

# MARITAL RISKS

- Too young
  - Biggest Risk is when the Girl is under 20
- One or both may be choosing a mate to please someone else
- Parents disapprove
- Poor self-concept
- Different values
- Pre-marital pregnancy
- One or both may have unaddressed personality or behavior problems

- Decision to marry is made too quickly
  - It takes
    - Time
      - Knowing the person for a minimum of two years doubles the success rate of marriages
    - Togetherness
      - Being together and observing each other in different contexts
    - Talking
      - Points of Discussion

- Parents are divorced or have a poor relationship
- Dynamics of childhood and family experiences
  - We think our family has no affect on us, but it has a huge affect
  - The patterns in a family create a lens that you view marriage through

#### FAMILIES INFLUENCE...

- How we express affection and anger
  - How does his/her family show affection?
  - How does his/her family express anger?
  - What is the overall mood or atmosphere in the home
- How is Authority Handled? (Who's in charge)
  - Authoritarian—Overly Strict
  - Permissive—To Lenient
- How is Responsibility Handed out?
  - Do kids have to do everything? Nothing?

#### FAMILIES INFLUENCE...

- How is attention given?
  - Do children get to much? (spoiled)
  - Too little? (neglected)
- How territorial are they?
  - Is ownership respected?
  - Do they share well?
- What are the role definitions?

#### FAMILIES INFLUENCE . . .

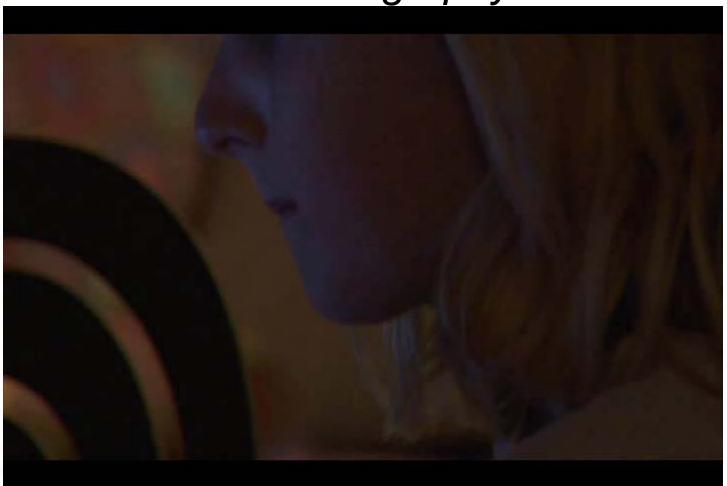
- How is his/her relationship with the parent of the same sex?
  - Shapes Identity
  - Models how to treat spouse
- How is their relationship of opposite sex parent?
  - How you view a spouse
- You are not looking for someone with a perfect family, but it is important to analyze how your future spouse will be affected by their family.

Couple has unrealistic expectations

Living together before marriage



Addiction to Pornography



#### CAN A PERSON CHANGE?

- Yes but it takes . . .
  - Effort
  - Insight
    - Into what they want to change and why
  - New Information
    - How to do things differently
  - Time