

◇ Chapter 28
Readiness for Marriage

Relationship Skills

MATTERS OF THE HEART

You have learned that the theories of attraction (homogamy, complementary needs, social exchange, propinquity, and ideal mate) are used to help explain what draws individuals together. Predicting *when* a certain theory is going to apply is more difficult. Harder still is knowing what to do when conflicting theories seem to be at work at the same time in the same person.

Directions: Read the situation below. Then, using your knowledge of the theories of attraction, answer the questions that follow.

? ? ? The Girl Next Door ? ? ?

Carlos and Maria have been next-door neighbors since they were seven years old. They have attended the same schools and over the years have become the best of friends. Carlos believes that their common backgrounds, experiences, and memories have allowed them to understand and care for each other deeply. Recently, however, Carlos met Juanita at a school dance. Juanita has very little in common with Maria. She is strong-willed and ambitious and has a sense of humor that lets her laugh through the tough times. Carlos is torn. He cares for Maria, who offers stability and familiarity, but Juanita excites him with her self-confidence and dreams for the future.

1. Which theories explain Carlos' attraction to Maria? To Juanita? _____

2. How might Carlos benefit from continuing his relationship with Maria? _____

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3. What might he gain by pursuing a relationship with Juanita? _____

4. What might Carlos lose by ending his relationship with Maria? _____

5. What might he lose by ending his relationship with Juanita? _____

6. Should Carlos give up one of the relationships? Explain your answer. _____

7. What do you predict might happen if Carlos decides to date both Maria and Juanita?

8. Can theories of mate selection also be used to explain friendships and other long-lasting personal relationships? Explain.

9. If you were attracted to more than one person for different reasons, what would you do?
