

306 – Pre-marital Counseling

I. Introduction

People planning for marriage would never admit to having a presenting problem. As a result of their motives for counseling, we view pre-marital counseling as a four-step objective:

- A. To help them to get to _____, _____ and _____ each other
- B. To explore _____ for marriage.
- C. To teach biblical _____ regarding identity in Christ.
- D. To discover and accept each other's _____

II. Mentor's Role

- A. Establish a _____
- B. Express Genuine Openness and _____
- C. Evangelize and _____
- D. Evaluate eligibility of couple
 - 1. Test for Spiritual _____
 - a. Personality Tests
 - b. Premarital questionnaire (attached)
 - c. Stewardship
 - 2. Honesty regarding _____
 - 3. Considerations for _____

E. Project a _____ Approach to Marriage

F. _____ Stages of Marriage

1. Enchantment
2. Disenchantment
3. Maturity

G. 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*
 - c) *Love and Respect - Eggerichs*
2. Sexual Issues
 - a) *Love Life - Wheat*
 - b) *Intended for Pleasure – Wheat*
 - c) *The Act of Marriage – LaHaye*
3. Communication Issues
 - a) *Five Languages of Love*
 - 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*

III. God's Design for Marriage

A. God's _____

B. God's _____

C. God's _____

D. God's _____

E. _____ directed by God

IV. Additional Issues

A. _____ Areas

1. Pre-marital Relationships

2. Boundaries

B. Review Plans and Beliefs Regarding _____

C. The Wedding _____

Bibliography

Marriage and Family Issues

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

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Sexual Issues

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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, ect.) 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.