



What Is This Module About

Are you planning to get married? If so, then this module is truly for you. If you are already married, read this module to find out if you have thought about marriage carefully before you said “I do”.

Marriage is a life-long partnership of a man and a woman. When we talk of life-long partnerships, we need to consider many things.

In this module, we will discuss marriage in great detail specifically the many considerations you have to weigh before you decide to marry.

The module has two lessons:

Lesson 1 – *What Is Marriage?*

Lesson 2 – *So You’re Getting Married*



What Will You Learn from This Module?

After studying this module, you should be able to:

- ◆ explain marriage and the rules and laws that governs it;
- ◆ identify the basic requirements for those who want to get married;
- ◆ identify the things that has to be considered before getting married;
- ◆ identify the things that should be expected in marriage;
- ◆ explain the ingredients of a successful marriage ; and
- ◆ identify considerations to take when planning for a wedding.



Let's See What You Already Know

Let's see what you know so far about the topic that we are going to discuss.

- I. Identify what is being referred to in each statement. Choose from the list of words in the box below and write your answers on the blank before each number.

Contract	Compatibility	Civil marriage
Annulment	Marriage	Divorce
	Religious marriage	

- _____ 1. The legitimate union of husband and wife.
- _____ 2. A marriage solemnized by a mayor or judge.
- _____ 3. A marriage solemnized by a tribal leader.
- _____ 4. The level at which you and your partner can exist harmoniously is referred to as _____.
- _____ 5. This declares the marriage as not valid or that no true marriage occurred.

- II. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false. If the statement is false, explain why.

- _____ 1. In deciding to get married, the only factor that the couple should consider is if they love each other.
- _____ 2. Couples should not consider their social and financial differences when deciding to get married.
- _____ 3. Once married, your family and your partner's family starts having a connection.
- _____ 4. Having a shared philosophy means pursuing common goals under common beliefs.
- _____ 5. Couples should always strive for a grand wedding celebration

Well, how was it? Do you think you fared well? Compare your answers with those found in the *Answer Key* on page 27.

If all your answers are correct, very good! This shows that you already know much about the topics in this module. You may still study the module to review what you already know. Who knows, you might learn a few more new things as well.

If you got a low score, don't feel bad. This means that this module is for you. It will help you understand some concepts that you can apply in your daily life. If you study this module carefully, you will learn the answers to all the items in the test and a lot more! Are you ready?

You may go now to the next page to begin Lesson 1.

What Is Marriage?

I'm sure you have heard a lot of things about married life. Most people say it's not easy and you probably have realized this just by looking at your parents. Parents have many responsibilities like paying bills, sending children to school and working to feed the family.

Before you decide to get married, you should consider and think about many things. You cannot just decide to get married and go on with it.

In this lesson, we will discuss the considerations you have to make and the details you have to pay attention to. If you are planning to get married, you should weigh these considerations and think about your options.

After this lesson, you should be able to:

- ◆ explain marriage and the rules and laws that governs it; and
- ◆ identify the basic requirements for those who want to get married



Let's Try This

Define the meaning of marriage in your own words by completing the sentence below.

Marriage means...

Marriage can be defined in many ways. Here are some descriptions of marriage given by couples of different ages and backgrounds.

Marriage means...

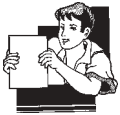
...being joined together forever with my soulmate...

...a life full of happiness, love and sharing...

...the sharing of good times and bad moments ...

...the importance of family as a unit...

... a lifelong union, sharing, loving and supporting each other...



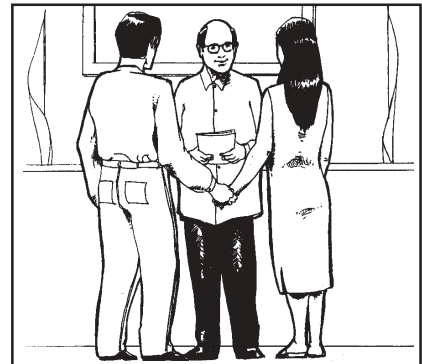
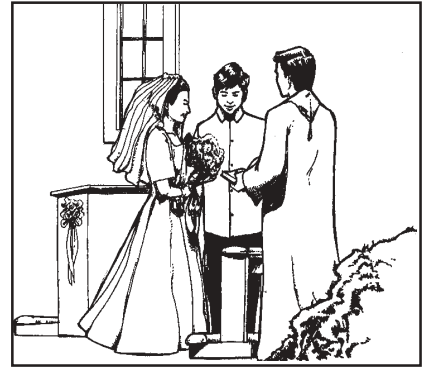
Let's Learn

What is marriage?

Marriage is defined as a legitimate union between husband and wife. When we say “legitimate,” we mean that this marriage is approved and allowed by some kind of law: religious law or civil law. Religious law refers to the rules of one's religion. Civil law refers to the laws in our country.

Marriages can be:

1. **Religious marriage**—solemnized by a priest, pastor, rabbi, minister, imam or other religious authorities. This marriage is allowed and approved by the rules of one's religion (for example, Protestant, Catholic, Islam, Iglesia ni Cristo, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism).
2. **Civil marriage**—solemnized by a judge or mayor, and is allowed and approved by civil laws.
3. **Tribal marriage**—solemnized by the tribal leader or leaders, and is allowed and approved by the rules of the tribe.



Note that the three kinds of marriages are all recognized by the Philippine laws. However, some religions, for example, the Catholic Church does not recognize civil marriage and tribal marriages.

Why is this so?

The Catholic Church considers itself as a divine institution, one that is from God which cannot be under any human institution (the government in the case of civil laws and the tribe leaders in the case of tribal marriages).

You have to think carefully about the kind of marriage you will have. You and your partner's set of values and beliefs will determine your choice.



Let's Try This

Let us now test your stock knowledge on basic marriage laws. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false. If your answer is false, state the reason why. Write your answers in the blank after each statement.

Under Philippine laws...

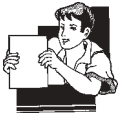
1. If the man and the woman are both 18 years old, they can already get married even if their parents disapprove of their union.

2. In a marriage ceremony, there need not be people other than the couple to be wed.

3. The barangay captain can act as the solemnizing officer in a wedding ceremony.

Check your answers using the *Answer Key* found on page 27.

Did you get all the answers correctly? If you did not, do not worry because we are about to discuss the requirements for people who want to get married.



Let's Learn

Marriage according to Philippine Laws

For any individual to be legally married under Philippine laws, the following are necessary:

1. The couple should be a male and a female. In the Philippines and in many other countries as well, marriages between individuals of the same sex are not allowed.
2. The couple should be 18 years old or above.
3. If the person to be married is between 18 to 21 years old, he or she will need his or her parent's consent.
4. The couple should appear before a solemnizing officer (can be a priest, pastor, judge or mayor).
5. The couple should make a personal declaration to take each other as man and wife. For example in church weddings, the couple say "I (name) take you (name) as my lawful wife/lawful husband..."
6. There should be at least two witnesses of legal age (18 years old or above).

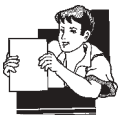
In the case of religious and tribal marriages, the requirements may vary. This is because many religious and tribal marriages are bounded by their own sets of rules.



Let's Think About This

What if a marriage doesn't work out?

The law sets a provision on marriages that does not work out. Let's find out. Read on.



Let's Learn

When a marriage does not work

There are times when things do not work out for a couple. Most of the time, their problems can be resolved with patience and love. But sometimes, the problem may be very big and serious. It can reach a point when the best thing for them to do would seemingly be to separate or live their own separate lives. This is a reality that you have to be ready for. Separation, however, is not that easy. Marriage ties together the couple in the eyes of the law and of the church. These ties cannot be easily broken. Separation will be even more difficult when the couple has a child who will then be forced to live in a broken family.

The law and the church will decide whether to grant the separation. The process is called filing for or seeking annulment.

Annulment under civil law

Annulment under civil law is meant to declare a marriage as NEVER having been legally valid. This means that there was some flaws in the marriage agreement from the very start. Remember that the couple signs or agrees to a contract in marriage. The contract is considered a legal instrument. As such, the contract can be declared void or voidable.

A **void** marriage is one that is deemed invalid in all respects. For example, since the law only allows those who are 18 years old and above to get married, marriages of couples who are under the age of 18 are considered void.

It is possible for a marriage to be valid at the start to be eventually declared “voidable.” A **voidable** marriage occurs when some defect exists in the contractual agreement.

Among the reasons that can make a marriage voidable are:

1. Either one of the partners has an incurable disease like AIDS
2. Where one has been proven to be a drug addict, alcoholic, homosexual or lesbian
3. Where one or both have committed adultery

These offenses are considered violations of the contractual agreement between husband and wife, thus making the marriage voidable.

While civil law recognizes religious marriages, it does not recognize annulments granted by a religious organization. An annulment that is under civil law is filed in court and is therefore considered a legal matter that only the courts can decide.

Annulment under religious organizations

Under church rules, a marriage is declared annulled once it is proven that what appeared in the wedding to be a *true matrimonial alliance was in fact only an appearance which lacked the necessary elements of a true marriage*. What does this mean?

Marriage is considered sacred by the religious organization. Thus, a violation of the commitment made on marriage is taken as a proof that the couple at the time of marriage were not ready to enter into a sacred union, hence making the marriage not valid.

Annulment under religious or civil law are similar in that they both declare the marriage as not valid at the time that it happened. Therefore no marriage existed. You have to understand though that if you underwent a religious marriage (that is, solemnized by a priest or pastor), you are to file an annulment under the religion to which you were married. An annulment that is granted under civil laws is not recognized by religious organizations. Why?

Marriage under a religion is considered sacred in the same manner that the religion that represents God is considered a divine institution. On the other hand, the government or civil law is considered a human institution. A human institution cannot be superior to a divine institution.



Let's Try This

Answer the following questions. Write your answers on the spaces provided after each number.

1. Have you heard of divorce? What is it?

2. What do you think is the difference between divorce and annulment?

3. Can you get divorced in the Philippines?

Have you answered the three questions? Now, read on to find out if your answers are correct.

In the Philippines, only annulment can declare the marriage not valid. There is no divorce in the Philippines.

Under annulment, a marriage is declared not valid when it occurred and thus, it is like saying that no marriage really happened. On the other hand, divorce terminates the validity of marriage on more or less the same grounds as with annulment proceeding. This is like saying that marriage indeed took place, but is now being invalidated.

Divorce proceedings normally take a shorter period of time compared to annulment. Remember that in annulment proceedings, the objective is to declare the marriage not valid in the first place while in divorce proceedings, the validity of the marriage is simply terminated.

Civil and religious law does not allow divorce in the Philippines. Interestingly though, there is a law that allows divorce for Muslim Filipinos. This is enacted by the Philippine Congress. The law was granted because the religion of the Muslims (Islam) recognizes the validity of divorce.



Let's See What You Have Learned

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

1. The _____ solemnizes civil marriage.
2. A marriage solemnized by a religious authority is called a _____.
3. A marriage solemnized by a tribe leader is called a _____.
4. The _____ does not recognize civil and tribal marriage because it considers itself as a divine institution.

B. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false. If the statement is false, explain why.

- _____ 1. Pastors are not authorized to solemnized a marriage.
- _____ 2. Annulment declares a marriage as never lagally valid.
- _____ 3. If one of the couple is under the age of 18 at the time the couple got married, the marriage is considered void.
- _____ 4. An annulment under civil law also means annulment under ones religion.
- _____ 5. You cannot get a divorce in the Philippines.

Check your answers using the *Answer Key* on pages 28–29.



Let's Remember

Do not forget the important points of this lesson.

- ◆ Marriage is the legitimate union between husband and wife.
- ◆ Marriages can be:
 - Religious
 - Civil
 - Tribal
- ◆ When a marriage does not work, any one of the couple can seek annulment.

So You're Getting Married

Now, you know what the requisites of marriage are. Let us assume that based on the requirements above, you are already “qualified” to get married. Does this mean you are ready for marriage?

Not exactly! Meeting the requirements set by the law and by the religion or tribe where you belong is just one consideration. What’s equally important is for you to realize the value of marriage as a lifelong commitment.

You will learn more about this in this lesson.

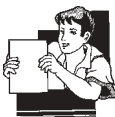
After this lesson, you should be able to:

- ◆ identify the things that has to be considered before getting married;
- ◆ identify the things that should be expected in marriage;
- ◆ explain the ingredients of a successful marriage ; and
- ◆ identify considerations to take when planning for a wedding.



Let's Think About This

Think about one of your closest friends. What differences in terms of attitudes, likes and dislikes do you have with your friend?



Let's Learn

Differences to consider

We have differences with our friends, we have differences with the people around us. Therefore, it is highly possible for us to have differences with the marriage partner that we will choose.

Here are some of the differences you may need to consider if you are planning to get married. Think of how you will adjust to these differences if in case you encounter them.

Social and Financial Differences

Social and financial difference refers to the difference in status between a couple, whether they come from a rich, poor or middle-class family. This differences sometimes results in quarrels between couples. For example, if the husband's social standing and economic status is far below his wife's, he may feel insecure.



Age

They say that age does not matter. Well, sometimes, it does. It really depends on how the couple adjusts to their age difference. Many times the age of the person determines his or her maturity. For example a 40 year old man who marries a 22-year-old woman, should be ready to understand his wife, if in case, the wife seems to be not yet ready to give up some of the things that she used to enjoy when she was still single.



Religion

The difference in religious beliefs may cause some problems especially when the couple starts raising their children. For example, Muslims and Catholics have differences in beliefs and values. The question that the couple will face is whether to raise their children according to Catholic beliefs or according to Muslim beliefs.



Before you even think about getting engaged, try asking yourself, “Are you ready to change the values and beliefs that you have been accustomed to? Are you ready and willing to adjust?”

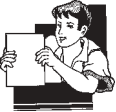
Assuming that you are compatible with your partner or you feel you are ready to adjust to whatever differences you and your partner may have, do you know what to look forward to in marriage?



Let's Try This

What are your expectations about marriage? Write your answers on the spaces provided below.

Now read on to find out about what to look forward to in a marriage.



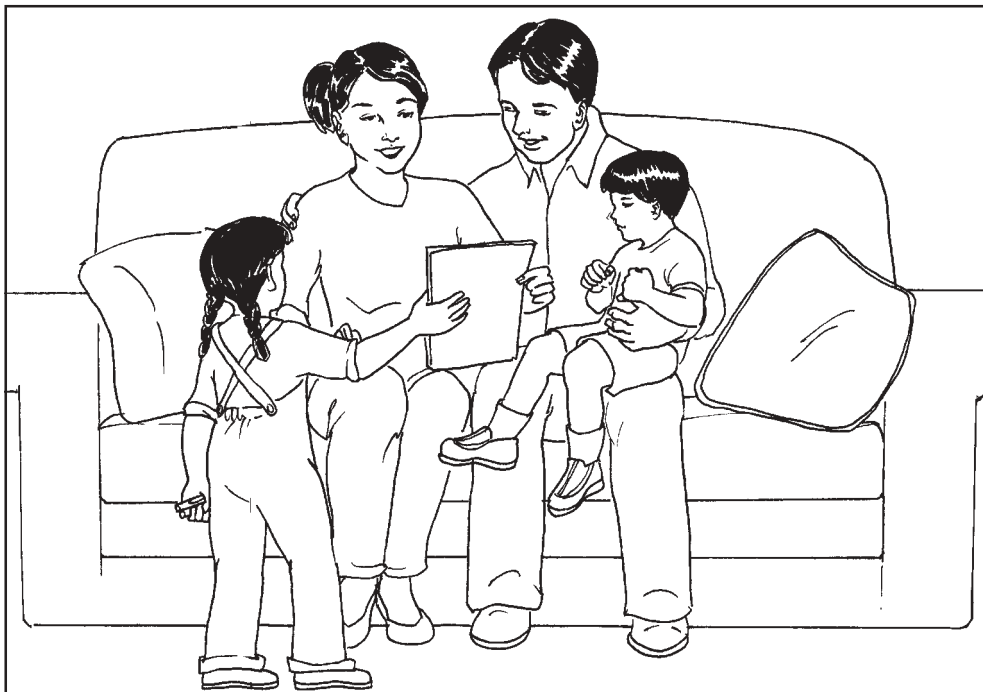
Let's Learn

What should you expect from marriage?

There are a number of things that you can expect to find in a marriage.

Look forward to a lifetime commitment, a commitment filled with both joys and pains.

Marriage is all about committing yourself to another person and to your relationship with that person. Realize that when you commit yourself, you are making a promise to be with your partner no matter what, to stick it out with him/her for as long as you both live.

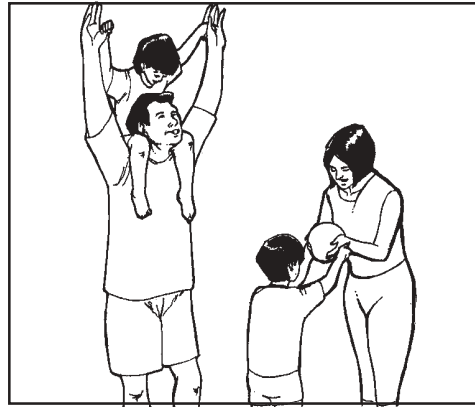


Look forward to parenthood

Parenthood is a great responsibility. It is a status which you achieve once the wife becomes pregnant. Parenthood is a natural consequence after marriage. You need to consider whether you are physically and emotionally ready for parenthood.

If you are a woman, you have to understand that motherhood is a demanding responsibility. The would-be mother has to be physically and mentally healthy so she could give birth to a strong child and afterwards stand the rigors of caring for a newborn. You have to be ready to give up some of your activities to attend to the needs of the baby, at the same time that you also maintain being a good wife to your husband.

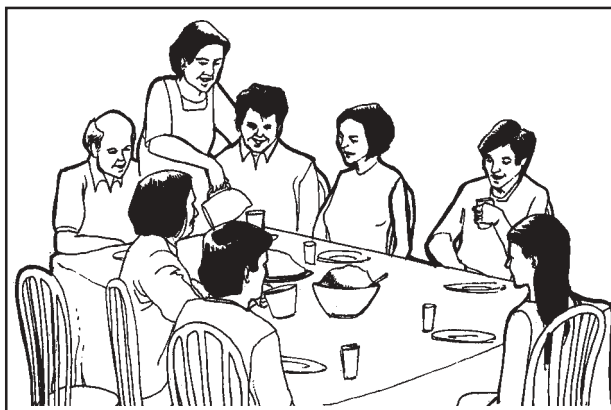
If you are man, you also have to understand that fatherhood is a big responsibility. You are no longer just a husband but a father as well. Being the man in the family, you are expected to be the family's primary means of support. Being a man also does not exempt you from the demands of child-rearing.



Also very importantly, you have to think of the financial aspect of parenthood. The coming of a child means that you have a new list of expenses to deal with. First there is the cost of giving birth, then the cost of providing for the child's food, clothing, shelter, recreation and education.

Look forward to getting along with relatives and in-laws.

Once you get married, your family and your partner's family start having a connection. You will automatically be a member of your spouse's family and vice versa. In the Philippines, the extended family system makes adjustments a bit more complex. One deals not only with his spouse's immediate family but also with grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces. The traditional closeness of the Filipino clan can be both an advantage and disadvantage. It is an advantage because

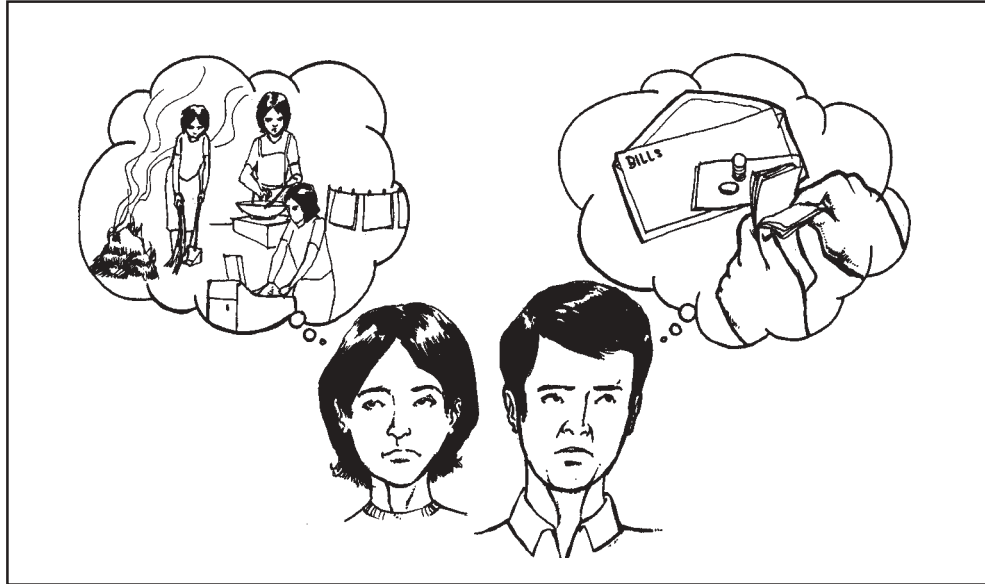


there will be many relatives willing to help you if you have problems. It is a disadvantage because there will be many relatives who may interfere with your married life.

Once you get married, you have to accept your spouse's relatives and in-laws as they are. You must have a positive attitude towards them.

Look forward to managing your own home

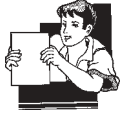
Home management involves decision-making. It involves planning, controlling and evaluating family resources to achieve family goals. If you will get married, you should be ready to make these decisions. These decisions will involve anything from doing household chores to managing family finances.



Let's Try This

What do you think are the things needed to make a marriage successful? Write them down on the lines below.

Compare your answers with what we are about to discuss.



Let's Learn

Ingredients of a Successful Marriage

In marriage you cannot assume that everything will be fine every single day. There will always be a time when you and your partner will disagree. Whether these disagreements will strengthen or weaken your relationship depends on you and your partner.

To make a marriage work you should be ready to:

Understand your partner

Remember that each person has his or her own weaknesses. Nobody is perfect. You may have a husband or wife who is sweet and caring and yet is moody. Your partner may have certain values and beliefs, likes and dislikes that you may not agree with and yet, you have to accept him or her.



Care for your partner

Caring means being responsive to the other person's needs. Everyone has many needs. These needs include the need for food, clothing and shelter; the need for friendship and companionship; the need for physical satisfaction through sex; the need for recognition and self-fulfillment. If you are going to get married, you should be ready to meet these needs of your partner and consider them as important as your own.



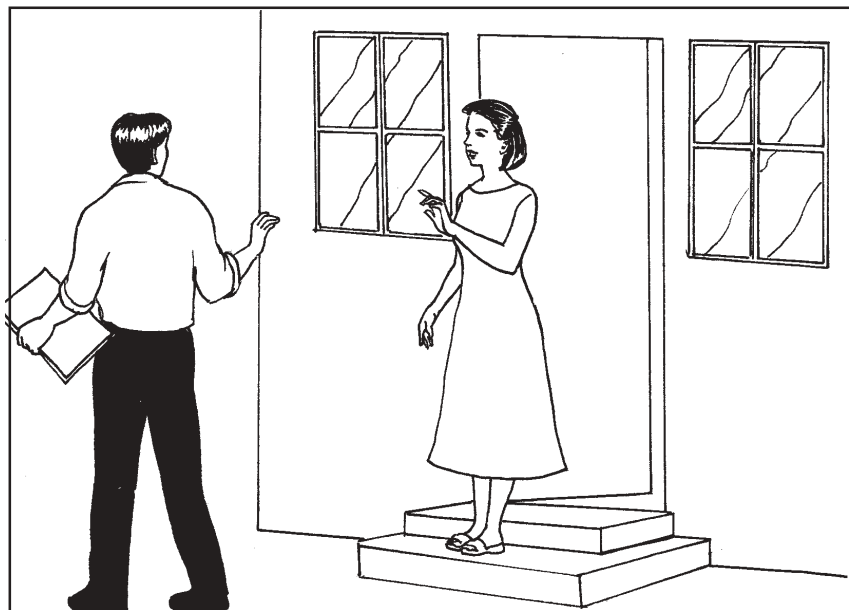
Cooperate with your partner

To make a marriage work the couple should practice a “give-and-take” relationship. For example, you and your partner should mutually agree on the decisions made concerning the family. You should likewise both share in doing the household tasks like child rearing and housekeeping.



Be loyal

A relationship, in order to be secure, should be founded on mutual trust. Trust your partner, and he or she should also trust you. Remember that marriage is a lifetime commitment. When you commit yourself, it should be to someone whom you trust totally.



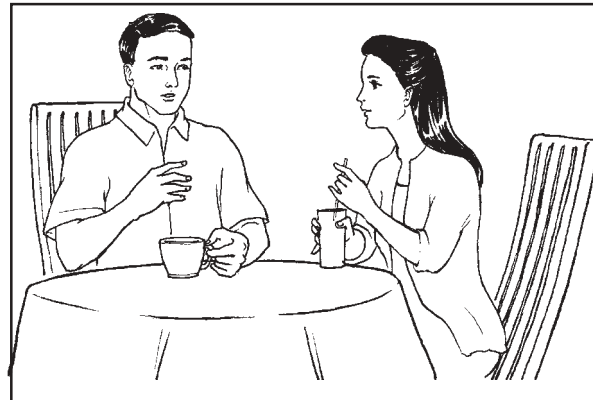
Form a shared philosophy

Each person has a set of beliefs which make up a person's philosophy in life. This is what gives direction to the couple's everyday activities and even to their personal relationships with other people. If you want to get married, you may have to change a bit or modify some of the beliefs and values that you have been accustomed to, so as to form a philosophy that is mutually acceptable to you and your partner.



Communicate with your partner

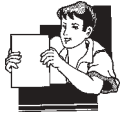
Two people cannot live with each other for the rest of their lives without communication — the right communication. Communication in marriage is meant to achieve mutual adjustment. The differences between two separate personalities with varying needs can be settled without fighting through sensible discussion. You should learn to sit down and talk about issues on which you and your partner disagree to arrive at a compromise.



Let's Try This

In Lesson 1, we discussed different marriages, namely, church, civil and tribal marriages. Which of these do you think would be most appropriate for you? Why? Write your answers on the blanks provided below.

The choice on what kind of marriage you will have will depend on your culture, beliefs and budget.



Let's Learn

Religious, civil or tribal marriage

Those who belong to ethnic groups will probably prefer a tribal marriage. The others will have to choose between a church or civil wedding. Both of these, a church wedding or a civil wedding, take time to prepare. But the preparation for a civil wedding is far easier and faster than the preparation for a church wedding.

In a civil marriage you will be required to submit some documents like your birth certificate and undergo a seminar or counseling. The actual wedding ceremony in fact can take as short as 10 minutes. This is because what is important is that the couple declare that they accept each other as husband or wife.

In a religious marriage, the couple (or one of them) should be a member of the church under which they will wed. You and your mate, if you are Catholics, will have to present a baptismal certificate and certificate of confirmation. In some churches, you cannot be married unless at least one of you have been baptized and have received confirmation under the church where your wedding will be held. In other churches, the couple are required to be both members of the same church. The church also requires that couples undergo a seminar and counseling before the wedding. Wedding ceremonies in the church are also longer because this is done in the form of a mass.

After you have decided on what form of marriage you will have, you will then have to think of the kind of wedding celebration you will have. In choosing whether you will have a *simple* or *grand* wedding, take note of the requirements and advantages and disadvantages of each.



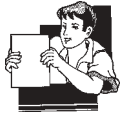
Let's Try This

What are the advantages and disadvantages of a simple wedding celebration? of a grand wedding celebration? Write your answers on the spaces provided below.

Were you able to come up with many advantages and disadvantages of simple and grand wedding celebrations?

Simple wedding celebrations can be cheaper since a few visitors are normally invited. On the other hand, grand wedding celebrations can be costly although more memorable considering the number of guests that are invited and the grandness of the occasion.

Read on to find out more.



Let's Learn

Simple or grand wedding celebration

In choosing what kind of wedding you want the time element will be very important. For example, if you want to get married right away and yet you want it to be a grand one, much work should be done considering the time available. Most grand weddings will require time to prepare; in fact, if you want a grand wedding, you may start planning as early as a year or six months ahead.

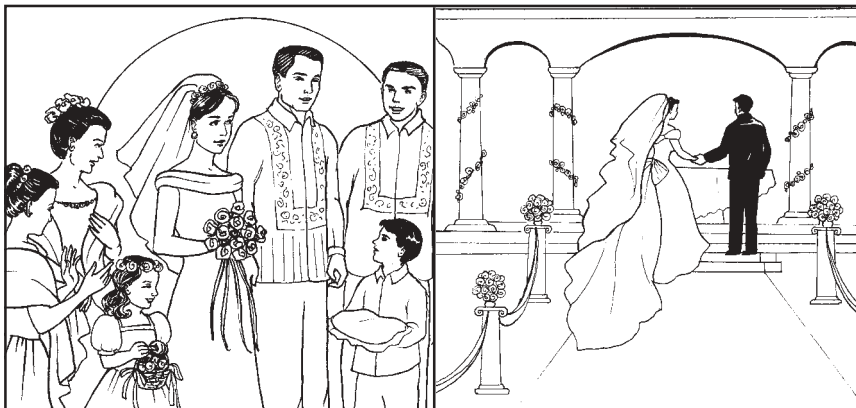
In choosing what kind of wedding celebration you will have, consider:

- ◆ the activities involved in the wedding; and
- ◆ the expenses that are needed for these activities.

Let's tackle the first consideration, namely the activities involved.

Here's a table of activities that wedding planning normally will have. You may or may not skip some of the activities depending on the kind of wedding you chose.

- ◆ Decide on the date, style and budget
- ◆ Shortlist and decide the number of sponsors you would like to have and inform the sponsors
- ◆ Coordinate with the church
- ◆ Decide the motif of your wedding.
- ◆ Prepare and submit the necessary documents for the church
- ◆ Choose a place for the reception, make reservations
- ◆ Pick out a gown, or start coordinating with the gownmaker
- ◆ Prepare give aways
- ◆ Send out invitations
- ◆ Finalize reception ceremonies
- ◆ Coordinate with makeup artist
- ◆ Confirm attendance of guests



Apart from thinking of all the activities that will be involved in your wedding preparation, you also have to think of the expenses that the wedding celebration may incur. These expenses are outlined below.

Possible expenses:

For Wedding Preparation

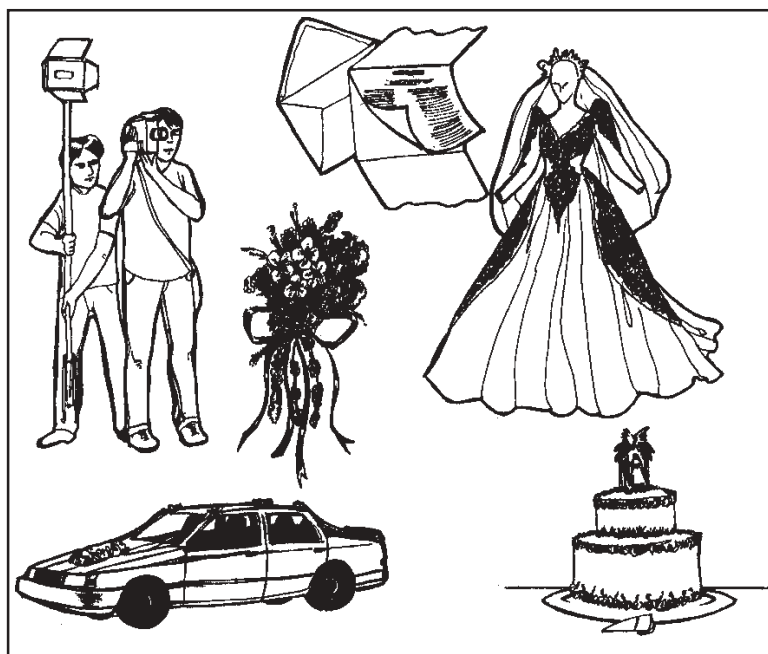
- ◆ Church fees/City hall fees
- ◆ License fees/Other fees for document processing

For The Wedding Celebration

- ◆ Photography
- ◆ Video coverage
- ◆ Gown of the bride/suit or *barong* of the groom
- ◆ Church decorations/flowers
- ◆ Hair and makeup
- ◆ Gowns of secondary sponsors
- ◆ Reception rental
- ◆ Food or catering services
- ◆ Invitations
- ◆ Giveaways
- ◆ Bridal car
- ◆ Wedding cake

After The Wedding

- ◆ Expenses for honeymoon



Many of these expenses will also depend on the number of visitors that you will invite on your wedding. Also, pay special attention to the wedding location that you will have to determine the expenses.

Here are some considerations to think about when scheduling your wedding day.

1. Weekend dates are generally easier for guests to attend.
2. Weekend dates are the most popular for weddings and since there are only 52 weekends in a year, popular ceremony and location sites book well in advance for weekend dates.
3. Wedding services and professionals also book well in advance. Service professionals like photographers, florists, musicians and caterers are busier on weekends. Hence it is easier to hire them on weekdays.
4. Weekend rates may be higher than weekday rates at some locations and for some services.
5. Because wedding suppliers (like flower arrangers) are not as busy on a weekday, you might get better service during the week.
6. Hotel and travel rates for your honeymoon are likely to vary with the day of the week and amount of advance notification.
7. If you want a traditional church wedding, your church, mosque, synagogue or temple may have restrictions on days available for weddings.
8. Is there a possible tie-in with another major family occasion? Sometimes you can take advantage of family members gathering for a major anniversary, significant birthday, reunion or other occasion by scheduling your wedding close enough to the event so that those traveling from out-of-town can make one trip and attend both.
9. For the bride-to-be: If you are able to predict your menstrual cycle well in advance, it is preferable to schedule your wedding such that you avoid having your period at that time.
10. Will you have ample time to notify guests? It can take as much as six weeks to get special invitations printed and they should be mailed six weeks ahead of the wedding. If you hope many out-of-town guests will be able to attend, they may need even more time to schedule transportation, and make other necessary arrangements.



Let's See What You Have Learned

Read the situation below.

Tony and Guia decided that they want to get married. Tony is 30 years old while Guia is 20. Guia just graduated from college. Tony on the other hand works as a taxi driver. Tony did not finish his studies. Guia's parents think that Guia should not get married yet because she is still young.

What advise can you give to Guia and Tony? Write your answer below.

Check your answers using the *Answer Key* on page 29.



Let's Remember

- ◆ There are differences you need to consider. Among these are:
 - Social and financial differences
 - Age
 - Religion
- ◆ Among the things that you have to look forward to in marriage are:
 - A lifetime of commitment
 - Parenthood
 - Getting along with relatives and in laws
 - Managing your own home
- ◆ The ingredients of a successful marriage are:
 - understanding ones partner
 - caring for each others needs
 - cooperation the “give and take” relationship
 - loyalty and trust
 - acceptance of a shared philosophy
 - right communication
- ◆ When you want to get married, you can choose between a simple or grand wedding celebration. The wedding expenses will depend on what you want to have for your wedding.



Let's Sum Up

Do not forget the important points of this module.

- ◆ Marriage is the legitimate union between husband and wife.
- ◆ Marriages can be:
 - Religious
 - Civil
 - Tribal
- ◆ When a marriage does not work, any one of the couple can seek annulment.
- ◆ In marriage, couples should consider their individual differences.
- ◆ Marriage is a life-long commitment. There are many responsibilities attached to married life.
- ◆ For a marriage to be successful, there should be understanding, care, cooperation, loyalty and communication
- ◆ When you want to get married, you can choose between a simple or grand wedding celebration. The wedding expenses will depend on what you want to have for your wedding.



What Have You Learned?

Encircle the letter of the best answer.

1. Marriage is said to be legitimate because
 - a. it is allowed and approved by law
 - b. only unmarried or separated individuals are allowed to get married
 - c. the individuals who marry love each other
 - d. it is a lifelong union
2. Which of the following marriages is solemnized by a judge or mayor?
 - a. Church marriage
 - b. Civil marriage
 - c. Tribal marriage
 - d. Barangay marriage
3. Which of the following statements about marriage contracts is not true?
 - a. Marriage contracts are always written.
 - b. Marriage contracts define the couple's rights and obligations to each other.
 - c. The law recognizes marriage contracts.
 - d. The Church recognizes marriage contracts.

4. The church does not recognize civil marriages because
 - a. civil marriages are illegal.
 - b. civil marriages are formed from a human institution, that is the government.
 - c. civil marriages are less serious than church marriages.
 - d. all of the above

5. Which of the following statements is true of the age requirement in marriage under civil law?
 - a. The couple should be 18 years old or below.
 - b. The couple should be 18 years old or above.
 - c. The man should be 18 years old or above while the woman should be 18 years old or below.
 - d. None of the above

6. Which of the following is an example of a couple with social and financial difference?
 - a. The man is rich, the woman is poor.
 - b. The man is 48 years old, the woman is 30.
 - c. The man is Catholic, the woman is a Jehova's witness.
 - d. The man is fat, the woman is thin.

7. Being responsive to your partner's need is a sign of
 - a. caring
 - b. understanding
 - c. cooperation
 - d. loyalty

8. Which of the following statements about annulment is true?
 - a. Annulment under civil law and Church law are the same .
 - b. Church law can render a marriage void or voidable.
 - c. Civil and church annulment are the same in that they both declare a marriage not valid at the time it happened.
 - d. Annulment is the same as divorce.

9. In terms of preparation, what is common between church and civil weddings?
 - a. They both require the same documents.
 - b. The ceremony is the same.
 - c. They both require couples to attend a counseling session or a seminar.
 - d. None of the above.

10. Which of the following is the advantage of scheduling your wedding on a weekend?
- a. Rates for wedding needs are generally cheaper.
 - b. It will be easier for guests who live out of town to attend.
 - c. Making reservations in hotels, chapels, etc. is easier.
 - d. None of the above

Check your answers using the *Answer Key* on pages 28–29.

If you got:

- 0–4 You should study this module again.
- 5–6 Go back to the parts of the module which you did not understand.
- 7–8 Good! But make sure that you go back to the items which you answered incorrectly.
- 9–10 Very good! You know what to consider before getting married.



Answer Key

A. Let's See What You Already Know (page 2)

- I.
 1. marriage
 2. civil marriage
 3. tribal marriage
 4. compatibility
 5. annulment
- II.
 1. **F** Couples should consider a lot of factors before they get married. Among these are their differences and expectations.
 2. **F** While social and financial differences should not be a hindrance in marriage, it should not be ignored. This should be discussed before marriage so that the couple can avoid arguments later on.
 3. **T**
 4. **T**
 5. **F** The decision on whether to have a simple or grand wedding celebration should depend on the couples budget and preference.

B. Lesson 1

Let's Try This (page 6)

1. **F** Persons between 18 and 21 years old must have their parents' consent for marriage.
2. **F** There should be at least two (2) witnesses of legal age.
3. **F** The mayor, judge, pastor or priest, not the baranggay captain, can solemnize the marriage.

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 10)

- A.
 1. judge or mayor
 2. church marriage
 3. tribal marriage
 4. marriage contract
 5. church

- B. 1. **F** In some religions, pastors solemnize a marriage.
2. **T**
3. **T**
4. **F** Religious institutions do not recognize annulment under civil law.
5. **T**

C. Lesson 2

Let's See What You Have Learned (page 23)

Here's a sample answer. You may have a different answer. Show your work to your Instructional Manager.

First of all, Tony and Guia should consider their age difference (10 years). Tony being in his 30s may really be ready to settle down. on the other hand, Guia just graduated from college and is yet to start a career of her own. Also, they should consider the fact that Tony did not finish his studies. Guia will probably get a job that will give her a higher salary than Tony. The two should talk about these differences to prevent these differences from turning into issues later on. Since Guia's parents disapprove of the marriage at this point, Tony may find it hard to get along with his in-laws. Before getting married, the two should make sure that the lines of communication are open.

D. What Have You Learned? (pages 24–26)

1. **(a)** This is a basic requirement for something to be called legitimate. In the case of marriage, this can be according to civil or church law.
2. **(b)** Church marriage. (a) is solemnized by a priest, pastor, minister or other church authorities. Tribal marriages (c) are solemnized by a tribe leader. There is no such thing as a barangay marriage (d).
3. **(a)** Contracts can be written or can merely be defined by tradition as in the case of most tribal marriages.
4. **(b)** The church considers itself as a divine institution which cannot be under any human institution.
5. **(b)** The couple should be 18 years old or above. Those younger than 18 years old cannot get married.
6. **(a)** The social and financial differences refer to the difference in socio-economic status. Letter (b) refers to age difference. Letter (c) refers to difference in religion. Letter (d) refers to difference in weight.

7. (a) To be caring is to consider your partner's needs as important as your own. To be understanding (b) is to accept your partner's weaknesses. To cooperate (c) is to agree to a "give-and-take" relationship. To be loyal (d) is to be faithful and keep your promise to a lifetime commitment.
8. (c) This is in fact the major difference between divorce and annulment. Divorce (d) terminates the validity of marriage while annulment declares a marriage as not valid at the time that it happened. Church and civil annulment are different (a). In fact, an annulment issued by either one of them is not recognized by the other. Civil law and not church law can declare a marriage void or voidable (b).
9. (c) A counseling or seminar is required to orient the couple on what lies ahead. The documents (a) required in Church marriages for example would include baptismal and confirmation certificate, these are not needed in civil marriages. The ceremony are likewise different (b), civil marriage only requires the couple to make a declaration that they take each other as husband and wife while church marriages make the wedding ceremony a part of a Mass.
10. (b) Since weekends are work holidays, your guests are more likely to be able to attend. Because of this, many people prefer weekend weddings. However rates for wedding reservations are generally higher for weekend weddings (a), not to mention reservations are harder to make (c).



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