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# What Can I Do To Prepare My Sons and Daughters For Marriage?

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**A weekly question/answer column**

**What Can I Do To Prepare My Sons and Daughters For Marriage?**

*Glen Jenson\* answers:*

Society tends to expect more preparation of a person getting a hunting or driver's license than a marriage license. Consider these facts and statistics as you help your youth develop qualities now that will make him or her a successful marriage partner later.

- Parents and others tend to teach the “ideal” rather than the “real” about marriage and parenting.
- Youth will likely learn more from their parent of the same sex on how to function as a married person than from any other source. The parent of the opposite sex is the next most likely source.
- People who marry young tend to be more immature and less prepared. Common problems such as financial stress, in-law difficulties and general childbearing problems tend to contribute to major disfunctioning rather than just new marriage adjustments.
- Females tend to be better prepared for marriage than males; however, females usually experience more adjustment problems in beginning a marriage than males do.
- Females do most of the teaching about marriage and parenting to their children.
- By age 40, about 91 percent of males and 92 percent of females will have married at least once. By age 40-44, 78 percent of males and 74 percent of females are currently married. By age 65, 4 percent of males and 5 percent of females have never married.
- It is important that parents do all they can to model appropriate marriage behavior. It has been wisely said, “more caught than taught.”

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