

PREPARING FOR OUR MARRIAGE.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide a framework for you to talk together about your future relationship together. Some of the questions will be easier to answer than others; please remember there are no right answers and I don't want the sheets back. It is up to you what areas we talk about!

I will assume that you love each other, and that that will provide the foundation for all your answers – but do think carefully about what you actually mean by the words, “ I love you ” .

Expectations in Marriage

1. What expectations do you have of your marriage?
 - a. What do you expect of yourself?
 - b. What do you expect of your spouse?
2. Do you think any of these are unrealistic?
What experiences in the life of your parents have influenced your expectations e.g. divorce ?
3. Compare your list with that of your future partner. Are there any areas of conflict or anything you didn't expect?
4. Complete the following:

“My idea of being loved by my partner is”
“My idea of loving my partner is.....”
5. Do you agree with any of the statements below?
 - a. Disagreement should be avoided at all costs.
 - b. If my partner offends me then they are not entitled to be forgiven until they apologise.
 - c. Conflicts are inevitable in marriage.
6. What do you not agree on so far? (agreement is not needed in everything but how you deal with the process can be important)
How did you attempt to come to an agreement?
How successful were you?

Communication

1. What does communication mean to you?
2. What do you find difficult to share with your partner and I don't mean secrets ?
3. Do you share your dreams and aspirations with your partner? If not why not.
4. How often do you spend time quietly talking together?
5. How much do you listen to each other and hear exactly what is being said?

Parents & In-Laws.

1. What is your relationship like with your parents?
(Indicate problem areas and also areas of satisfaction)
2. How do your parents view your intended marriage?
(Does this honour your parents)
3. What is your relationship like with your future in-laws?
(Indicate problem areas and also areas of satisfaction)

Finances

1. How will financial decisions be made in your marriage?
2. Are you aware of any areas that will lead to disagreement?
3. Will you have an annual budget?
4. Will you have a joint account and who will do your “books”?
5. Are you used to giving ? God loves a cheerful giver and 10% is a good starting point.

Sex

1. Define your view of sex in as few words as possible.
2. What do you understand by the word “intimacy”? (This will probably mean different things to each of you, so don't worry.)
3. What do you understand the word privacy to mean?
4. How important do you think sex is in marriage?
5. Have you talked together about sex?
6. Have you talked about pregnancy/ contraception / pornography?
7. What does God say about it?

Children - they are a central part to Christian marriage.

1. Complete the following: An ideal number of children for us to have is.....

Because:
2. Which of the classifications below best describes the type of parent that you will be:
 - a. Authoritarian; parents make the rules
 - b. Indulgent; parent have few rules
 - c. Democratic; everyone has a say
 - d. Permissive; children allowed to do their own thing
 - e. Instructor and Guide; parent plays the role of teacher
 - f. Your own definition;
3. In your view, whose responsibility is it to discipline the children?
4. Indicate any areas of concern you may have concerning your children.

Family Roles

1. Which of the statements below do you agree with?
 - a. The wife should always obey what her husband asks her to do.
 - b. Husband and wife should share the same degree of authority and responsibility.
 - c. The husband should help regularly with the household chores.
 - d. The wife should always be the one to prepare meals.
 - e. The husband is the head of the home.
2. Discuss the issues with your future partner.
3. How closely do the answers given above reflect your experience of family like, either with your parents, in a previous marriage or in another household?

Emotional Needs

1. We all have emotional needs that have to be met if we are to function effectively as people. Three of the most basic of these are listed below. Which one do you regard as most important?

- a. Security (this means the security that comes through knowing that you are loved and Accepted for who you are).
 - b. Self-worth (this has to do with the subjective feelings of knowing within yourself that You are a person of worth and value).
 - c. Significance (this is the feeling you get from knowing you can make a valuable Contribution to life).
2. In your opinion, are the statements below true or false?
- a. I am hoping that my partner will be able to fully meet my emotional needs.
 - b. It is my responsibility to try to fully meet the emotional needs of my partner.
 - c. If our marriage is to work then my partner must fully meet my emotional needs.
3. Which one, or more, of the options below would you go for if your basic emotional needs were not being met?
- a. Attempt to ignore the fact.
 - b. Put my energy into extra activities.
 - c. Communicate to my partner that my needs were not being met.
 - d. Pray that my partner will change.
 - e. Apply pressure to my partner to get them to change and meet my needs.

Spiritual Growth

1. Complete the following: I regard Bible reading and prayer as
2. Where will you worship together, and how often (including mid-week)?
3. Do you want to pray together?
What difficulties does this create?
4. What pattern of devotional life will you establish, bearing in mind your needs as a individual and your needs as a couple?
5. In what areas of your life do you see a need for spiritual growth and development?

Health and Recreation

1. Are you suffering from any physical or emotional problems?
2. What steps do you take (if any) to ensure that you maintain physical fitness?
3. What is your favourite method of relaxation?
4. Do you have sufficient opportunity for above?
What difference will marriage make?
5. What sort of holiday do you enjoy?

Work

1. How important is work to you?
2. What expectations do you have of your future partner with regards to work?
3. If you are both involved in aid work and have young children, what will you do in school holidays or when the children are ill?
4. What are your fears and hopes regarding family life and your future partners job?

In Conclusion

What have you learnt about one another and your relationship, not just from the answers to the questions, but from the way the discussion went?

- e.g. Who led, or was it a partnership?
Who kept the discussion centred on the issues?
Where there things that made you feel uncomfortable?