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## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to investigate the following problems: (1) The attitudes of college students towards the concepts of sex, love, dating, boyfriend or girlfriend, and marriage. (2) The comparison of male and female subjects' perceptions of the relationship between boys and girls in the areas of friendship, love and dating, and marriage. A sample of 290 university students (148 boys and 142 girls) were asked to fill out the questionnaire by themselves. The questionnaire consisted of two parts; the first contained the subjects' rating of the concepts of sex, dating, boyfriend or girlfriend, love and marriage on 18 seven-point bipolar scales; the second contained questions related to the behavior of boys and girls in the areas of friendship, love, and dating, and marriage.

It was found that:

1. Both male and female subjects perceive sex, dating, boyfriend or girlfriend, love and marriage in a positive way on the 18 scales used. The male subjects have a tendency to perceive sex and dating more positively than the female subjects do.

2. The male and female subjects' responses are significantly different on 31 out of 53 questions related to the

boy's and girl's behavior in the areas selected for study.

These discrepancies in the perception of the relationship between boys and girls by male and female students was said to be influenced by the general lack of interaction that occurs between the two sexes. It was pointed out that one possible factor in the lack of interaction between the sexes is the separation of the sexes that occurs in the single sex secondary schools. The lack of interaction between the sexes was also stated to be a result of the societal standards as transmitted and maintained by the family. As a result, when students begin to study in coeducational pre-university schools and in universities, they still stay in same sex groups and continue to have limited interaction with the opposite sex. It was stated that this lack of interaction makes it difficult for them to understand each other.

Boys and girls do gain knowledge of the opposite sex from discussions with members of their own sex; those discussions, however, are usually not based on experiences with members of the opposite sex. Therefore, the images they have of the opposite sex are not realistic. This unrealistic image seems to cause them to have difficulty in understanding each other and it may make it difficult for them to gain accurate knowledge of the opposite sex.

The results also show that the subjects want to choose a spouse by themselves and that they consider love to be very important in this choice. But, since knowledge of the opposite

sex and trust are two of the basic components of love, it was stated that boys and girls, because of the discrepancies in their perception of each other, will have great difficulty in choosing a spouse who will fulfill their expectations.

It was also stated that the students may fear their future marriage because of their lack of knowledge of the opposite sex and their impressions of the marriages they have seen. The students' general concept of love as a predetermined outside force was also discussed.