

NOTE: After reading the summary, make every effort to respond to these questions, starting with those most significant.

## SIGNS OF A CLOSED RELATIONSHIP

Sharing individual expectations and attitudes about our marriage is vital to a growing relationship. When we choose to ignore our differences or begin to think we can change our spouse, we start to close ourselves off from one another. The willingness to communicate and explore our expectations as a couple allows us the freedom to be ourselves, to grow and to change. Marriage is more than just living together. It is a lifelong commitment to become totally involved with one another.

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1. What things do I talk with others about more easily than I do with you?  
What does that indicate about our relationship?
2. What differences do we have in our cultural, social, or economic backgrounds? Do I see these differences interfering with our relationship after we are married? Why?
3. Which of the following cause me to ignore differences between us?
  - \* Peace at any price
  - \* Fear of rejection
  - \* Don't rock the boat
  - \* Fear of losing you
  - \* Matter of convenience/laziness/indifferenceWhat can I do about these obstacles?
4. What specific changes would I like to see you make after we are married? How important are these changes to me in accepting you?
5. What doubts do I have about marrying you?
6. Over what issues do I become angry with you?
7. In what ways am I closed to you when I am angry? How can I be more open and honest when I am angry?
8. Has jealousy affected our relationship? Has boredom or being taken for granted affected our relationship? Explain.
9. What do I expect of myself as your husband/wife? What do I expect of you as my husband/wife?