

PREDICTION ACCURACY AS A DETERMINANT OF
IDEALISM IN ENGAGED COUPLES

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the year of 1981, the United States set record highs for the number of marriages (2,438,000) and record highs for the number of divorces (1,219,000). The annual total of divorces has risen every year since 1972, when the total was only about one-third of the present number (Monthly Vital Statistics Reports, 1982). These provisional statistics of annual totals show that one divorce occurred for every two marriages in 1982. Approximately 40% of divorces awarded in 1978 were to couples who had been married for less than 4 years (Vital Statistics Reports, 1978). This percentage decreases to 18% for those married between 5 and 9 years and continues to decrease for every 5-year range until only 2.8% of the divorces awarded in 1978 were to couples married longer than 30 years.

Despite the fact that the divorce statistics among the early marrieds are higher than any other category, counselors and educator's report that premarital couples seem unaware of these statistics and maintain an idealistic view of the marriage relationship (Goode, 1959; Kephart, 1966; Schulman, 1974; Walster and Walster, 1978). Given that premarital couples are idealistic about their

relationship, and that statistics verify that the largest percentage of divorces occur in the first few years of marriage, then some interesting questions must be raised. Something happens very quickly to couples that moves them from an idealistic view of marriage to divorce within a short period of time. These numbers suggest that the problems of beginning the marriage relationship are so difficult that many people in our society cannot satisfactorily cope and that many couples are not properly prepared for the adjustments of marriage.

Research literature identifies the problem of romanticism and idealization as major factors contributing to the lack of preparedness for marriage. This problem has been a topic of study for many years by family sociologists and marriage educators (e.g., Beigel, 1951; Burgess, 1926; Goode, 1959; Kephart, 1966; Kolb, 1950; Mowrer, 1939; and, Wallin, 1952). Waller (1938) defines idealization as:

the process of building up a complete picture of another person in one's own imagination, a picture for which sensory data are absent or to which they are definitely contradictory. One builds up an almost completely unreal picture of a person and vainly imagines to be like that person, but in fact the only thing in the picture is the emotion which one feels toward it (p. 200).

Emphasizing the unreality of the idealization process, Pollis (1969) states that these idealized conceptions, if extreme, are caused primarily by suppressions or repression of "known truths" being replaced by "more enobling sensory elements." Work in this area is justified owing to the

problem of engaged couples' fantasizing about love and marriage and therefore seeing their intended mates unrealistically. This in turn leads to disillusionment when the truth is revealed in marriage (Dean, 1962; Hobart, 1958; Pineo, 1963; Winch, 1952).

Statement of the Problem

Thesis Research supports the insight that idealization is a widespread phenomenon that leads to basic problems such as lack of preparedness for the marriage relationship. There is a genuine need for educational and research efforts to help develop an increased preparedness for marriage. Schumm and Denton (1979) state in their literature review on premarital counseling that the major need is interpreting the specific dynamics of the premarital relationship among different groups in a way that is helpful in designing premarital preparation programs.

Thesis Therefore, there is a need to more fully investigate the idealization process that occurs in engaged couples. Some of the specifics of this process need to be assessed such as; how accurately couples are able to describe their relationship; and, how well couples know their partners' attitudes and feelings on marital issues. The goal for research in this area is to identify some topics that may help educators set up more effective marriage-preparation programs.

Research Goals and Purposes

The general purposes of this study are to: (1) assess individual and couple awareness of their relationship's strengths and weaknesses as measured by an objective premarital inventory; and (2) better understand the relationship between ability to predict inventory scores and marriage preparation.

More specifically, the study will set out to determine how accurately engaged couples can predict scores on a structured premarital inventory for themselves, their partner, and for their relationship. This perceptual accuracy will be related to idealism by examining the relationship of the predicted scores to the actual score.

If the prediction score is higher than the actual score, then the level of idealism will be viewed as higher. If the prediction score is lower than the actual score then the level of idealism is lower. The relationship of the actual and predicted score creates an accuracy of prediction score. The prediction scores are generated from the Couple Prediction Form (Appendix A) designed for this project and PREPARE (The Premarital Personal and Relationship Evaluation, Appendix B) is the premarital inventory used. Both of these will be described in detail in Chapter III. An attempt will be made to identify certain types of couples as well as different stages of relationships and levels of idealism for each. A variety of background characteristics such as age, sex, length of time

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until wedding, parents' marital status, and length of time the couple have known each other will be related to prediction scores.⁷ These factors encompass the main areas that many premarital programs deal with and are areas of concern for counselors and educators in preparing effective premarital programs.

Questions to be Answered

Given the stated purposes of this study, the following questions will be addressed by the methodological procedures outlined in Chapter III:

1. Will respondents tend to score higher on Prediction Scores than Actual Percentile Scores on a Premarital Inventory?
2. Will older persons demonstrate a higher ability to predict Actual Percentile Scores on a premarital inventory?
3. Will persons who have known each other longer have higher Accuracy of Prediction Scores than couples who have known each other for a shorter time?
4. Will persons who are closer to the marriage ceremony tend to score lower on Accuracy of Prediction Scores than those who have more time to prepare for their marriage?
5. Will engaged males tend to score lower on Accuracy of Prediction than engaged females?
6. Will persons with high Idealistic Distortion Scores on the PREPARE Inventory tend to have lower Accuracy of Predictions than those with lower Idealistic Distortion Scores?
7. Will persons with low Realistic Expectation Scores on the PREPARE Inventory have

lower Accuracy of Prediction than
those with high Realistic Expectation
Scores?

Conceptual Definitions

The following are definitions for key concepts
utilized in this study:

Premarital Couple. A man and a woman who are engaged
to be married.

Idealization. Process of establishing an unreali-
stic assessment of the character and personality traits
of a loved one in one's imagination (Waller, 1938; Folsom,
1965).

Accuracy of Prediction. The ability to predict
actual scores for self, partner, and couple on a structured
premarital inventory.

PREPARE Inventory. The PREPARE Inventory has 12
categories related to marriage. Each has 10 items that
produce raw scores converted to Individual Percentile Scores.
Percentile scores reflect individual adjustment in each
category. Other couple scores include estimates of agree-
ment and disagreement. The 12 conceptual areas with a
brief description are as follows:

Realistic Expectation. This scale assures realistic
attitudes about the common challenges associated with

marriage. High scorers are aware of common myths about marriage and are realistic about what to expect from marriage (Olson, Fournier, and Druckman, 1979/1982).

Personality Issues. This scale assesses perceptions of partner, general approval of partner's behavior, and adjustment to personality characteristics. High scorers perceive their partner as having few negative personality traits (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Equalitarian Roles. This scale assesses the willingness to share roles and to regard husbands and wives as equal partners in the relationship. High scorers report a desire to share tasks and to have equal power to decisions and responsibilities (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Communication. This scale assesses an awareness of constructive communication skills and an ability to satisfactorily use these skills. High scorers typically report that it is easy to talk to their partners (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Conflict Resolution. This scale assesses the couple's orientation toward resolving conflicts in their relationship. High scorers tend to confront problems directly rather than allowing conflicts to remain unresolved (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Financial Management. This scale assesses realistic plans and attitudes about finances and satisfaction with current financial decisions. High scorers plan to keep records, adjust financial decisions according to resources, and have overall financial goals (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Leisure Activities. This scale assesses the flexibility between partners about leisure interests and satisfaction with current lifestyle preferences. High scorers tend to be involved in both individual and mutual interests (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Sexual Relationship. This scale assesses the attitudes and feelings regarding marital sexuality and affection. High scorers are willing to discuss sexual issues and are satisfied with their decisions about sexuality and family planning (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Children and Marriage. This scale assesses attitudes and feelings about having children and a realistic perception of parental roles. High scorers agree on child-rearing responsibilities and realize the impact of children on marriage (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Family and Friends. This scale assesses relationships with parents, in-laws, and friends. High scorers tend to have many mutual friends and families who are supportive of each partner and their decision to marry (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Religious Orientation. This scale assesses the acceptance of traditional beliefs and practices and also a commitment to religious values. Persons who regard religion as a personal decision or question traditional religious beliefs often score low to moderately low (Olson, Fournier, and Druckman, 1979/1982).

Idealistic Distortion. This scale identifies persons who are describing their relationship in an unrealistically positive way. High scorers are idealistic and probably distorted many answers while taking PREPARE (Olson, Fournier, and Druckman, 1979/1982).

Couple Prediction Form

The Couple Prediction Form enables persons to predict their own, their partners', and their couple scores in each area assessed by the PREPARE Inventory.

Outline of the Thesis

The previous sections were intended to define the primary problem to be addressed, purposes, anticipated outcomes, and to summarize the conceptual issues related to idealism in engaged couples. A more complete review of the literature will be the primary goal of Chapter II. The major research topics reviewed will be idealization and its effect on premarital couples. More specifically the areas covered are: idealization levels according to levels of involvement, idealization and its effect on

marital adjustment, and conventionalization versus idealization. Following this Chapter III will describe the causal-comparative methodology and the procedures used in administering the two instruments and processing the data obtained.

Chapter IV will include the findings as they relate to each hypothesis which will involve descriptive information of the subjects and its relationship to their accuracy of prediction. Chapter V will summarize and draw conclusions and recommendations from the findings.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In reviewing the literature relating to this study, only a small amount of published work was found in the area of idealization as it relates specifically to engaged couples. In most published studies the terms idealism and romanticism are used almost interchangeably. The definition of idealization used in this study is Waller's (1938) description that was given in Chapter I. Romanticism is defined by Winch (1952, p. 213) as: "a relationship. . . in which the affective component is regarded as primary, and all other considerations. . . are excluded from conscious reflections." Both of these definitions describe a concept in which an unreal view is held by one person concerning another because of emotional involvement. The term idealization used in this study therefore encompasses both of the definitions as they are used in the literature.

The main item in this review is the idealization process and is broken down into three areas of concern:

1. Idealization in relation to level of involvement.
2. Idealization in relation to marital adjustment.
3. Other studies on idealism.

Level of Involvement

Studies that have been done on romanticism and idealism deal with the following areas: the cyclic movement of romanticism in different levels of courtship, romantic distortions in the youth cultures, opinions of marital roles and dating involvement, and patterns of idealization.

A study by Hobart (1960) deals with stages of courtship and marriage and the attitude changes occurring in these relationships. Hobart hypothesized that there is a cyclic movement in the romanticism of persons in different levels of involvement in relationships. Those beginning in courtship and those already married were thought to be least romantic where those in advanced courtship or engagement would be most romantic. His second hypothesis deals with the change in marital-role opinions of people who are in different involvement levels of a relationship. He hypothesized that the change in marital-role opinions would reveal that new relationships and marital relationships will be more similar than engagement relationships. This second hypothesis predicts that engaged couples will have romantically distorted attitudes.

Hobart's study was a longitudinal study which helped validate questions raised in some previous similar cross-sectional research to have identical background characteristics for the different tests. In longitudinal studies the same subjects are tested each time. In the

final analysis, even though subjects were few, the data suggest an increase in romanticism from casual courtship to advanced courtship. The study shows that when persons leave college they tend to decrease in romanticism unless they change from casual to advanced courtship, for men, or move from casual to advanced courtship and/or marriage, for the women. The second hypothesis, however, did not hold true. It was shown that marriage-role opinions do change differentially at different stages of courtship. The pattern of changes shows more change between casual and marriage than advanced courtship and marriage. Therefore, this study lacks evidence that would show romantic distortion in advanced courtships. This is contradictory to an earlier study by Hobart (1958) in which romantic distortion in advanced relationships was suggested.

The 1958 study by Hobart had four basic hypotheses: (1) marital-role opinions will change at different levels of the relationship; (2) marital-role opinions of adolescents in premarital relationships will tend to have unrealistic distortions; (3) there is a cyclic movement in marital-role opinions. The opinions of those persons in the early stages of a relationship and those at the end of courtship are closer together than those in the "going steady" group; and, (4) the closer persons are to a "going steady" relationship, the more alike are the marital-role opinions of males and females. The first two hypotheses were confirmed by the results. For the third hypothesis,

one test for males confirmed the hypothesis and one denied it. For females the engaged group was more divergent in marital-role opinions and therefore showed romantic distortion in the area. The fourth hypothesis was contradicted. The engagement status rather than the going-steady stage saw more homogeneity of male and female opinions, which once again suggests romantic distortion.

The difference in some of the results of these two studies shows the importance of further research in the area of romantic distortions in engaged couples. Other important works in this area are those of Waller (1938) and some retests of his work by others.

In Waller's (1938) original work on the family he states that a great deal of dating behavior is the process of idealization. His definition of idealization that was stated in Chapter I reveals the basis for his questions concerning the possibility of distortion of dating couples' perceptions. Waller held that there was a tendency for idealization to increase as the relationship evolves into a higher level of involvement. In a test of Waller's hypothesis by Pollis (1969) the hypotheses were not substantiated. The opposite actually happened where idealization was greater in the casual relationships than in either the moderate or serious stages.

Marital Adjustment

One of the major reasons for testing idealism and

romanticism in courtships is the disillusionment that would logically occur in the marriage relationship as a consequence of the idealism. The first person to discuss this in depth was Burgess (1926) in his paper "Romantic Impulse and Family Disorganization." He felt that the negative results in marriage were caused by stressing love and love alone as a basis for marriage. Waller, as has been mentioned before, also saw the process of idealization as a hindrance to persons' realistic understanding of their partners. Waller felt that Americans especially were conditioned to idealize. Much of this early writing seemed to be speculative in that no real scientific data were produced.

In 1958, Hobart presented a paper attempting to evaluate data concerning the subject of disillusionment in marriage due to romanticism. The study used disagreement scores and disagreement estimate scores. Disagreement scores are derived from the comparison of husband and wife responses to items dealing with marital-role opinions. The disagreement estimate scores are derived scores from comparing responses of, for example, the male's own answers with answers he predicts for his wife. Disillusionment was operationally defined as a statistically significant change in the pattern of disagreement (D) and disagreement estimate (DE) scores. The pattern that would define disillusionment would be where D scores decline but DE scores are the same or the D scores remain the same and

the DE scores increase as the couple move from engagement to marriage. The findings show that for both males and females there was a statistically significant difference between D and DE scores from engagement to marriage. The findings showed that disillusionment is strongest in the move from engagement to marriage than for any other courtship relationship, but findings are more pronounced for male than for female subjects. From this study Hobart concludes that:

The demonstration of such prevalent disillusionment suggests the existence of important unrealism generating influences in the courtship process. The widespread emphasis on romanticism in the American culture--the so-called romantic cult--which appears to be particularly associated with advanced courtship may be in effect preparing engaged couples for inevitable disillusionment in marriage (p. 160).

Another viewpoint in the literature concerns the effects of romanticism and idealization. Kolb (1950) states that there are fundamental values in our family system such as the families obligation to encourage personal freedom in human relationships. He suggests these values are attacked by attacking romantic love. Spanier's (1974) study "Romanticism and Marital Adjustment:", looked at two opposing hypotheses. One suggests romanticism as functional in society and the other as dysfunctional. In using the Dean Romanticism Scale and the Lock-Wallace Adjustment Scale he found no significant relationship among the variables. Therefore, this study suggested that romanticism does not appear harmful to

marriage relationships or to the general society.

Other Studies in Idealism

When testing idealism one factor that must be dealt with is conventionalization and its relationship to idealism. Edmonds (1967, p. 682) defines conventionalization as "the extent to which a person distorts the appraisal of his marriage in the direction of social desirability" when answering questions on a test or survey. Since the study of the idealization process requires the use of self-report tests, it is important to control for conventionalization. If conventionalization is not controlled the test results for those persons who give "socially desirable" answers usually indicate higher adjustment scores and are therefore encouraged to marry. In short, the test systems which are made up to screen out relationships that might end in disillusionment actually serve to foster those marriages when conventionalization is not assessed (Schulman, 1971).

The review of literature reveals that the concepts of idealization and romanticism have been much discussed in general throughout the years. Both terms seem to stand for the idea of an unreal picture that one person has for another because of the emotional involvement. Literature specifically dealing with the ramifications of premarital idealism in engaged couples, however, is sparse and unclear as to definite conclusions that can be drawn from the

research. This study will attempt to clarify the level of idealism in engaged couples preparing for marriage.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Type of Research

The primary purpose of this project is to measure idealism by assessing couples' ability to predict scores on the PREPARE Inventory and to relate prediction accuracy with background variables and PREPARE scale scores. Since the project is descriptive rather than experimental, the causal-comparative research methodology is used. Kerlinger (1964) states that most important social scientific and educational research cannot be tested experimentally. However, most do lend themselves to controlled causal-comparative inquiry and that this type of research methodology becomes more important in the social sciences than true experimental research.

The causal-comparative methodology looks at patterns of relationships among variables. The outcome scores for this study will be results obtained from the instruments. The research process will be to identify patterns of scores on the dependent variables and searching through independent variables for plausible influencing factors. The generalization of the results will be limited to similar

couples at this time owing to a nonrandom sampling.

Selection of Sample

The sample was collected from two different groups of premarital couples. The total sample consisted of 76 couples or 152 persons. The first group, 49 couples, came from a marriage-preparation program within a major city in Oklahoma. Each couple involved was required to experience a two-Saturday premarital seminar prior to marriage. This seminar includes sessions on finances, family planning, spirituality, communications, sexuality, and the administration of the PREPARE Inventory. Church and community professionals lead each of these sessions. The second group consisted of 27 couples. This group was involved in a similar premarital program held in a smaller Oklahoma city. These programs both included the administration of the PREPARE Inventory as part of the seminar. Although the groups were from different locations, the background characteristics of these were very similar.

Procedures for Collecting Data

In both sample groups, the Couple Prediction Form and PREPARE were administered during the first day of the program. PREPARE is computer processed and usually required one week before the results can be returned. Since each seminar was either the first and third or

second and fourth Saturday of the month, plenty of time was allowed for processing. During the administration of the Inventory and the Prediction Form, partners from each couple were asked to sit at different locations of the room to reduce collaboration on answering the Inventory items. After thorough explanations of the instructions for both instruments, couples were asked to fill out the Couple Prediction Form. Upon its completion, each person was asked to respond to all 125 statements on the PREPARE Inventory and to the 19 Background Information Questions on the front page of the PREPARE answer sheets. The names of the persons were never used on either of these forms. An identification number was used so that those administering the Inventory can properly process the instrument and maintain confidentiality. Both the Couple Prediction Form and PREPARE were collected after each person was finished. The Couple Prediction Forms were hand tallied and passed back to each couple before they left the first session. This was done to give the couples some basis for discussion during the weeks before the next session. The PREPARE Inventory was processed and the results were handed back to each couple during the second session.

Instruments

The instruments used for this study were the PREPARE Inventory and the Couple Prediction Form. PREPARE is

a premarital inventory established in its final form in 1979 (Olson, et al., 1979/1982). The Couple Prediction Form created for this project is shown in Appendix A. The operational definition and score ranges for the above forms are listed in Table I.

PREPARE

PREPARE (Appendix B) is an acronym for Premarital Personal And Relationship Evaluation. It is premarital because it was specifically designed for use by professionals who are working with premarital couples. As a personal and relationship evaluation, PREPARE is doubly useful. First, the instrument assesses individual and couple strengths in each of 12 relationship areas. Second, issues that could be problematic to the couple are clearly revealed. PREPARE is a 125-statement item booklet with assessments in 12 different areas related to marriage. The 12 areas are as follows: Idealistic Distortion, Realistic Expectation, Personality Issues, Equalitarian Roles, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Management, Leisure Activities, Sexual Relationship, Children and Marriage, Family and Friends, and Religious Orientation.

The 125 PREPARE items are stated in the first person and require each person to answer questions about themselves, their partner, and/or their relationship. Therefore, the items assess feelings, attitudes, beliefs, and

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF KEY DEPENDENT VARIABLES

INSTRUMENT DERIVED SCORES	DESCRIPTION	RANGE	TYPE OF MEASURE
Raw PREPARE Category Scores (33)	Summed Scores Reflecting Adjustment in Each PREPARE Category		
	1) Male Adjustment Scores (11)	10-50	Interval
	2) Female Adjustment Scores (11)	10-50	Interval
	3) Positive Couple Agreement (11)	0-100%	Interval
Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores	PREPARE Raw Scores Recoded to Reflect 5 Levels of Adjustment		
	1) Male Recoded Actual = AS (11)	1-5	Ordinal
	2) Female Recoded Actual = FAS (11)	1-5	Ordinal
	3) Couple Scores = ACPL (11)	1-5	Ordinal
Prediction Scores (66)	Predictions of PREPARE Scores Reflecting Adjustment in each Category		
	1) MS = Male prediction of own scores (11)	1-5	Interval
	2) FS = Female prediction of own scores (11)	1-5	Interval
	3) MP = Male prediction of partner scores (11)	1-5	Interval
	4) FP = Female prediction of partner scores (11)	1-5	Interval
	5) MC = Male prediction of couple scores (11)	1-5	Interval
	6) FC = Female prediction of couple scores (11)	1-5	Interval
Accuracy of Prediction Scores (44)	Summed Score reflecting ability to predict recoded PREPARE category scores. If prediction level (1-5 range) is + or -1 from Recoded Actual Scores then, the score is counted as an accurate prediction, Raw range is 0 to 11.		
	1) MACPF = Male accuracy of prediction of female (11)	0-100%	Interval
	2) FACPM = Female accuracy of prediction of male (11)	0-100%	Interval
	3) MACPC = Male accuracy of prediction of couple (11)	0-100%	Interval
	4) FACPC = Female accuracy of prediction of couple (11)	0-100%	Interval

concerns that are perceived by persons concerning their own relationship. The scale called Idealistic Distortion assesses social desirability and is a measure of the level of couple idealization. The questions in this area are extreme and reveal the extent to which persons try to present themselves in a highly positive and socially desirable way. The results of the instrument give two scores for each of the other 11 areas. The first is an actual Percentile score while the second is adjusted to account for the idealistic distortion found in each category of the couples' responses (Revised score).

A background-information section is also included on the instrument and provides valuable information for the counselor. PREPARE is computerized to maintain accuracy in scoring and provides a systematic process for evaluation of the results. A 15 to 20 page computer printout is provided containing the results of the Inventory.

A major validation study of PREPARE was completed by Fournier (1979) and was based on more than 1,000 couples. Extensive analysis of the couples and more than 200 clergy users of the PREPARE instrument revealed that PREPARE was a scientifically valid and reliable instrument. PREPARE was found to have both Test-Retest and Internal Consistency Reliability. Overall reliabilities range from a low of .49 to a high of .88 and meet all minimum standards for research. Out of the validation study came some refinements that increased the scientific rigor and usefulness

of the inventory (Olson et al., 1979/1982).

Couple Prediction Form

The Couple Prediction Form (Appendix A) was designed to allow the couples to predict the outcome of their individual, partner, and couple scores on the PREPARE Inventory. The couples made predictions in the 11 PREPARE categories. The response format ranged from "very high" to "very low." These are listed below:

Prediction Form Response Format

Very High	High Average	Average	Low Average	Very Low
++	+=	=	--	--

The pilot form for the Couple Prediction Form was a Couple Worksheet that listed each category by title and asked each person to predict his/her actual PREPARE scores for themselves, their partners, and for them as a couple. The predicted scores were high, average, and low (Appendix A). In pre-testing this form, confusion resulted in that persons did not understand what the categories entailed by just reading the title. It was also problematic because the response format did not allow for moderate responses. To improve this form, a brief description of each category was included and the format was changed to allow for moderate responses. The instructions were also found to be misleading and were corrected accordingly. Along with a

different layout, these changes made the prediction process much more effective.

Processing and Analyzing

This study relates individual and couple predictions to their actual scores on a structured premarital inventory (PREPARE). To do this, four main types of scores must be obtained: Raw PREPARE Category Scores, Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores, Prediction Scores, and Accuracy of Prediction Scores (Table I for summary of operational definition).

Raw PREPARE Category Scores. For each of the 11 categories in PREPARE there are 10 questions in the inventory dealing with the topic. The sum of the responses to these 10 questions makes up the Male Adjustment Score and the Female Adjustment Score in each category. Since the response range for PREPARE is 1-5 (Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree) and; there are 10 questions for each category, the range for these scores is 10-50. The percentage of items reflecting agreement in a manner deemed positive results in Positive Couple Agreement Score with a range of 0-100%.

Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores. The raw PREPARE Category Scores recoded to reflect five levels of adjustment (very high, high average, average, low average, and very low) are classified as Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores. The male version is MAS (male actual scores) with a range of 1-5.

The female version is FAS (female actual scores) with a range of 1-5. The couple scores become ACPL (actual couple scores) also with a range of 1-5. These recoded values are the scores that each person attempts to predict. A comparison of actual and predicted scores will be used to determine the prediction accuracy scores.

Prediction Scores. These scores are the predictions of PREPARE scores. The range of these scores is 1-5 with 1 being very low and 5 being very high. The six types of these scores are as follows: male prediction of own scores (MS), female prediction of own scores (FS), male prediction of partners scores (MP) female prediction of partners scores (FP), male prediction of couple scores (MC) and female prediction of couple scores (MC) and female prediction of couple scores (FC).

Accuracy of Prediction Scores. This is a summed score that reflects the ability to predict Recoded PREPARE Category Scores. If the prediction level, which as previously stated has a 1-5 range, is + or - 1 from the Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores, then the score is counted as an accurate prediction. Therefore, the raw range is 0-11 with 0 being the absence of any category being accurately predicted to 11 for accurate predictions in every category. These scores (raw scores from 0 to 11) can be divided by 11 to obtain the percentage score. These include: Male Accuracy of Prediction of Female (MACPF), Female Accuracy of Prediction of Male (FACPM), Male Accuracy of Prediction of Couple (MACPC), and Female

Accuracy of Prediction of Couple (FACPC).

The Accuracy of Prediction Score was studied in its relationship to personal background information and PREPARE category scores to answer the questions posed earlier in Chapter I. The SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software package was used in this analysis.

Two procedures were used in statistically analyzing the data. In the first hypothesis, where the means for Prediction and Actual Scores are compared, the t-test procedure was used because there were always just two scores involved. In analyzing the remaining hypotheses, the analysis of variance procedure was implemented because two or more means were compared.

Hypotheses

Seven major hypotheses are tested in this study. Each of the following will be discussed along with the results:

1. A significant difference exists between respondents Prediction Scores and their Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.
2. A significant difference exists between males and females in their Accuracy of Prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.
3. A significant difference exists between older/younger respondents in their prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.
4. A significant difference exists between those who have known their partner longer and those who have known

each other only briefly in their Accuracy of Prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.

5. A significant difference exists between couples who are closer to marriage and those who have a longer period of time before the wedding in the Accuracy of Prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.

6. A significant difference exists between persons with high Idealistic Distortion Scores on PREPARE and those with low Idealistic Distortion Scores in their Accuracy of Prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.

7. A significant difference exists between persons with high Realistic Expectation Scores on PREPARE and those with low Realistic Expectations in the Accuracy of Prediction of Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

Sample

The sample comprises 76 couples or 152 persons. These couples were participating in a premarital seminar. Table II summarizes important demographic characteristics for persons in the study. The persons involved range in age from 17 to 65. An equal number of males and females participated as each person had a partner involved in the program with him/her. The average (mean) age is 23.6. The national average for first marriages (more than 80% of the sample are entering their first marriage) is 23.4 and the national median is 22.3. In terms of age, this sample is similar to national norms (Table II).

Almost 75% of the sample either attended some college or technical school, graduated from a 4-year college, or held a graduate or professional degree. Almost 99% of the sample have graduated from high school (Table II). A wide range of professions are represented in the 152 persons. Some 31% are professionals and considered white-collar while 42% would be considered blue-collar workers. Out of the remaining 27%, 24% were students. These percentages show that the majority

TABLE II
SAMPLE - PERSONAL BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Background Characteristics	Freq.	%	Background Characteristics	Freq.	%
<u>Marital Status</u>			<u>Education</u>		
Single, Engaged	119	80.3	Graduate/ Professional	13	9.2
Single, not Engaged	4	2.7	Four-Year College	37	26.1
Divorced, not Engaged	1	0.7	Some College Technical	55	38.7
Divorced, Engaged	14	9.5	Finished High School	35	24.6
Married, Living Together	10	6.8	Some High School	2	1.4
			Total	142	100.0
Total	148	100.0			
			<u>Job Status</u>		
<u>Birth Position</u>			Professional	38	26.1
1	7	4.7	Skilled	13	9.1
2	32	21.5	Sales	42	29.4
3	35	23.5	Laborer	7	4.9
4	31	20.8	Service	1	0.7
5	17	11.4	Student	37	25.9
6	10	6.7	Unemployed	3	2.5
7	8	5.4	Other	2	1.4
8	5	3.4			
9	1	0.6	Total	143	100.0
10	3	2.0			
			<u>Pay</u>		
			0 - 400	39	26.2
			401 - 1000	66	44.3
			Over 1000	44	29.5
Total	149	100.00	Total	149	100.0

of the persons (66%) were either students or blue-collar workers (Table II). The average monthly take-home pay for the persons was between \$601 and \$800. Approximately 10% received no income and 2% received in excess of \$1,600 per month (Table II).

All of the couples have planned their wedding within 10 months of the date when they took the PREPARE instrument. Almost 60% (57.7) of the couples were planning to be married within 3 months (Table III). Sixty-seven of the persons have known each other for less than 2 years (Table III).

The largest percentage of persons were the first child in their families (36.2%). The percentage of the number of persons born in each birth position decreased as the birth position increases (Table II). The pattern follows all the way to the sixth position where there were more persons in the seventh position than in the sixth position and 65% of the sample were from families with two, three, or four children per family (Table III).

Approximately 81% of the persons were single and engaged for the first time (Table II). Almost the same percentage of their parents (77%) were married and living together (Table III).

Eighty-five percent of the persons' parents were positive in their attitude toward their childrens' upcoming marriages (Table III). Eighty-seven percent of their friends had positive or very positive attitudes toward the marriage (Table III).

TABLE III
SAMPLE - OTHER BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Background Characteristics	Freq.	%	Background Characteristics	Freq.	%
<u>Parents Attitude Toward The Marriage</u>			<u>Family Size Number of Children</u>		
Very Positive	82	56.2	1 or 2	39	26.2
Positive	48	32.9	3 or 4	66	44.3
Neutral	13	8.6	5 or 6	27	18.1
Negative	3	2.0	7 or 8	13	8.8
Very Negative	0	0.0	9 or more	4	2.7
Total	146	100.0	Total	149	100.0
<u>Friends Attitude Toward The Marriage</u>			<u>Length of Time Until Wedding (Months)</u>		
Very Positive	78	53.1	1 or 2	53	37.3
Positive	54	36.7	3 or 4	47	33.1
Neutral	13	8.8	5 or 6	20	14.0
Negative	1	0.7	7 or 8	17	12.0
Very Negative	1	0.7	9 or more	5	3.5
Total	147	100.0	Total	142	100.0
<u>Parents Marital Status</u>			<u>Length of Time Couple Has Known Each Other (yrs.)</u>		
Married	114	76.5	2 or less	99	66.4
Divorced	20	13.4	3 or 4	37	24.9
Single, (Partner Deceased)	10	6.7	5 or 6	6	4.0
Remarried, (Partner Deceased)	2	1.3	7 or more	7	4.7
Both Parents Deceased	3	2.0			
Total	149	100.0	Total	149	100.0

The majority of the persons involved were Catholic (69%); however, many denominations were represented including: Baptist, Christian, Episcopal, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, other Protestant, as well as Agnostic. Ninety-one percent of the sample was Caucasian.

In summary, the average age for the sample and the national averages for the first marriage (Table II) show that this sample according to age represents a common group of premarital couples. Even though the sample represents an education level where 75% have attended a minimum of some college (Table II), the job status percentages (Table II) show a large number of students and blue-collar workers. This would represent persons either not in the job market yet or are just beginning which is common among couples planning for marriage. The average pay scale is relative to the job status for this sample (Table II).

Summary of Findings

In each of the hypotheses to be investigated, three areas of prediction were assessed. These included prediction of self, partner, and couple. Therefore, the relationships tested were: (1) between the persons' predictions of themselves and his/her own actual scores; (2) between the persons' prediction of his/her partner and his/her partners' actual scores; and, (3) between the persons' prediction of the couple he/she was a part of and the actual couple scores.

Prediction Scores vs. Actual Scores

The hypothesis that a significant difference exists between respondents' Prediction Scores and their Actual Percentile Scores on PREPARE was tested for self, partner, and couple in the 11 category areas of PREPARE. Out of 66 possible comparisons, 64 were found to be very significant at the .0001 level.

The first area compared a persons' Self-Predictions and Actual Scores on the PREPARE inventory (Table IV). Each of the 11 categories were analyzed for males and females. Of the 22 possible comparisons, only 1 was not significant. The Female Prediction of Self Score compared with the Actual Score in the category of Realistic Expectations was not significant. All 21 of the highly significant comparisons were caused by the Prediction Score being higher than the Actual Score (Table IV).

The second area compares a persons' predictions of their partner and their partners' Actual Scores on the PREPARE inventory (Table V). Out of 22 comparisons in this area, once again 21 of the relationships were significant. The only one that was not significant is the males' predictions of their partners score on Realistic Expectations. Although not significant, the Prediction Score was once again higher than the Actual Score (Table V). Out of the 21 significant relationships, all were caused by the Prediction Score being higher than the Actual Score at the level of .0001 significance.

TABLE IV
 COMPARISON OF PERSONS' SELF-PREDICTIONS AND
 ACTUAL SCORES ON THE PREPARE INVENTORY

PREPARE Categories	Male Prediction of Self Compared with Actual Score				Female Prediction of Self Compared with Actual Score			
	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p
Realistic Expectations	3.92	2.84	-6.21	.0001	3.82	3.51	-1.54	n.s.
Personality Issues	3.91	2.57	-9.44	.0001	4.09	3.23	-5.48	.0001
Equal Marital Roles	3.83	2.88	-5.69	.0001	4.22	2.82	-9.24	.0001
Communication	4.07	2.57	-8.83	.0001	4.08	3.13	-6.54	.0001
Resolving Conflict	3.84	2.71	-6.11	.0001	3.89	3.29	-3.95	.0001
Financial Management	3.95	2.89	-6.84	.0001	3.72	2.83	-5.73	.0001
Leisure Interests	4.25	2.55	-9.76	.0001	4.38	3.04	-8.78	.0001
Sexual Attitudes	4.09	2.97	-6.65	.0001	4.29	3.09	-8.78	.0001
Children and Marriage	4.01	3.05	-5.64	.0001	4.33	3.20	-7.07	.0001
Family and Friends	3.95	2.73	-6.84	.0001	4.07	2.84	-8.68	.0001
Religious Orientation	3.41	2.76	-5.16	.0001	3.67	2.87	-4.91	.0001

TABLE V
 COMPARISON OF PERSONS PARTNER PREDICTIONS
 AND ACTUAL SCORES ON THE
 PREPARE INVENTORY

PREPARE Categories	Male Prediction of Partner Compared with Actual Score				Female Prediction of Partner Compared with Actual Score			
	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p
Realistic Expectations	3.76	3.49	1.34	n.s.	4.04	2.82	6.64	.0001
Personality Issues	3.89	3.23	3.68	.0001	4.03	2.61	8.03	.0001
Equal Marital Roles	3.97	2.82	5.95	.0001	3.80	2.91	4.99	.0001
Communication	3.96	3.19	4.82	.0001	4.20	2.58	9.11	.0001
Resolving Conflict	3.86	3.31	3.07	.0001	4.00	2.71	6.54	.0001
Financial Management	3.74	2.81	5.44	.0001	3.97	2.92	6.21	.0001
Leisure Interests	4.11	3.05	6.42	.0001	4.37	2.54	11.10	.0001
Sexual Attitudes	4.01	3.14	5.01	.0001	4.36	2.99	9.44	.0001
Children and Marriage	4.10	3.22	4.71	.0001	4.40	3.09	6.85	.0001
Family and Friends	3.86	2.88	4.83	.0001	4.14	2.75	7.33	.0001
Religious Orientation	3.81	2.90	5.21	.0001	3.46	2.75	4.14	.0001

The third area was the comparison of persons' predictions of couple scores and their actual couple scores on PREPARE. In all 22 relationships, the Predicted Scores were significantly greater than the Actual Scores at the .0001 level (Table VI).

The data on the remaining six comparisons looked at the three areas of self, partner, and couple. However, the scores for each of these were summed for all categories rather than broken down into each PREPARE category.

Comparisons Based on Sex

The hypothesis stating that a significant difference exists between male and female respondents in their Accuracy of Prediction of Self Scores approaches significance at the .06 level. The females show a greater accuracy of prediction of their own actual scores on PREPARE. The comparison between male and female Accuracy of Predicting Partner Scores was not significant. However, accuracy of predicting couple scores was significant at .03 level. The comparison shows the male as being more accurate in predicting couple scores than females (Table VII).

Comparison Based on Age

The hypothesis dealing with age states that a significant difference exists between older and younger respondents in their prediction of actual scores. In comparing responses in each age range, the results showed that older persons were

TABLE VI
 COMPARISON OF PERSONS' COUPLE PREDICTIONS AND
 ACTUAL SCORES ON THE PREPARE INVENTORY

PREPARE Categories	Male Prediction of Couple Compared with Actual Score				Female Prediction of Couple Compared with Actual Score			
	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p	Predicted Score	Actual Score	t-value	p
Realistic Expectations	3.85	2.88	5.46	.0001	3.95	2.88	6.47	.0001
Personality Issues	3.85	2.84	6.61	.0001	3.97	2.87	6.66	.0001
Equal Marital Roles	3.86	3.01	5.02	.0001	3.97	3.07	5.41	.0001
Communication	3.96	3.04	5.56	.0001	4.16	3.09	6.69	.0001
Resolving Conflict	3.80	3.11	4.67	.0001	3.93	3.09	4.69	.0001
Financial Management	3.82	3.14	4.45	.0001	3.83	3.13	4.58	.0001
Leisure Interests	4.07	2.77	7.55	.0001	4.36	2.76	9.94	.0001
Sexual Attitudes	4.36	2.99	9.44	.0001	4.07	3.27	5.17	.0001
Children and Marriage	4.40	3.09	6.85	.0001	4.00	3.18	3.28	.0001
Family and Friends	4.14	2.75	7.33	.0001	3.79	3.02	4.90	.0001
Religious Orientation	3.46	2.75	4.14	.0001	3.61	2.51	6.70	.0001

more accurate for each category. However, the amount of difference in accuracy was not great enough to show significance (Table VIII).

TABLE VII
PREDICTION ACCURACY ACCORDING TO SEX

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance					
	Mean		S.D.		F-Ratio	p
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	56.5	63.0	21.4	21.1	3.9	.06
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	65.9	66.1	15.9	15.9	.01	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	66.2	59.0	15.9	23.5	4.9	.03

Length of Time Persons Have Known Each Other

The fourth hypothesis is that a significant difference exists between persons who have known their partners longer than those who have known each other for a shorter time. Across each of the categories of prediction of self,

partner, and couple scores, the comparisons showed that the relation between length of time persons have known each other and accuracy of prediction was not significant (Table IX).

TABLE VIII
PREDICTION ACCURACY ACCORDING TO AGE

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance					
	Mean		S.D.		F-Ratio	p
	17 - 22	23 - 65	17 - 22	23-65		
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	56.9	59.8	20.8	22.5	.59	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	63.4	67.2	15.6	16.3	1.9	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	59.6	65.0	20.8	19.7	2.4	n.s.

Length of Time Until Wedding

The fifth hypothesis is that a significant difference exists between couples who are closer to marriage than those who have a greater length of time until the wedding. The

comparison between the time ranges for the prediction of self scores shows a .04 level of significance with the greater length of time showing a higher accuracy of prediction. In the other two categories of partner and couple prediction, this trend continued with the greater length of time showing a higher accuracy of prediction however, not significantly (Table X).

TABLE IX
PREDICTION ACCURACY ACCORDING TO LENGTH
OF TIME PERSON HAS KNOWN PARTNER

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance							F-Ratio	p
	Mean			S.D.					
	* 2-12	13-24	25-99	2-12	13-24	25-99			
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	62.1	59.5	57.9	21.9	20.6	22.5	.48	n.s.	
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	67.8	65.2	65.0	16.3	15.4	16.1	.46	n.s.	
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	66.4	61.2	60.8	21.4	19.7	20.1	1.12	n.s.	

* Months couple has known partner.

TABLE X
 PREDICTION ACCURACY ACCORDING TO
 LENGTH OF TIME UNTIL WEDDING

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance					
	Mean		S.D.		F-Ratio	p
	* 1-3	4-10	1-3	4-10		
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	57.0	64.3	22.2	19.5	4.2	.04
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	64.3	68.4	15.2	16.2	2.4	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	61.3	65.0	20.2	19.9	1.2	n.s.

Idealistic Distortion

This hypothesis states that there is a significant difference between persons with high Idealistic Distortion Scores and those with low Idealistic Distortion Scores in their Accuracy of Prediction. The results show that across each category the comparison between Prediction Scores and Actual Scores did not reveal significance differences (Table XI).

* Months until wedding.

TABLE XI
 PREDICTION ACCURACY IN RELATION TO IDEALISTIC
 DISTORTION SCORES

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance					
	Mean		S.D.		F-Ratio	p
	Low	High	Low	High		
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	60.7	58.8	20.4	22.5	.30	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	65.4	66.6	16.7	15.2	.22	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	61.7	64.5	21.9	18.8	.32	n.s.

Realistic Expectation

The last hypothesis tested posed a significant difference between persons with high Realistic Expectations and those with low Realistic Expectations in their Accuracy of Prediction scores. Once again across each of the three categories (self, partner, and couple prediction) the results showed no significance (Table XII).

TABLE XII
 PREDICTION ACCURACY IN RELATION TO
 REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS SCORES

Dependent Variables	Independent Variables Means and Significance					
	Mean		S.D.		F-Ratio	p
	Low	High	Low	High		
Accuracy in Prediction of Self Scores	58.8	60.7	22.5	20.4	.31	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Partner Score	65.9	66.1	16.3	15.5	.01	n.s.
Accuracy in Prediction of Couple Scores	63.0	62.3	20.7	20.1	.04	n.s.

Discussion

In analyzing the results of this study the main conclusion that was evident was that the engaged premarital couples were very idealistic when asked to predict adjustment scores for themselves, their partner, and as a couple. Out of 66 possible comparisons in the first hypothesis only 2 were not significant. Even in these two situations (female prediction of self and male prediction of partner) both involve the Realistic Expectation Category. The predictions were higher than the actual scores, but not significantly. The only conclusion that might be drawn other than that engaged

couples are idealistic in all areas is that females even from the male viewpoint, are less idealistic in the one category of PREPARE called Realistic Expectations.

Some interesting findings occurred in the male versus female hypothesis. Females show a comparison approaching significance (.06) for accuracy of self-prediction where the males show a significantly greater Accuracy of Prediction of Couple Scores. Therefore, these results reveal that females look more realistically toward their own adjustment to marriage than males but males tend to be more realistic about them as a couple in their adjustments to marriage.

The only other hypothesis that showed a significant correlation was the Prediction of Self by length of time until the wedding. Results on an individual's view of his/her adjustment, those with more time until the wedding were more realistic. These results back Hobart's (1958) study that found persons closer to marriage more idealistic than those with more time until the wedding. This evidence raises some important questions regarding the effectiveness of marriage preparation too close to the wedding date. All of the other hypotheses which deal with age, length of time person has known partner, level of idealistic distortion, and level of realistic expectation, showed no significant difference in the relationships.

In summary, the main areas of consideration of differences in premarital persons' idealism towards marriage were sex and length of time until the wedding. Otherwise, engaged

persons across all other background variables tended to have about the same level of idealism.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

The catalyst for this type of study is the ever-increasing number of divorces in this country, especially among couples married only a few years. Even though the statistics show more divorces in the early years of marriage, counselors and educators contend that premarital couples maintain a very idealistic view of marriage. Idealization and romanticism have been seen by many as a key reason for a couples' inadequacy in dealing with the realities of marriage. Therefore, a problem lies in the idealization process and its effects on couples' preparedness for marriage.

The purpose of this study is to assess the level of idealization by testing couples in their awareness of their relationship strengths and weaknesses. This is done by analyzing the relationship between actual scores and predicted scores on an objective premarital inventory. Along with testing for general levels of idealism in relationships, the study will also analyze the effects of different background variables such as age, sex, length of time until wedding, parents' marital status, and length of time the partners have known each other. Idealization is conceptually defined as the process of establishing an unrealistic

assessment of the character and personality traits of a loved one in ones' imagination. (Waller, 1938; Folsom, 1965). The two instruments used in this study are the PREPARE Inventory (Appendix B) and the Couple Prediction Form (Appendix A).

The literature review in the area of idealization in premarital couples is relatively sparse even though several works have been published on the general idea of romanticism and idealism. These two terms seem to be interchangeable in the way they refer to an unreal view held by one person concerning another owing to the effect of emotional involvement. Three areas of idealization are reviewed in this study:

1. Idealization in relation to levels of involvement.
2. Idealization in relation to marital adjustment.
3. Other studies on idealism.

In the area of idealization in relation to levels of involvement, studies often have contradictory results. One study suggests that there is evidence of romantic distortion in advanced relationships. Waller's classic 1938 study states that there was a tendency for idealization to increase as the relationship evolves into higher levels of involvement. Pollis (1969), however, found the opposite to be true as she retested Waller's hypothesis. This variation in the finding shows the need for further study in this area.

The next articles reviewed tested the disillusionment in marriage caused by romanticism in the courtship process.

Burgess (1926) and Waller (1938) both stress that much of the negative results in marriage are caused by idealized expectations of marriage. Hobart's (1958) findings show disillusionment as strongest in the move from engagement to marriage. However, once again an opposing viewpoint appears in the literature. Kolb (1950) and Spanier (1974) both state that romanticism is not harmful to the marriage relationship. This area is also open for further needed investigation.

Conventionalization is an area in the review that is found to be an important concept to control for in the testing of idealism. All testing of idealism must make sure that social desirability is not confused with true idealization.

Overall, the research reviewed reveals the importance of further investigation structured to test hypotheses. Past research gives a wide variety of possible conclusions.

The primary purpose of this study was to measure idealism by assessing couples' ability to predict scores on the PREPARE Inventory and to relate prediction accuracy with background variables and PREPARE scale scores. The causal-comparative research method was used since the project is primarily descriptive. The sample was made up of 76 couples or 152 individuals collected from premarital seminars. Both the PREPARE Inventory and the Couple Prediction Form were administered on the first day of a 2-day seminar. The intent of this study was to relate

individuals' and couples' predictions of their actual scores on the PREPARE Inventory. The predicting process was accomplished by having each person fill out the Couple Prediction Form. Basically, if the prediction scores were higher than the actual scores then the persons were more idealistic whereas if the prediction scores were closer to the actual, the persons were more realistic. Four types of scores were obtained in this process; (1) Raw PREPARE Category Scores, (2) Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores, (3) Prediction Scores, and (4) Accuracy of Prediction Scores. The Raw PREPARE Category Scores are the 1-5 responses given to each question on the PREPARE Instrument. Ten questions were posed in each of the categories of PREPARE (except for idealistic distortion which has 15) so the raw response scores ranged from 10-50 (15-65 for idealistic distortion). These scores were then recoded so that each category had a score of 1-5. The 1-5 reflected five levels of adjustment (very low, low average, average, high average, and very high). These 1-5 scores were the scores that the subjects attempted to predict on the Couple Prediction Form. Therefore the Prediction Scores ranged from 1 to 5 and there were six types of predictions; (1) male prediction of self, (2) female prediction of self, (3) male prediction of partner's score, (4) female prediction of partners' score, (5) male prediction of couple score, and (6) female prediction of couple score. The Prediction Scores were then analyzed with the Recoded Actual PREPARE Scores to obtain

the Accuracy of Prediction Scores, which were percentage scores in the following areas: (1) male accuracy of prediction of female, (2) female accuracy of prediction of male, (3) male accuracy of prediction of couple, and (4) female accuracy of prediction of couple. The Accuracy of Prediction Scores were analyzed in relationship to background variables and PREPARE category scores to answer the questions presented in this study.

The sample in this study was described as a fairly typical group with mean age of 23.6. Seven major hypotheses were tested in this study:

1. A significant difference exists between respondent's prediction scores and their actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

2. A significant difference exists between males and females in their accuracy of prediction of actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

3. A significant difference exists between older/younger responders in their prediction of actual percentile scores of PREPARE.

4. A significant difference exists between those who have known their partner longer and those who have known each other less long in their accuracy of prediction of actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

5. A significant difference exists between couples who are closer to marriage and those who have a longer period of time before the wedding in their accuracy of

prediction of actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

6. A significant difference exists between persons with high idealistic distortion scores on PREPARE and those with low idealistic distortion scores in their accuracy of prediction of actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

7. A significant difference exists between persons with high realistic expectation scores on PREPARE and those with low realistic expectations in their accuracy of predictions of actual percentile scores on PREPARE.

In analyzing the results of this study the first hypothesis proved to be true. Out of 66 possible correlations, 64 were significant at a level of .0001. Even in the two areas that were not significant the prediction score was still greater than the actual score. The second hypothesis revealed that females look more realistically toward their own adjustment to marriage than males, but males tend to be more realistic about them as a couple in their adjustments to marriage. The only other significant hypothesis was the prediction of self-scores related to length of time until wedding. Those with longer time until marriage were more realistic. All of the other hypotheses dealing with age, length of time person has known partner, level of idealistic distortion, and level of realistic expectations showed no significant differences.

The findings of this study show a distinction in levels of idealism among engaged couples when looking at sex of partners and length of time until marriage. The other

background characteristics analyzed showed no significant difference in level of idealization. Thus, the results revealed that except for sex and length of time until marriage all engaged couples had a comparatively high amount of idealization in their view towards marital adjustment.

The cases where variation in the amount of idealism was determined some trends could be found. In studying the levels of idealism according to sex of respondent it was found that females are more accurate (realistic) in their prediction of their own scores than males. This confirms other literature that postulates that females are more realistic than males in their view of marital adjustment. The literature however, looks at overall idealism and does not break it down into prediction of self, prediction of partner, and prediction of couple. By looking at these three breakdowns in this study, females were found to be more realistic in their view of themselves as was stated. But males were found to be more realistic in their view of the couple's premarital adjustment. No significant difference was found in looking at partner scores.

The findings for length of time until marriage show that couples further away from the wedding day were more realistic than those closer. This could be owing to the feeling of "no backing out now" once the couple gets close to the wedding day. They must expect and believe the best or face the stress that results from the dissonance created by the discrepancy.

The results of this study can be generalized only to other similar couples at the present time. There is a need, therefore, to have more work done in idealization in couples with various backgrounds to further the generalizability of these results. It would also be interesting to follow these couples and perform a similar assessment after marriage to be able to assess disillusionment and its relationship to the couples' idealism before marriage. By analyzing the order and timing of the instruments in this study the effects of the PREPARE Inventory might be better realized. The prediction patterns may vary if the Couple Prediction Form was given after PREPARE had been taken and the persons had time to discuss the inventory.

One of the main conclusions drawn from this study was the high level of idealism of the engaged couples involved. The question arises, "What can be done to moderate the levels of idealism in engaged couples?" The results of the study along with the literature's contradictory evidence concerning the effects of idealism suggests that a great deal is yet to be done in the area of idealism.

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APPENDIX A

COUPLE PREDICTION FORM



COUPLE WORKSHEET

THIS WORKSHEET WAS DESIGNED TO HELP YOU BEST USE THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM TAKING THE PREPARE II INVENTORY. YOU MAY KEEP THIS FORM FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. BEFORE YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWUP SESSIONS TO DISCUSS THE PREPARE II COMPUTER PRINTOUT, YOU MAY FIND IT INTERESTING TO COMPLETE PART 1 OF THIS FORM SO THAT YOU CAN COMPARE YOUR GUESSES WITH THE ACTUAL RESULTS FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTNER.

INSTRUCTIONS:

COUPLE ID # _____ M F

1. FIRST, NOTE EACH OF THE CATEGORIES IN PREPARE II.
2. SECOND, BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCES AS A COUPLE, TRY TO PREDICT HOW EACH OF YOU WILL SCORE ON THE 11 PREPARE II CATEGORIES.
3. THIRD, BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCES, TRY TO PREDICT YOUR OVERALL COUPLE AGREEMENT IN EACH OF THE 11 PREPARE II AREAS.
4. YOUR PREPARE II ADMINISTRATOR WILL SHARE WITH YOU THE RELEVANT RESULTS IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS. YOU MAY USE THIS FORM TO HELP YOU DISCUSS THE INVENTORY BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN THE RESULTS ARE RETURNED. WE HOPE THAT COMPARING YOUR IMPRESSIONS WITH EACH OTHER WILL BE CHALLENGING FOR YOU. BEST OF LUCK !!!

PREPARE II CATEGORIES	PART 1 -- PREDICTED SCORES									PART 2 -- RESULTS		
	MAN			WOMAN			COUPLE AGREEMENT			MAN	WOMAN	COUPLE AGREEMENT
	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG	LO	HI	AVG	LO			
REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
PERSONALITY ISSUES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
EQUALITARIAN MARITAL ROLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
COMMUNICATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
RESOLVING CONFLICT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
LEISURE INTERESTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
SEXUAL ATTITUDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
CHILDREN AND MARRIAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
FAMILY AND FRIENDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---
RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	---	---	---

COUPLE NOTES:

PREPARE

Couple Prediction Form

ENRICH

This form was designed to help couples more clearly assess and discuss their unique relationship strengths and weaknesses prior to marriage. The categories are those covered in the PREPARE II Inventory and will help guide discussion about important marital topics while the computer results are being processed. Each person should examine the statements below and rate as honestly as possible what you expect the PREPARE II results to reveal about you, your partner and your relationship. Your ratings will help you to examine your perceptions about marriage and to assess how realistically you and your partner are approaching the rewards and challenges that are vital to marriage.

Prépare II
P.O. Box 1363
Stillwater, OK 74076

Couple ID# _____
Respondent Man _____ Woman _____
(check one) Couple _____

Response Choices	+ + Very High	+ = High Average	= = Average	- = Low Average	- - Very Low	Response Choices
PREPARE CATEGORIES						
	COUPLE PREDICTED SCORES			COMPUTER RESULTS		
	MAN	WOMAN	COUPLE	MAN	WOMAN	COUPLE
	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	+ + - - ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Realistic Attitude On Marriage High scorers are realistic about the challenges and demands of marriage. Low scorers tend to be idealistic, too romantic or naive about married life.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Approval Of Partners Behavior High scorers like the personality, behavior and habits of their partner. Low scorers usually dislike many of the personality traits of their partner.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Equal Household Responsibility High scorers desire equal sharing of decision making and household responsibilities. Low scorers desire the husband to handle decisions and the wife to handle household tasks.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Ease Of Couple Communication High scorers feel understood by their partner and can discuss most topics freely. Low scorers are concerned about not being able to express feelings with their partner.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Ability To Resolve Conflict High scorers feel that they are able to discuss and resolve differences with their partner. Low scorers find arguments hard to resolve and usually avoid conflicts at all cost.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Realistic Financial Planning High scorers have realistic financial plans and agreement with partner about money. Low scorers are undecided about money matters or are worried about disagreements.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Compatible Leisure Attitudes High scorers spend time together in shared activities yet are also free to pursue individual interests. Low scorers have different preferences or seldom spend leisure time together.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Compatible Sexual Attitudes High scorers have shared sexual desires, can discuss sexuality and agree on family planning. Low scorers are concerned about sexual issues and have some disagreements.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Attitude About Having Children High scorers desire children and have a realistic attitude about parental roles and challenges. Low scorers disagree about children or are too idealistic.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Adjustment To Family & Friends High scorers have good relations with parents and friends. Low scorers may not feel accepted by parents, are uncomfortable with in-laws or do not like each others friends.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □
Religious Beliefs & Attitudes High scorers accept traditional religious values and practice their beliefs. Low scorers question traditional beliefs and see religion as a personal decision.	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □	□ □ □ □

APPENDIX B

PREMARITAL PERSONAL AND RELATIONSHIP EVALUATION

prepare

A NOTE TO COUPLES:

PREPARE was designed to help you learn more about yourself, your partner and your relationship. PREPARE items cover many important topics about marriage and can help identify those areas in which you and your partner have similarities and differences in your opinions. Sharing these agreements and disagreements will help you to discuss the most important issues in **your** relationship.

PREPARE results are **not** intended to predict your chances for marital success and are **not** to be used to determine whether you should be married. PREPARE results **are** intended to help you and your partner determine your own readiness for marriage.

PREPARE is **not** a test and therefore does not have “right” or “wrong” answers. It is important that you respond to each statement according to **your** point of view. The usefulness of PREPARE depends on your willingness to respond fully and honestly to all items.

PREPARE results are confidential and will be seen by only you, your partner and your clergy/counselor. A couple identification number will be assigned and will be used in place of your names.

While you are taking PREPARE, we request that you not discuss these items with your partner. After you have completed PREPARE, we encourage you and your partner to discuss the items as well as feelings you experienced while taking PREPARE.

Please do not write on this booklet.

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RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

1. I sometimes feel pressured to participate in activities that my partner enjoys.
 2. It is very easy for me to express all my true feelings to my partner.
 3. It is hard for me to have complete faith in some of the accepted practices of my religion.
 4. In order to end an argument, I usually give in.
 5. I am satisfied with how we have defined the responsibilities of a father in raising children.
-
6. When we are having a problem, my partner often gives me the silent treatment.
 7. Some relatives or friends have reservations about our marriage.
 8. There are times when I am bothered by my partner's jealousy.
 9. I am completely satisfied with the amount of affection my partner gives me.
 10. I would not seek help from a professional even if we had serious marital problems.
 11. Religion should have the same meaning for both of us.
 12. I believe the woman's place is basically in the home.
 13. Sometimes I am concerned about my partner's temper.
 14. I believe there is only one person in this world to whom I could be happily married.
 15. I would be willing to try almost any sexual activities my partner would like to do.
-
16. Sometimes I wish my partner was more careful in spending money.
 17. My partner does not seem to have enough time or energy for recreation with me.
 18. I would rather do almost anything than spend an evening by myself.
 19. I think we will never have problems in our marriage.
 20. After looking at our combined incomes, we have changed our minds about how much money we can spend.
-

RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

21. We are as well adjusted as any two persons in this world can be.
 22. Continuing to search out and share religious beliefs is necessary for me to have a growing relationship.
 23. If both of us are working, we should equally share the household responsibilities.
 24. At times I am concerned that my partner appears to be unhappy and withdrawn.
 25. Sexual activities come naturally for me and do not need to be discussed in detail.
-

26. We have not yet decided how to handle the finances.
 27. Sometimes my family does not accept me as an adult.
 28. I have fewer outside interests or hobbies than my partner.
 29. It is more important that the husband be satisfied with his job because his income is more important to the family.
 30. I wish my partner would smoke and/or drink less.
 31. My partner and I do not seem to enjoy the same type of parties.
 32. Most problems experienced between my partner and I will be resolved simply by the passage of time.
 33. My idea of a good time is different than my partner's.
 34. My partner and I understand each other completely.
 35. I think having children will dramatically change the way we live.
-

36. Increasing the amount of time together will automatically improve our relationship.
 37. At times I am uncomfortable with the way my partner touches me in public.
 38. I am satisfied with our decisions about how much money we should save.
 39. If my partner has any faults, I am not aware of them.
 40. My partner sometimes makes comments which put me down.
-

RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

41. It is easy and comfortable for me to talk with my partner about sexual issues.
42. My partner completely understands and sympathizes with my every mood.
43. In our marriage, the wife should be more willing and able to adjust than the husband.
44. When we are with others, I am sometimes upset with my partner's behavior.
45. We have figured out exactly what our financial position will be after we marry.
-

46. It is not important to include a religious aspect in the commitment that I make to my partner.
47. I am unsure about the best method of birth control or family planning for us.
48. I think my partner is too involved with his/her family.
49. Every new thing I have learned about my partner has pleased me.
50. We agree on the number of children we would like to have.
51. We have decided to keep records of our spending so we can budget our money.
52. I expect my partner to meet almost all of my needs for security, support and closeness.
53. There is nothing that could happen that would cause me to question my love for my partner.
54. There are times when I do not feel a great deal of love and affection for my partner.
55. Even if the wife works outside the home, she should still be responsible for running the household.
-

56. My partner and I disagree about how to put our religious beliefs into practice.
57. I feel very uncomfortable with some of my future in-laws.
58. When we are having a problem, I can always tell my partner what is bothering me.
59. After we have children, we will have less time for each other.
60. My partner and I agree on the kind of honeymoon/vacations we enjoy.
-

RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

61. In our marriage, the husband will be the head of our household.
62. It is important for me to try different sexual techniques with my partner.
63. I do not think any couple could live together with greater harmony than my partner and I.
64. My relationship is not a perfect success.
65. The husband's occupation should be first priority in determining where we live.
-

66. It seems like when there is a problem in our relationship, I am always the one who wants to discuss it.
67. I have shared all my feelings about having children with my partner.
68. I do not think anyone could possibly be happier than my partner and I when we are with one another.
69. I am sometimes reluctant to be affectionate with my partner because it is often interpreted as a sexual advance.
70. I have some needs that are not being met by my relationship.
71. Sometimes we have serious disputes over unimportant issues.
72. I am concerned that my partner and I do not spend enough of our leisure time together.
73. There are times when my partner does things that make me unhappy.
74. I go out of my way to avoid conflict with my partner.
75. It is important for me to explore the spiritual aspects of our relationship through praying together.
-

76. I believe that our marriage means active involvement in our religion.
77. If every person in the world of the opposite sex had been available and willing to marry me, I could not have made a better choice.
78. It bothers me that my partner is often late.
79. I sometimes feel our arguments go on and on and never seem to get resolved.
80. In our marriage, the wife will have almost all of the responsibilities for child rearing.
-

RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

81. I should know what my partner is feeling without being told.
82. After marriage, it will be easier to change those things about my partner that I do not like.
83. To avoid hurting my partner's feelings during an argument, I would rather not say anything.
84. I do not seem to have much fun unless I am with my partner.
85. I am very happy with how we have decided to handle our financial matters.

86. Sometimes I do not like the amount of time my partner spends with friends.
87. My relationship could be happier than it is.
88. I believe that I have already learned everything there is to know about my partner.
89. In loving my partner, I feel that I am beginning to better understand the concept that God is love.
90. I am worried that accepting financial assistance or advice from our families will present a problem for us.
91. I am very satisfied with how my partner and I talk with each other.
92. I am worried that one of our families may cause troubles in our marriage.
93. We do have a general plan for how much money we can spend each month.
94. I feel pressured by my partner, parents, and/or friends to have children.
95. Sometimes I have difficulty dealing with my partner's moodiness.

96. I usually feel that my partner does not take our disagreements seriously.
97. In our marriage, the husband should have the final word in most of the important decisions in the family.
98. I do not always share negative feelings with my partner because I am afraid she/he will get angry.
99. I expect that some romantic love will fade in my marriage.
100. My partner and I disagree about some of the teachings of our religion(s).

RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

101. My partner and I are united by religious faith.
102. We agree on the values and goals that we want for our children.
103. I am very comfortable with all of my partner's friends.
104. I have never regretted my relationship with my partner, not even for a moment.
105. My partner has all of the qualities I have always wanted in a mate.
-

106. Sometimes I am concerned that my partner's interest in sex is not the same as mine.
107. I am satisfied with our decisions regarding birth control or family planning.
108. I am uncomfortable when my partner spends time with friends of the opposite sex.
109. My partner is always a good listener.
110. I am concerned about who will be responsible for the money.
111. Sometimes I am concerned that my partner will want me to do things sexually that I do not enjoy.
112. When we argue, I usually end up feeling responsible for the problem.
113. I believe that most difficulties experienced before marriage will fade after we are married.
114. I believe we should spend all our free time together.
115. At times I think my partner depends on me too much.
-

116. If she wants to, the wife will be encouraged to work outside the home.
117. My partner's ideas about discipline of our children might be different than mine.
118. I am sometimes afraid to ask my partner for what I want.
119. One of us has unpaid bills which causes me concern.
120. Sometimes I have trouble believing everything my partner tells me.

Please Go To The Back Page

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RESPONSE CHOICES				
1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree

121. My partner likes all of my friends.
122. My partner and I disagree on the religious education for our children.
123. I am satisfied with how we have defined the responsibilities of a mother in raising children.
124. When discussing problems, I usually feel like my partner is trying to force me to change.
125. Sometimes my partner is too stubborn.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE!!



DEVELOPED BY:
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SUMMARY ANALYSIS FOR PREPARE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY TITLE	INDIVIDUAL SCORES				COUPLE SCORES				
	MALE		FEMALE		ITEM SUMMARY			POSITIVE AGREEMENT	
	PCT	REVISED	PCT	REVISED	* AGREE * ITEMS	DISAGREE ITEMS	INDECISION ITEMS	COUPLE	NORM
IDEALISTIC DISTORTION	28.		34.						
REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS	95.	89.	94.	87.	5	2	3	50.	34.
PERSONALITY ISSUES	63.	58.	75.	68.	3	4	3	30.	35.
EQUALITARIAN ROLES	46.	45.	76.	75.	8	2	0	60.	44.
COMMUNICATION	91.	85.	90.	83.	7	3	0	70.	47.
CONFLICT RESOLUTION	68.	66.	59.	56.	6	1	3	60.	45.
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	88.	84.	93.	85.	8	0	2	80.	34.
LEISURE ACTIVITIES	90.	89.	93.	91.	9	0	1	90.	52.
SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP	73.	71.	70.	69.	6	2	2	60.	47.
CHILDREN AND MARRIAGE	59.	55.	87.	82.	4	3	3	40.	39.
FAMILY AND FRIENDS	64.	61.	76.	72.	5	4	1	50.	47.
RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION	91.	89.	95.	91.	6	1	1	80.	34.
AVERAGE POSITIVE AGREEMENT								61.	42.

PERCENTILE SCORES --- PCT --- RANGE FROM 0 TO 100 AND HAVE AN AVERAGE SCORE OF -50-. MODERATELY HIGH SCORES (80 OR MORE) REFLECT POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP ATTITUDES AND ADJUSTMENT. REVISED SCORES ARE AN ADJUSTMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S PCT SCORE BASED ON EACH PERSON'S TENDENCY TO PRESENT AN IDEALISTIC IMAGE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP. REVISED SCORES WILL BE LOW WHEN INDIVIDUALS ARE UN-REALISTIC ABOUT MARRIAGE. POSITIVE AGREEMENT SCORES REFLECT PARTNERS CONSENSUS ON ATTITUDES BELIEVED TO BE RELATED TO POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT IN MARRIAGE. RELATIONSHIP STRENGTH ARE IDENTIFIED WHEN A COUPLES POSITIVE AGREEMENT SCORE IS HIGHER THAN THE NORM SCORE FOR THAT CATEGORY.

SCORE RANGES

90 - 100 VERY HIGH

75 - 89 HIGH

60 - 74 MODERATELY HIGH *****40-55 AVERAGE*****

BRIEF CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

0 - 9 VERY LOW

10 - 24 LOW

25 - 39 MODERATELY LOW

IDEALISTIC DISTORTION

HIGH SCORES IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DESCRIBING THEIR RELATIONSHIP IN AN UNREALISTICALLY POSITIVE WAY. HIGH SCORERS ARE VERY IDEALISTIC AND PROBABLY DISTORTED MANY ANSWERS WHILE TAKING PREPARE II. REVISED SCORES CORRECT PCT SCORES FOR IDEALISTIC DISTORTION.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

HIGH SCORES REFLECT REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ABOUT COMMON CHALLENGES WITH BEING MARRIED. HIGH SCORERS ARE AWARE OF COMMON MYTHS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND ARE REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT FROM MARRIAGE.

PERSONALITY ISSUES

HIGH SCORES REFLECT POSITIVE PERCEPTION OF PARTNER, GENERAL APPROVAL OF PARTNER'S BEHAVIOR AND ADJUSTMENT TO PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS. HIGH SCORERS PERCEIVE THEIR PARTNER AS HAVING VERY FEW NEGATIVE PERSONALITY TRAITS.

EQUALITARIAN ROLES

HIGH SCORES REFLECT A WILLINGNESS TO SHARE ROLES AND TO REGARD HUSBANDS AND WIVES AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE RELATIONSHIP. HIGH SCORERS REPORT A DESIRE TO SHARE TASKS AND TO HAVE EQUAL POWER IN DECISIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

COMMUNICATION

HIGH SCORES REFLECT AN AWARENESS OF CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND AN ABILITY TO SATISFACTORILY USE THESE SKILLS. HIGH SCORERS TYPICALLY REPORT THAT IT IS EASY TO TALK WITH THEIR PARTNER.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

HIGH SCORES REFLECT A POSITIVE ORIENTATION TOWARD RESOLVING CONFLICTS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. HIGH SCORERS TEND TO CONFRONT PROBLEMS DIRECTLY RATHER THAN ALLOWING CON-

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FACTS TO REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

HIGH SCORES REFLECT REALISTIC PLANS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT FINANCES AND SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT FINANCIAL DECISIONS. HIGH SCORERS PLAN TO KEEP RECORDS, ADJUST FINANCIAL DECISIONS ACCORDING TO RESOURCES, AND HAVE OVERALL FINANCIAL GOALS.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCORES REFLECT FLEXIBILITY BETWEEN PARTNERS ABOUT LEISURE INTERESTS AND SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT LIFESTYLE PREFERENCES. HIGH SCORERS TEND TO BE INVOLVED IN BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND MUTUAL INTERESTS.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP

HIGH SCORES REFLECT FLEXIBLE ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS REGARDING MARITAL SEXUALITY AND AFFECTION. HIGH SCORERS ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS SEXUAL ISSUES AND ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR DECISIONS ABOUT SEXUALITY AND FAMILY PLANNING.

CHILDREN AND MARRIAGE

HIGH SCORES REFLECT POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN AND A REALISTIC PERCEPTION OF PARENTAL ROLES. HIGH SCORERS AGREE ON CHILD REARING RESPONSIBILITIES AND REALIZE THE IMPACT OF CHILDREN ON MARRIAGE.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

HIGH SCORES REFLECT COMFORTABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS, IN-LAWS, AND FRIENDS. HIGH SCORERS TEND TO HAVE MANY MUTUAL FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WHOM ARE SUPPORTIVE OF EACH PARTNER AND THEIR DECISION TO MARRY.

RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION

HIGH SCORES REFLECT ACCEPTANCE OF TRADITIONAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES AND ALSO A DEEP COMMITMENT TO RELIGIOUS VALUES. PERSONS WHO REGARD RELIGION AS A PERSONAL DECISION OR QUESTION TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OFTEN SCORE LOW TO MODERATELY LOW.

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PREPARE

PREMARITAL PERSONAL AND RELATIONSHIP EVALUATION

PREPARE-ENRICH
P.O. BOX 1363
STILLWATER, OK 74076

COUNSELOR'S NAME _____

DAVID H. OLSON, Ph.D.
DAVID G. FOURNIER, Ph.D.
JOAN M. DRUCKMAN, Ph.D.

Introduction: PREPARE was designed to help individuals discover some of the basic strengths and weaknesses in their relationships. PREPARE results are not intended to predict your chances for marital success but are intended to help you make decisions about your own readiness for marriage. Please answer all questions according to your point of view. The usefulness of PREPARE depends upon your willingness to respond fully and honestly. Please do not place your name on this form so that confidentiality can be maintained. (Use a no. 2 pencil and completely blacken each circle.)

<p>Education Completed (one only)</p> <p>① Graduate Professional ② First Year College ③ Some College/Trade School ④ Finished High School ⑤ Some High School ⑥ Finished Elementary ⑦ Some Elementary</p>	<p>OCCUPATION</p> <p>① Professionals, Doctors, Lawyers, Executives ② Other Professionals, Managers, Teachers, Nurses ③ Skilled and Building Trades, Farmer ④ Sales, Technicians, Clerical ⑤ Laborer, Factory Worker, Waitress ⑥ General Service Employees ⑦ Student ⑧ Unemployed ⑨ Other _____</p>
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<p>Write number here and darken circles</p> <p>01 = 1 year</p> <p>How many months have you known your partner?</p> <p>00 = less than 1 month 05 = 5 months</p> <p>(If married, how many months?)</p>	<p>Write number here</p> <p>How many months have you known your partner?</p> <p>00 = less than 1 month 05 = 5 months</p> <p>(If married, how many months?)</p>	<p>What is your approximate monthly take-home pay? (Not including your partner's income.)</p> <p>① No Income ② \$200 or less ③ \$200-400 ④ \$401-600 ⑤ \$601-800 ⑥ \$801-1000 ⑦ \$1001-1200 ⑧ \$1201-1400 ⑨ \$1401-1600 ⑩ over \$1600</p>	<p>Religious Preference</p> <p>① Agnostic ② Baptist ③ Catholic ④ Christian ⑤ Episcopal ⑥ Jewish ⑦ Lutheran ⑧ Methodist ⑨ Other Protestant ⑩ Other _____</p>	<p>What is your birth position in your family?</p> <p>How many children in your family?</p> <p>① One ② Two ③ Three ④ Four ⑤ Five ⑥ Six ⑦ Seven ⑧ Eight ⑨ Nine ⑩ Ten or more</p>
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<p>Marital Status</p> <p>Single engaged ① Single not engaged ② Divorced not engaged ③ Divorced engaged ④ Married separated ⑤ Married living together ⑥</p>	<p>What was your parent's general reaction to your plans to marry?</p> <p>① Very Positive ② Positive ③ Neutral ④ Negative ⑤ Very Negative</p>	<p>RACE</p> <p>① Afro-American (Black) ② Asian-American ③ Caucasian (White) ④ American Indian ⑤ Spanish Descent ⑥ Other _____</p>	<p>Is the woman pregnant?</p> <p>Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p>
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<p>CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENT</p> <p>① Live alone ② With parents ③ With partner ④ With others</p>	<p>Parents Marital Status</p> <p>① Married and living together ② Separated ③ Divorced and single both ④ Divorced and remarried both ⑤ Divorced, one single, one remarried ⑥ Single (partner deceased) ⑦ Remarried (partner deceased) ⑧ Both parents deceased</p>	<p>Where did you live most of your life? Where do you currently live?</p> <p>① Farm ② Rural but not farm ③ Town, 2500 people or less ④ Town, 2500 to 25,000 ⑤ Small city 25,000 to 100,000 ⑥ Large city, over 100,000</p>	<p>YOUR AGE</p>
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<p>SEX</p> <p>Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>COUNSELOR COMPLETE</p> <p>Couple Number (start with) _____</p> <p>Group Number _____</p> <p>COUNSELOR'S ZIP CODE _____</p> <p>Write number and blacken circles</p>	<p>Today's Date</p> <p>Month _____ Day _____ Year _____</p> <p>Example: 01 = January, 12 = December, 82 = 1982, Blacken Circles</p>
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VITA \

Robert Brent Sharpe

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: PREDICTION ACCURACY AS A DETERMINANT OF IDEALISM IN
ENGAGED COUPLES

Major Field: Family Relations and Child Development

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Lebanon, Indiana, September 8,
1956, the son of Col. and Mrs. Robert L. Sharpe.

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Bachelor of Science degree from Oral Roberts
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Professional Experience: Assistant to the Dean of Men
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