

designs on you



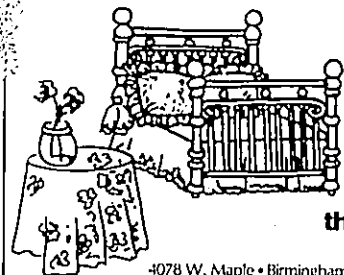
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The difficult issues

Questions to ask

Many questions can be asked by persons planning to marry. Some may be relevant for one couple, but not for another. The questions listed below form only a partial list. They are intended to provide some guidance to common areas of trouble.

The questions, when answered, can give clues that problems may develop down the line.

They are meant to serve as a discussion guide, as a basis for reflection and, if serious concern arises in trying to answer them, as an indication that professional help might be needed.

The questions:

COMMUNICATION — How open and clear is your communication? Can each of you express love, agreement, disagreement, anger, wishes, fantasies, anxiety and a wide range of feelings and be understood by the other?

DIFFERENCES — What are the major differences between you and how effectively can you deal with them? Do you have ways of resolving differences which leave each of you feeling comfortable?

FAMILIES — What kind of relationship do each of you have with the other's family? Are you overattached to your parents? Estranged? Do either of you resent members of the other's family? How effectively can the two of you deal with both families?

MARRIAGE — Do you hope for and expect the same kind of marriage? The same kind of relationship? Have you talked about the kind of marriages your parents had? Who will be responsible for the home, finances, shopping and children, if you plan to have them? Are roles determined by sex? Or are they determined by individual interests, abilities and available time?

SEX — How similar or different are your attitudes on the frequency of sexual relations, sexual fidelity, who initiates sex, and the means of achieving sexual gratification and compatibility? How does love, caring and consideration relate to sexual expression and gratification?

MONEY — How do each of you feel money should be gained, used and controlled?

FRIENDS — What do you think of

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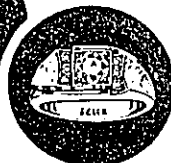
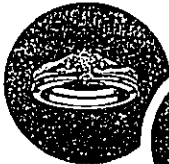
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