Seek Counsel

SUPPOSE you're planning to get married. Or, if you're not, or are married, put yourself in the position of one who is getting married. Imagine this couple, now. They've been dating for some time. They think they are in love. They want to get married.

Who would you say is or should be MOST QUALIFIED to know whether they should get married to each other? The boy? No! How about the girl? No, wrong again.

Who is the most qualified on this earth — or should be — to know if those two young people are right for each other?

THE PARENTS OF THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN.

Seventh Law: Seek Counsel

Now, we know this sounds rather shocking, old-fashioned and perhaps authoritarian. Kids today don't want their parents to tell them what to do. But most marriages today are failures. Doesn't that prove something is rather drastically wrong with teen-agers' and young people's *decisions*?

In an article which appeared in *Life* magazine and was reprinted in part in the December 1961 *Reader's Digest*, a well-known authority on the subject, Ernest Havemann stated the problem:

"American parents permit and even encourage their children to select their mates in just about the WORST OF ALL POSSIBLE WAYS.

"Despite our knowledge that one-fourth of all brides wind up in the divorce courts, we still cling fondly to the *notion* that we are the most romantic nation on the face of the earth. It is generally believed in the United States to be a *LAW OF NATURE* that young men and women should have full rein to meet in school, at dances and on street corners; to pair off on unchaperoned dates and fall in love, and then rush to the altar with or without parental approval."

Perhaps some of you teen-agers don't like to hear this. It's still a fact, nevertheless. And who is responsible? *You parents are.* Parents have shirked their responsibility and allowed their children to date and marry whomever they choose.

Parents Are Responsible

Parents need to assume their responsibility. Children need to look to their parents for wise counsel and help.

The article quoted above continued, talking about this modern form of courtship.

"Actually, this kind of courtship is something *very new*, and like other innovations it does not necessarily represent pure progress... the arranged marriage, planned by parents, was one of the first customs adopted by those who began to rise in the world. By the 1890's it was estimated that nine out of ten European marriages were based on practical considerations... the *arranged marriage is still the rule* in many parts of Europe, Latin America and the Orient.

"To Americans, the arranged marriage has a **BAD NAME.** *We weep* for all the poor girls forced into mar-

riage against their will. Yet, Dr. David Mace, executive director of the American Association of Marriage Counselors notes . . . that many of these victims of the arranged marriage have *not seemed to mind it at all.*"

These girls who have had much parental help *actually felt sorry* for American girls. They felt, as one Chinese girl, that "finding her a husband was her PARENTS' SACRED DUTY." She felt *secure* — *trusting her parents* to make the wise decision for her.

As this article brought out, finding the right mate is simply too difficult and important a task for a young teen-ager. But today, children think they know more than their parents. This is a lawless age — an age when people do what they please.

You Need Advice!

Today, advertisers sell the "image," not the product. Political figures try to create an "image" before the public through press secretaries — while political opponents speak caustically of the "real" person.

Take automobiles. On television commercials, you may see just a glittering corner of a bumper, a cloud of dust, swirling leaves, blinding sun rays on shining metal, and flying blond hair — accompanied by jangling rock and roll music. Advertising men talk freely and openly about this. They speak of *selling the desire for the product* — NOT of selling the product itself.

For instance, you don't hear, in ANY television commercials (with the exception of Volkswagen or another compact), about gas mileage. The kind of suspension, the type steering, the various *safety* features, are seldom discussed.

You aren't told how conveniently the spare tire is located, and the ease with which it may be changed, or about emergency lighting devices, flares, or an auxiliary can of gasoline. Nothing said about location of rear view mirror (some make center passengers in the front seat sick), or fuse terminals, or how simple the *repairs* will be.

But in buying an automobile, YOU NEED TO KNOW THESE THINGS, and many more. Usually, a smart automobile buyer will want permission to have a mechanic known to him check out the car thoroughly (ESPECIALLY if it's a used one). He'll want to know about the mileage, the tire wear, the last major repairs. Has it ever been in a wreck?

It won't stretch anyone's imagination to draw an analogy here about dating.

Obviously, you ought to know all you can about the one you're attracted to. Certainly *PARENTS* primarily, and relatives and friends secondarily, are the ones who should be able to give *wise counsel* concerning a prospective mate.

It's an everlasting shame that MANY young people literally take more time, gather more advice, and choose more carefully when buying a car than in selecting a mate for life!

Advertisers know most people are "impulse buyers." So they advertise to encourage that buying *IMPULSE*. They play on people's *LUSTS* and *DESIRES*. Usually, they manage to display a great deal of the human female form in doing so — thus combining the lust of the flesh with the lust for material possessions!

And *IT SELLS!*

People *DO* buy impulsively!

And, tragically, they marry impulsively, too! But marriage is *SERIOUS* business — and it's from now on. It is not something to be entered into based only on your own judgment! You need to seek the counsel of older married people (*not* a young couple just recently married, or married only a few years, who have their *OWN* problems to combat) — and *MOST ESPECIALLY* the counsel of your parents!

You need the advice of an impartial onlooker — who knows exactly the type of person you are. After all, you are your parents' daughter or son. You've heard the expression, "Like mother, like daughter," or "Like

father, like son," or "He's a chip off the old block."

Studies show that sons will generally be in the same type of occupation bracket as their fathers, will probably look like them, think like them, have the same basic interests, the same outlook on life, the same social graces — and on and on it goes.

You've lived with your parents for many, many years. They know you like a book. Well, aren't they qualified to KNOW to whom you would be happily married?

We realize the breakdown in the home will make this *ideal* condition practically impossible. Most homes have virtually *no* communication between parents and children except the routine, necessary, material talk — "It's time to get up — time to eat breakfast — time to go to school."

When parents are unhappy, perhaps divorced, or on the verge of one — they're not going to be taking the time to patiently talk over their children's problems.

Most parents don't seem to know *how* to encourage their children to share their innermost thoughts with them. Usually, parents tend to unconsciously alienate their children by a series of mistakes. Most teens have come to feel they can't "talk anything over" with their parents for a number of reasons. Usually, they feel it's because their parents are only half listening to them — and then will only smile knowingly, being painfully "tolerant" toward their children, instead of truly understanding the depth of their feelings.

On the other hand, most teens *do not know* how really *fresh* and *vivid* are the memories of teen-age in their own parents' minds; and make the mistake of assuming their parents cannot *understand* their feelings. It isn't because they can't, as a rule, but because they're not interested.

If you still have younger children, and want to *avoid* the pitfalls of having your children feel toward you as strangers, then write for our free booklet, *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*.

Any parent who has been able to keep the confidence of his children will find them *eager* to share their hopes and dreams — eager to talk about their friends.

But how many parents try to USE their children as projections of their own vanity? How many fathers are just SURE their sons MUST excel in the same sports they did? Mothers who “live their lives over again” in dressing and sending off their daughters into social events?

Parents need our booklet on marriage. *Your Marriage Can Be Happy* gives practical, workable *laws* on how to have a happy marriage.

But regardless as to past mistakes, teen-agers, you CAN gain sound and far-reaching advice and counsel from your parents. Even a father who is no longer living with your mother has learned some bitter lessons that could help you avoid making the same mistakes.

So whether you have a happy, “ideal” home life or not — you’ll find your own parents the source of wise counsel when it comes time to think about marriage.

Seek God’s Wisdom

This world has been deceived into cheapening the marriage state. Most people simply do not marry for the right reasons. Too many marriages are rendered unhappy by wrong attitudes. Most people marry for selfish purposes. They think only of what they can GET from the other. They want to extract gratification, pleasure, money, security, or something for SELF from the mate.

True outgoing concern and love is usually lacking.

If you are unmarried, follow these living inexorable LAWS — seek God’s guidance in the selection of a mate when the right time comes.

But how many believe that today?

The wisest counsel you can possibly seek is God’s counsel. You have direct access to Him. *You should CERTAINLY PRAY* about the choice of your marriage partner!

Where Is Romance?

But is there any “fun” and “romance” in following all these laws and rules?

You bet there is!

As a matter of fact, following these vital keys to right dating will *produce* REAL romance. Romance is an unfortunate word, perhaps — stemming from the term “to Romanize” or to “do as the Romans do.”

But the thrills, excitements, and anticipations of youth — the joys of coming to deeply love someone, and *sharing* many wonderful experiences together — are NOT denied by following these rules — but rather GUARANTEED.

The cheap, shabby wrestling match in the back seat is an inferior, wretched nowhere scene compared to the right kind of wholesome dating outlined in this book.

And *necking* is NOT “romance.” It is actually BREAKING one of the ten commandments — which will BREAK the ones indulging in it, eventually.

But the *right*, wholesome, RIGHTEOUS expressions of love, when one has finally come to the *right age* for marriage, after *preparation* for marriage, and finding the *right mate* — THIS is real “romance.”

Too few people in this world have really experienced *true* love. Too few have come to experience the deeply rewarding emotional and SPIRITUAL side of marriage, and have settled for the physical side, only.

No — these rules of dating will never deprive you of fun and frolic — from excitement and joy. They will produce it.

So again — remember. You’re not “obligated” to anyone, just because you’ve read this dating book. You don’t need to put on a front for anyone in your own private thoughts. *Is there anything you’ve read that you really disagree with? Can you prove any of these positive suggestions wrong?* Probably you’ve already made some mistakes in your dating habits. Maybe even some fairly serious ones. But it’s not too late to CORRECT those mis-

takes. God is a FORGIVING God when we repent. He's a MERCIFUL Heavenly Father who wants our happiness and success!

It's not too late for you! Whether you are a parent, or younger teen-ager looking toward the finest years of your life — it's not too late to begin living the RIGHT WAY. The way that will *bring* you the greatest happiness and joy, and result in the smallest amount of embarrassment, pain and frustration!

And remember, too. Finding the *right mate* is only a PART of life. HOW TO LIVE with that mate in marriage is the next major step.

Would you like our free literature on marriage? If so, write for our booklet *Your Marriage Can Be Happy!*, and our book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. This book has 14 chapters covering the missing dimension in the knowledge of sex and marriage, 236 pages in all. (Regrettably, we must refuse to send this book to unmarried minors. But it is hoped that parents will recognize the urgency of placing this helpful and informative volume in the hands of their adolescent children.) Write for one or both items now — before you forget. They are provided absolutely free of charge as a public service of Ambassador College.

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