

Pre-Marital Counseling Ideas

Marriage is one of the most important commitments a person can make. The decision to follow Christ is of course first, but no other decision will have a great an impact on one's life as marriage. It is important for couples to spend the necessary time planning and equipping themselves for their life together.

With so many marriages failing, a person should not enter into a marriage lightly. There are so many responsibilities and obligations to one another without jumping into a relationship that one may regret later. If a couple is not willing to invest a little time preparing for their life together, chances are they are not willing to be committed to other things. All parties should approach marriage prayerfully, patiently, and honestly.

There are several variables that need to be discussed in the Pre-Marital Counseling session. These can include:

- Spiritual Beliefs
- Christian Values
- Commitment and Expectations
- How to Handle Conflict and Solving Problems
- Priorities on Career, Children, Money, Hobbies, Future Plans, Friends
- A Christian wedding being scared.

Most pastors will not consider pre-marital counseling if the bride and groom are not born-again Christians. Marriage is tough enough without being unequally yoked.

To better serve and provide information for pastors before the actually counseling starts, it is suggested that each couple fill out a questionnaire. Listed below is a sample questionnaire. This can also be printed from this site for your convenience.

After the questionnaire has been submitted, an appointment will be made with the pastor. Most pastors prefer more than one session to allow the counseling process to work as well as to allow the couples to ask additional questions.

Pre-Marital Questionnaire

This questionnaire should be filled out completely and turned in to the church office. After being reviewed, an appointment will be made to meet with a pastor, at this time we will determine whether or not to begin the pre-marriage counseling.

NOTE: We reserve the right to discontinue the counseling and planning process at any time, at our discretion.

*******Both you and your fiancé can complete a questionnaire separately or together, but both must present for the actual pre-marital counseling with the pastor.**

General Information:

Have you set a tentative date for your wedding? ____ If yes, when?

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Age: ____

Address:

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fiancé's Name: _____ Age: ____

Marital Status:

Have you been married before? _____ If yes, how many
times? _____

If so, for how long? _____

Are you: Divorced ____ Widowed ____ Separated ____

Is your divorce final? _____ If not, why & when?

Do you have children from a previous marriage? _____ If yes, how many? _____

What are their ages? _____

If you are divorced, what is your custody arrangement?

If divorced, why was your previous marriage terminated?

Engagement Period:

How long have you known each other? _____

How long have you been going together? _____

How long have you been officially engaged? _____

(We require that you have been dating seriously for at least eight months before we will begin counseling)

What brought you together?

Religious Background:

Are you a Born-Again Christian? _____

Briefly describe what it means to be Born-Again:

Do you regularly attend a church? _____

If yes, which one?

For how long and how often?

Please answer the following questions as completely yet as briefly as possible. Remember that our goal is to help you prepare for marriage. Please be honest with your responses. Don't simply write the answers you think we expect.

1. Write a definition of "Love".

2. How do you know you "love" your fiancé?

3. How have you prepared for marriage?

Have you read Christian books? _____

If so, please list them.

Have you listened or watched any videos on Christian marriage? _____

If so, please list them.

Have you attended any marriage classes? _____

If yes, please describe them.

Have your parents ever been divorced or remarried?

If so, why?

4. What do you expect to receive from marriage that you cannot have stayed single?

5. Give some reasons why you want to marry your fiancé.

6. List any concerns about marrying your fiancé.

7. What do you see as your role in the marriage?

8. What do you see as your mate's role in the marriage?

9. With so many marriages failing today, what guarantee will you have that your marriage will remain successful?

10. How do other members of your family feel about your fiancé?

11. How do you feel you are accepted by your fiancé's family?

12. How will you handle conflict or disagreements?

13. Do plan on having children? If so, how many and when?

14. Who will discipline your children and how?

15. Who will handle your finances? If there is differences, how will you handle them?

16. Thoughts and plans for emergency funds (if appliances or emergencies arise).

17. Creating a special time for dating. What plan do you have?

18. What plans do you have to keep your marriage fresh and alive?

19. Sports, TV, shopping, and other boundaries and limitations that can be agreed on?

20. Priorities on purchasing other than using credit cards?

Please Note:

Performance of marriage ceremonies is an accommodation to the body, NOT an obligation. It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling is NOT an agreement of approval to be married by this pastor or anyone else at this church. We do not claim to be "Professional" Counselors. Our counsel is based solely on God's Word. Be sure you thoroughly understand our position, before signing below:

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above, and that all of the information filled in is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of future husband

/____/____

Date

Signature of future wife

/____/____

Date