

Pre-marital Counseling

Give out pre-marital questionnaire and begin going over.

Give personality tests and financial worksheets to work on and discuss later.

Teach (as needed when arises in discussion of questionnaire:

God's Design for Marriage

A. God's Preparation (Genesis 2:18-24)

Before any other institution, marriage was created

B. God's Purpose

1. Oneness "The two shall be one"

a. Companionship – "... not good for man to be alone."

We need intimate friendship

b. Cooperation – "I will make a suitable helper"

Suitable means "opposite to, but agreeable with"

2. Image His Life (Gen 2:24)

a) Agape Love

b) Kindness, , Acceptance

c) Intimacy (Gen. 4:1)

d) Forgiveness

C. God's Plan

1. Marriage Roles

a) Blessing (Eph. 5:18-33) instead of Curse (Gen. 3:16-19)

b) Headship (Instead of "rule over")

c) Submission (Instead of "desire for")

2. Parenting

a) Honor and Obey (Eph. 6:1-4) instead of Pain and Labor (Gen. 3)

b) Train Up (Proverbs 22:6) instead of "provoke ..to anger" Eph. 6:4)

D. God's Project

1. Sexual Pleasure – (Proverbs 5:18-19) "Rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love." (See I Cor. 7:3-5, Songs, Heb. 13:4)

2. Counsel and Growth (Heavenly sandpaper) The stresses of marriage will often produce brokenness, destroy self-centeredness, and teach love and gentleness.

3. Financial Issues

- a. Budgeting
- b. Insurance
- c. Credit (80% of divorce is over money)
- d. Giving
- e. Wills, highly encouraged

4. Communications

Usually stated as the number one cause of divorce

- a. Empathic listening (TV, internet discourage this)
- b. Conflict resolution

E. Permanence directed by God

- 1. Covenant - I Cor 7:39, Romans 7:2, Matt. 19:3-19, Mark 10:6-9, Eph. 5:31)
- 2. "One Flesh" indicates permanence and passion
- 3. He hates divorce (but loves divorcees). (Malachi 2:16)

F. Sexual Areas

- 1. Pre-marital Relationships – pure before married
- 2. Boundaries – set to help stay pure

G. Review Plans and Beliefs Regarding Children

- 1. How many?
- 2. Birth Control?
- 3. Beliefs about Abortion? (if child sick, deformed, etc..)

H. The Wedding Night

- 1. Consider physical, sexual, emotional, and environmental issues.
- 2. Complete physical examination is recommended prior to marriage.

Recommend Resources for Further Study

1. Marriage and Family Issues
 - a) *Families Where Grace is in Place* – Van Vonderan
 - b) *Before You Say I Do* – Wright
2. Sexual Issues
 - a) *Love Life* - Wheat
 - b) *Intended for Pleasure* – Wheat
 - c) *The Act of Marriage* – LaHaye
3. Communication Issues
 - a) *Five Love Languages* - Chapman
 - b) *Communication- The Key to Successful Marriage*
 - c) *Telling Each Other the Truth* – Backus
 - d) *Caring Enough to Confront* – Augsberger
 - e) *Christ-centered Marriage* - Anderson

Bibliography

Marriage and Family Issues

Van Vonderan, Jeff. *Families Where Grace is in Place*. Bethany House: Minneapolis. 1992.

Wright, Norman & Wes Roberts. *Before You Say I Do*. Harvest House: Eugene, OR 1978.

Sexual Issues

LaHaye, Tim & Beverley. *The Act of Marriage*.

Wheat, Dr. Ed, M.D. *Love Life for Every Married Couple*

Wheat, Dr. Ed, M.D. And Gayle Wheat. *Intended for Pleasure*. Revell:Grand Rapids 1997.

Communication Issues

Augsberger, David. *Caring Enough to Confront* Regal Books: Ventura, Calif. 1973.

Backus, William. *Telling Each Other the Truth*. Bethany:Minneapolis. 2000

Chapman, Gary, *The Five Love Languages*. Northfield Publishing:Chicago. 1992

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LIFE Ministries

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING QUESTIONNAIRE

GENERAL

1. How long have you known each other?
2. How long have you been engaged?
3. Does your family approve of your choice of a mate? If not, what are their reservations?
4. Are you well acquainted with your mate's immediate family?
Describe your relationship with them.
5. Name several reasons that led you to marry your mate.
6. What would you say makes a good marriage?
7. List three strengths and three weaknesses in your mate.

a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.
8. List three strengths and three weaknesses in yourself.

a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.
9. Are there any areas of your life that you find difficult to openly discuss with your mate to be? If so, what?
10. What would you consider as grounds for divorce?
11. Is there anything that makes you jealous of your mate?

12. What are your goals or aims in life? (List 2 or 3) Have you discussed these with your mate?

a.

b.

c.

SOCIAL

1. What are two activities (recreation, social, etc.) that you have in common?

a.

b.

2. Should each of you be permitted one night a week for your own interests? Why?

3. How important are certain dates (anniversary, birthday, etc.) to you?

4. Do you dislike any of your mate's family or friends? If so, who?

5. Do you have mutual friends? If so, how often are you together?

6. How much education has each of you had? Do either of you plan on continuing your education?

FAMILY AND HOME

1. Has divorce occurred in your family?

2. What was your response to your parents' method of handling their problems? What is your plan for settling problems?

3. How much influence should in-laws have on your marriage?

4. How do you feel about having children?

5. How many children would you like to have?

6. What is your belief regarding birth control?
7. What would you say makes a good parent?
8. What does it mean for the husband to be the head of the home?
9. How do you think children should be disciplined?
10. How do you feel about the wife working outside the home?
11. Are there any secrets that you should ever keep from each other?
Specify.
12. If your mate were to become permanently paralyzed a month after your wedding, would you be willing to care for him/her the rest of your life?
13. What is your belief regarding abortion? (Check one or more)
 - ☐ Should be the decision of the woman
 - ☐ Totally opposed under any circumstances
 - ☐ Opposed unless it is necessary to save life of the mother
 - ☐ Opposed except in cases of rape
 - ☐ Opposed unless child has severe handicap

SPIRITUAL

1. Do you have a relationship with God, having received Christ as your own savior? When did this occur?
2. Are your parents Christians?
3. Are you certain that your mate is a Christian? Explain.

4. What is the greatest thing God has ever done for you?
5. How do you think God looks at your right now?
6. What would you like to see God do in marriage?
7. What does it mean to be the spiritual leader of the home?

FINANCES

1. Have you and your mate agreed on how much you will need to operate your household?
2. What do you feel is the scriptural approach to giving back part of your resources to the Lord?
3. Which of you is going to handle the money and the payment of bills?
4. What is your opinion of buying on credit?
5. Should you or your mate be allowed to have money for personal expenses? For what items?
6. Have you planned any kind of budget? Will? Insurance program?

SEXUAL

1. What books have you read or tapes have you listened to on the subject of sex in marriage?
2. Do you think your knowledge of sexual and physical relations is excellent, good, fair? (circle one)
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being least important, 10 being the most

important, how important is sex in marriage?

4. Does your mate know of any sexual experiences you may have had in the past?
5. Do you think your mate is sexually adjusted and ready for marriage? List two reasons for your answer.
 - a.
 - b.
6. Do you think you are sexually adjusted and ready for marriage? List two reasons for your answer.
 - a.
 - b.
7. Are there any things sexually that make you embarrassed or inhibited?
8. In your opinion, what should be the limitations to a physical relationship before marriage? Give specifics.

SPENDING PLAN

EARNINGS/INCOME PER MONTH Salary #1 (net take-home) _____ Salary #2 (net take-home) _____ Other (less taxes) _____ TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME _____	TOTALS \$ _____	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> 1. GIVING % GUIDE Church _____ OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS _____ 2. SAVING 5-10% EMERGENCY _____ REPLACEMENT _____ LONG TERM _____ 3. DEBT 0-10% CREDIT CARDS: VISA _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____ American Express _____ Gas Cards _____ Department Stores _____ EDUCATION LOANS _____ OTHER LOANS: Bank Loans _____ Credit Union _____ Family/Friends _____ OTHER _____ 4. HOUSING 25-38% MORTGAGE/TAXES/RENT _____ MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS _____ UTILITIES: Electric _____ Gas _____ Water _____ Trash _____ Telephone/Internet _____ Cable TV _____ OTHER _____ 5. AUTO/TRANSP. 12-15% CAR PAYMENTS/LICENSE _____ GAS & BUS/TRAIN/PARKING _____ OIL/LUBE/MAINTENANCE _____ </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> 6. INSURANCE (Paid by you) 5% AUTO _____ HOMEOWNERS _____ LIFE _____ MEDICAL/DENTAL _____ Other _____ 7. HOUSEHOLD/PERSONAL 15-25% GROCERIES _____ CLOTHES/DRY CLEANING _____ GIFTS _____ HOUSEHOLD ITEMS _____ PERSONAL: Liquor/Tobacco _____ Cosmetics _____ Barber/Beauty _____ OTHER: Books/Magazines _____ Allowances _____ Music Lessons _____ Personal Technology _____ Education _____ Miscellaneous _____ 8. ENTERTAINMENT 5-10% GOING OUT: Meals _____ Movies/Events _____ Baby-sitting _____ TRAVEL (VACATION/TRIPS) _____ OTHER: Fitness/Sports _____ Hobbies _____ Media Rental _____ OTHER _____ 9. PROF. SERVICES 5-15% CHILD CARE _____ MEDICAL/DENTAL/PRESC. _____ OTHER: Legal _____ Counseling _____ Professional Dues _____ 10. MISC. SMALL CASH EXPENDITURES 2-3% </td> </tr> </table>	1. GIVING % GUIDE Church _____ OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS _____ 2. SAVING 5-10% EMERGENCY _____ REPLACEMENT _____ LONG TERM _____ 3. DEBT 0-10% CREDIT CARDS: VISA _____ Master Card _____ Discover _____ American Express _____ Gas Cards _____ Department Stores _____ EDUCATION LOANS _____ OTHER LOANS: Bank Loans _____ Credit Union _____ Family/Friends _____ OTHER _____ 4. HOUSING 25-38% MORTGAGE/TAXES/RENT _____ MAINTENANCE/REPAIRS _____ UTILITIES: Electric _____ Gas _____ Water _____ Trash _____ Telephone/Internet _____ Cable TV _____ OTHER _____ 5. AUTO/TRANSP. 12-15% CAR PAYMENTS/LICENSE _____ GAS & BUS/TRAIN/PARKING _____ OIL/LUBE/MAINTENANCE _____	6. INSURANCE (Paid by you) 5% AUTO _____ HOMEOWNERS _____ LIFE _____ MEDICAL/DENTAL _____ Other _____ 7. HOUSEHOLD/PERSONAL 15-25% GROCERIES _____ CLOTHES/DRY CLEANING _____ GIFTS _____ HOUSEHOLD ITEMS _____ PERSONAL: Liquor/Tobacco _____ Cosmetics _____ Barber/Beauty _____ OTHER: Books/Magazines _____ Allowances _____ Music Lessons _____ Personal Technology _____ Education _____ Miscellaneous _____ 8. ENTERTAINMENT 5-10% GOING OUT: Meals _____ Movies/Events _____ Baby-sitting _____ TRAVEL (VACATION/TRIPS) _____ OTHER: Fitness/Sports _____ Hobbies _____ Media Rental _____ OTHER _____ 9. PROF. SERVICES 5-15% CHILD CARE _____ MEDICAL/DENTAL/PRESC. _____ OTHER: Legal _____ Counseling _____ Professional Dues _____ 10. MISC. SMALL CASH EXPENDITURES 2-3%
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* This is a % of total monthly income. These are guidelines only and may be different for individual situations. However, there should be good rationale for a significant variance.

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME	\$ _____
LESS TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ _____
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSES	\$ _____

Item	Amount Owed	Interest	Minimum Monthly Payment	Additional Payment \$	Payment Plan and Pay-off Dates
Total					

- The first and second columns list to whom the debt is owed and the amount owed. Debts are listed in the order of lowest to highest amount.
- The third and fourth columns list the interest rate and the minimum monthly payment.