

Skills for Living

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Chapter 7

Considering Future Relationships

- In this chapter, you will learn



Topic 7-1

The Marriage Relationship

- In this topic, you will learn about marriage, preparation for marriage, and continual efforts to maintain the marriage relationship, as well as
 - ❖ Learning to love
 - ❖ Factors that influence marital success
 - ❖ Making marriage work

The Marriage Relationship

Objectives for Topic 7-1

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- identify the role of love in a marriage relationship
- describe factors that influence mate selection and marital success
- explain the importance of the engagement period and the process of adjusting to married life

Topic 7-1 Terms

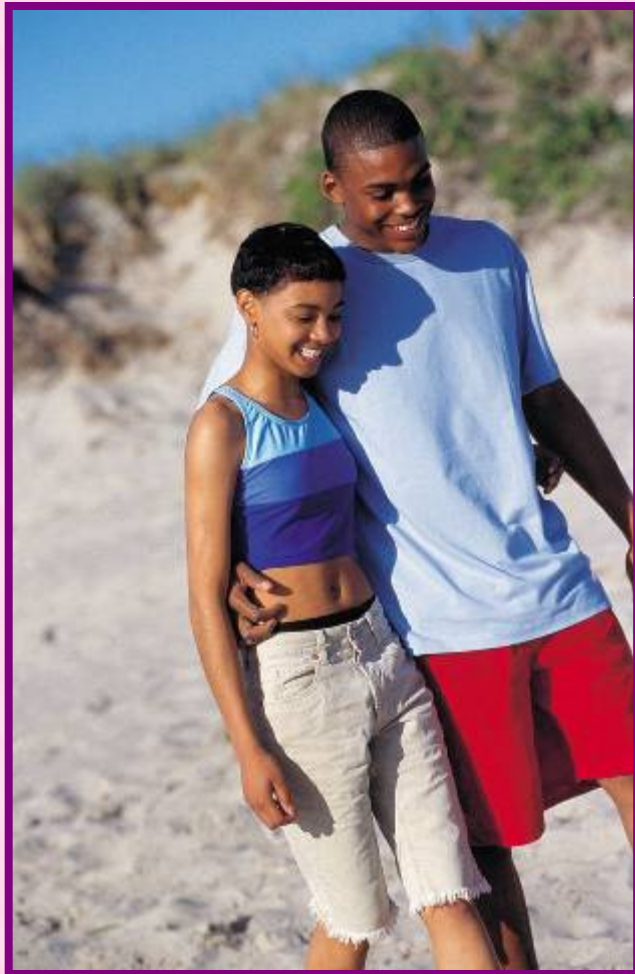
- ❖ intermittency of love

Learning to Love

- How do two people decide if they love each other enough to spend the rest of their lives together?
 - ❖ Their love is unselfish
 - ❖ Sharing time and activities is important to the couple
 - ❖ The couple communicates well



Factors That Influence Marital Success



- Family background
- Values and standards
- Emotional maturity
- Age for marriage
- Common interests
- Parental approval
- Attitude toward marriage
- The engagement period

Family Background

- Similar family backgrounds can strengthen a marriage relationship
 - ❖ family lifestyle
 - ❖ family relationships
 - ❖ family customs



Values and Standards

- To live in peace and harmony, marriage partners need to have similar values, goals, and standards
- As time passes, these factors become more important
- If values, goals, and standards are not shared, spouses may begin to resent each other

Emotional Maturity

- Emotionally mature people are
 - ❖ in control of their own lives
 - ❖ more understanding of others and willing to compromise
 - ❖ more realistic



Age of Marriage



- The younger couples are when they marry, the less likely they are to have successful long-term marriages
- Older couples are more likely to have
 - ❖ emotional maturity
 - ❖ stable finances
 - ❖ time to establish careers

Common Interests

- Spouses should share some common interests
- Spouses should also continue to enjoy friendships with others



Parental Approval

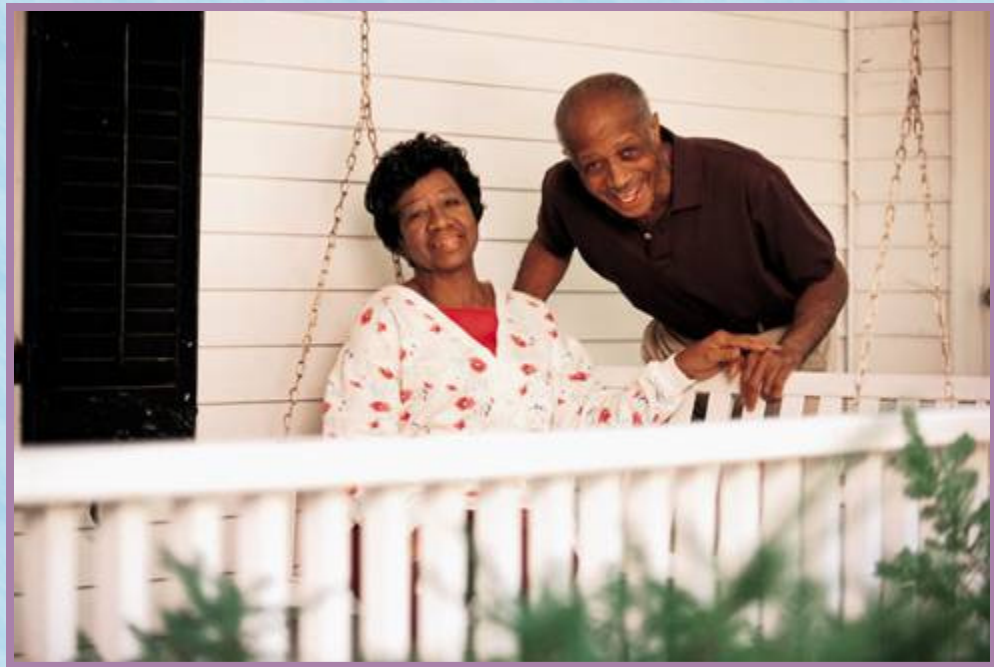
- Consent of all parents for their children to get married is a positive factor in a marriage



- ❖ Parents realize their child is mature
- ❖ Parents are supportive of the relationship

Attitude Toward Marriage

- People with positive attitudes see marriage as a long-term goal
- They have more realistic expectations about marriage



Did You Know...

- In the year 2000, there were over 21 million divorces in the United States
- More people are part of second marriages today than first marriages

Source: divorcenter.org

The Engagement Period

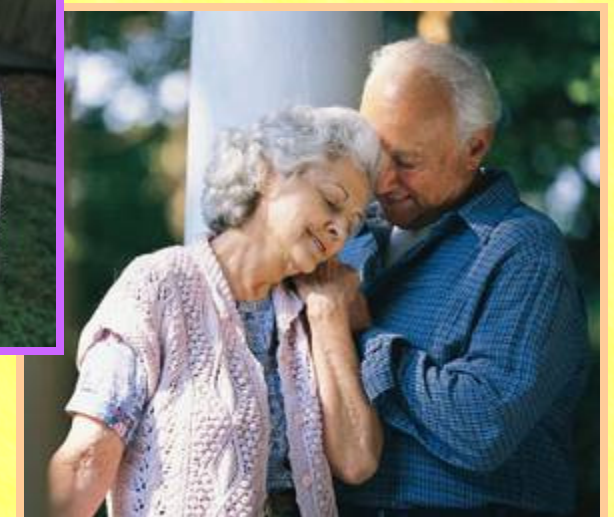
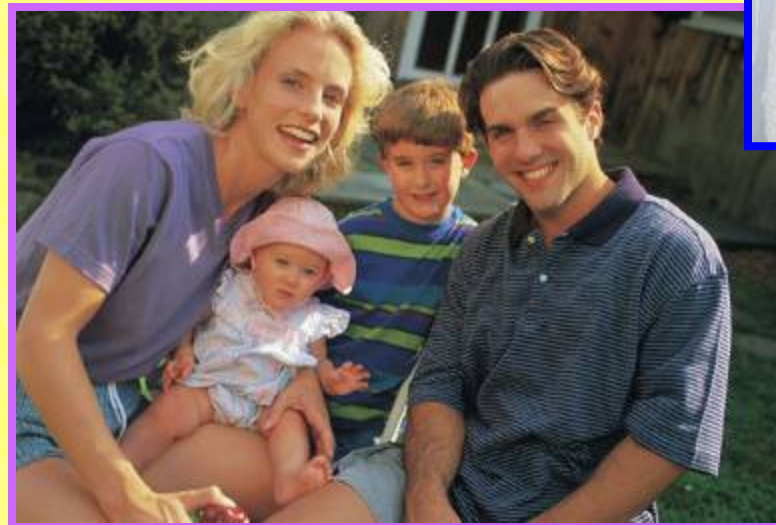
- The engagement period is the end of dating and the start of a couple's plan for married life
- This period has several functions



- ❖ to discuss important issues
- ❖ to make wedding plans
- ❖ to plan for a future home

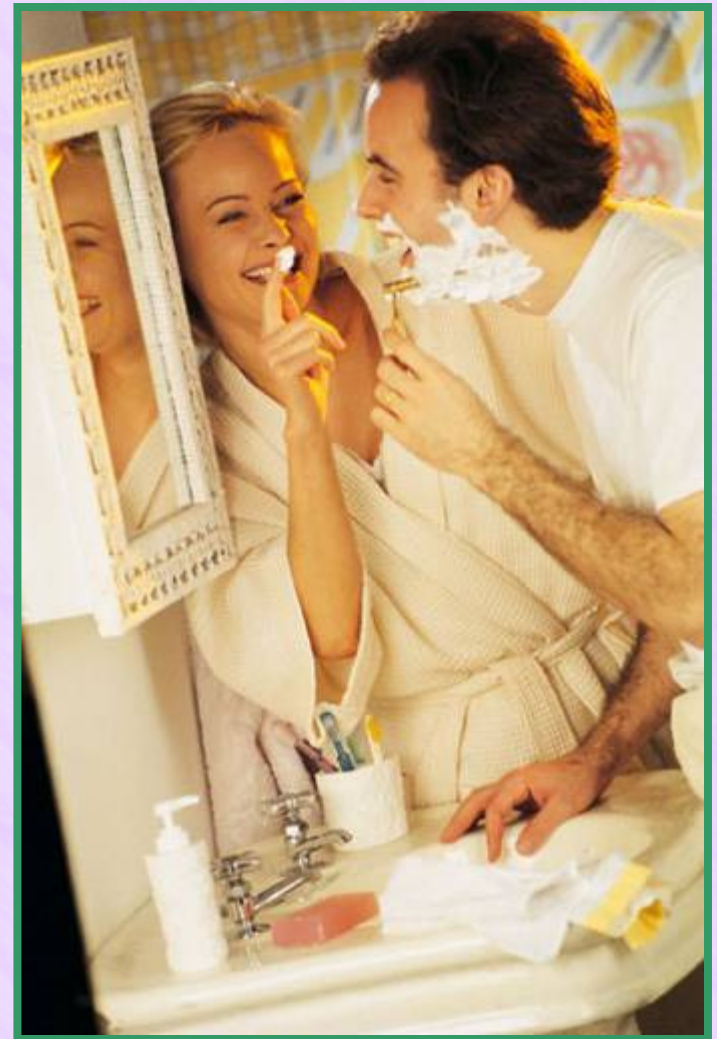
Making Marriage Work

- As people grow and change, the marriage relationship will also grow and change



Early Marital Adjustments

- A new home
- Daily living habits and routines
- Social activities
- Financial commitments
- Relationships with family members and friends



Nurturing a Marriage

- Both partners need to work together to achieve a successful marriage
 - ❖ Good communication as change and growth occur
 - ❖ Realistic expectations for love and happiness
 - ❖ A willingness to work through bad times
 - ❖ An understanding of the *intermittency of love*, when love seems to fade and then reappear

Summary for Topic 7-1

- It takes prior preparation and continual effort to maintain the marriage relationship
- Factors that influence marital success include
 - ❖ family backgrounds
 - ❖ values and standards
 - ❖ emotional maturity
 - ❖ age for marriage
 - ❖ common interest
 - ❖ parental approval
 - ❖ attitude toward marriage
 - ❖ the engagement period