

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE INVENTORY

A Questionnaire for Engaged Couples

Instructions

- Without consulting your fiancé(e) fill in the assigned section(s) as completely as possible.
- Don't be concerned with the "rightness" or "wrongness" of your answers. Your personal opinion and viewpoint is what counts.
- Be as thorough and honest as you can.

PART 1 – SELECTING A LIFE PARTNER

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. There should not be a great difference in age between marriage partners. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. A couple facing marriage should get advice from their parents regarding the new couples' hopes and plans. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. In selecting a marriage partner an important question to ask is "Will this marriage increase my love for God?" | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. A good way to determine the character of a prospective husband is to consider his relationship with his mother. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| e. Every wife should be trained in some business whereby, if necessary, she could earn a living. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| f. Physical appearance should be a determining factor in mate selection. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

2. Reasons I have selected my fiancé(e) as my prospective wife/husband.

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. Qualities I am bringing to our marriage that will be assets to it.

- a.
- b.
- c.

4. Qualities my fiancé(e) is bringing to our marriage that will be assets to it.

- a.
- b.
- c.

5. Some ways my fiancé(e) and I are different are:

- a.
- b.
- c.

6. Some ways my fiancé(e) and I are alike are:

- a.
- b.
- c.

7. Some areas where we are really strong are:

- a.
- b.
- c.

8. Some areas where we are not as strong as we would like to be are:

- a.
- b.
- c.

9. Rate yourself by circling the number that best applies to you. Key: 1 = Very False; 2 = False; 3 = Undecided; 4 = True; 5 = Very True.

a. He/She is physically attractive to me.	1	2	3	4	5
b. I don't feel defensive or embarrassed by his/her physical characteristics.	1	2	3	4	5
c. We agree on the things worth sacrificing for in life.	1	2	3	4	5
d. We are both committed Christians.	1	2	3	4	5
e. I have known him/her long enough and well enough that I have discovered our inevitable points of disagreement.	1	2	3	4	5
f. I respect his/her mental ability.	1	2	3	4	5

- | | |
|----|----|
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

b. Re-list them by categories according to the way you think your fiancé(e) would list them:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

4. Choose one of the above categories. Write your selection here:

a. What specific plans will be necessary to reach it?

b. How soon do you think the goal should be reached? (Circle your answer)

Immediately 1 year 5 years 10 years More than 10 years

c. How do you think you will feel if plans do not work out to reach the goal when and how you had hoped?

PART III – LOVE AND FEELINGS

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. Open expressions of love tend to show the weaker side of one’s character, and it is thus better to be more reserved. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. Love once expressed need not often be repeated as long as it is understood between marriage partners. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. A sacred circle surrounds each married couple and one or the other should not share the confidences of their marriage with those outside of it. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. Love is a feeling. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| e. Good Christians don’t get angry. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

2. State several things that you are going to do after marriage to help the love between you and your partner to grow.

a.

b.

c.

3. List the things that you would like your partner to do to show his/her love for you.

a.

b.

c.

4. Complete:

“Sometimes I just want to be left alone. Usually that is when

5. Complete:

“Some diversions or escapes I use in my life are

6. Complete:

“When I am hurt, I would appreciate it if you

7. Complete:

“When you are hurt, I would appreciate it if you

8. Circle the answers that best describe your feelings:

a. I am hurt most when you

1. pay more attention to your work and studies than to me.
2. don't keep up your appearance.
3. are careless about money.
4. embarrass me publicly.
5. do all the talking.
6. leave everything up to me.
7. don't listen to me.

8. go out too much with your “friends.”
9. nag me.
10. when you want too much from me physically.
11. use slang or swear words in your conversation.
12. don't share the same spiritual values that I share.

b. When I am hurt I tend to

1. withdraw from you.
2. do something to hurt you.
3. get angry at you.
4. play the “martyr.”
5. talk to you gently.
6. get in a mood.
7. keep myself busy.

9. Complete:

"If in their marriage a couple found their love to be waning they should

10. Recall some instances when you were angry.

a.

b.

c.

11. When you are angry, what do you do? (Check the answer which best describes your usual response.)

a. Try to keep it under control.

b. Get it off my chest – explosively

c. Ignore it; try to pretend I'm not.

d. Acknowledge my feeling and seek to rationally work out the difficulty.

12. Pinpoint the thing or things in life that cause you to worry the most.

a.

b.

c.

13. List several things that make you feel worthwhile.

a.

b.

c.

14. List several things that make your fiancé(e) feel worthwhile.

a.

b.

c.

PART IV – RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Complete:

“Marriage is a fitting symbol of the relationship between Christ and His church because

2. Circle the answer(s) which you feel are appropriate:

The Bible describes a man and a woman in a marriage relationship as being “one flesh.”
This means that:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. the woman loses her individuality. | f. they are to make a lifelong commitment to each other. |
| b. the man loses his individuality. | g. they are joined into a new entity by God. |
| c. they are to unite sexually. | h. none of the above. |
| d. they complement each other. | |
| e. they have the same feelings about things. | |

3. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following: (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. Husband and wife are equal. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. The husband should lead in family worship. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. Marriage is a permanent relationship. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. A good order of priorities in a home would be God first, the church second, marriage third and family fourth. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| e. Husbands and wives have individual relationships with God, so it is not really important that they pray together. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| f. The role that God plays in the marriage has very little to do with the success of it. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| g. A couple should expect growth in marriage to continue for a lifetime. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

4. List some ways that you think the church can be helpful to your marriage.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

5. Complete:

“Spiritually, I expect from you (my prospective wife/husband)

6. Describe in a few sentences your belief about Jesus Christ.

7. Complete:

“The times when I feel good about myself are

8. Complete:

“The times when I feel unsure, discouraged, not so valuable are

9. Things my fiancé(e) can say and do that life my sense of personal worth:

- a.
- b.
- c.

PART V – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN MARRIAGE

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. Since the wife is assigned the subordinate position in marriage, she is not on an equal basis with man. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. Doing “woman’s work” robs a husband of status. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. A wife should possess skills of housekeeping and child care. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. The husband and father is head of the household. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| e. Husband and wife should never criticize each other’s plans or question each other’s judgment in the presence of others. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| f. Marriage means that usually one partner or the other will have to sacrifice his individuality to some degree. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

g. A wife may combine a career and homemaking. SD D NS A SA

h. Some jobs in a household are definitely feminine, others definitely masculine. SD D NS A SA

2. List several ways in which you treat your partner as your equal.

a.

b.

c.

3. Complete:

“To me Ephesians 5:22-25 means

PART VI – COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

a. Married couples should keep no secrets from each other. SD D NS A SA

b. Disagreements usually are settled by one or the other giving in. SD D NS A SA

c. Most marriage communication problems are caused by the couple not taking time to be with each other. SD D NS A SA

d. If a couple should discover themselves mismatched and miserable, they ought still to make the best of their situation. SD D NS A SA

e. Both husband and wife should be willing to yield his or her way or opinion. SD D NS A SA

f. Usually the husband should make the final decision when he and his wife cannot agree on something. SD D NS A SA

2. Some things we don't seem to be able to communicate about are:

a.

b.

c.

3. Complete:

“Important decisions in our marriage will be made

4. Circle the answer you think is best:

a. Do you wish your fiancé(e) would talk to you more?

Always Sometimes Seldom Never

b. When _____ talks to you, do you try to make him or her think you are paying attention when you are not?

Always Sometimes Seldom Never

c. Can you feel comfortable for your fiancé(e) to have ideas on certain subjects that do not agree with yours?

Always Sometimes Seldom Never

5. Multiple choice:

“When I pray I

a. share openly and honestly with God.

c. take time to listen.

b. feel uncomfortable and anxious.

d. feel comfortable and relaxed.

e. other _____

6. If you and your future wife/husband get involved in a disagreement, argument or conflict, what will you do to resolve it?

7. After a disagreement who initiates the first move to make up?

8. Some things my fiancé(e) and I disagree about are:

a.

b.

c.

PART VII – IN-LAWS

1. Describe your parents’ attitude toward your marriage.

Favorable Unfavorable I’m not sure

2. Describe your future in-laws’ attitude toward your marriage.

Favorable Unfavorable I’m not sure

3. Do your parents and your fiancé(e)’s parents like each other?

Yes No

4. If your answer to 3 was “No,” how you will relate to this?

5. What are some of the wishes of both families which you intend to include in your wedding plans?

6. If you felt your in-laws were “meddling” in your lives what would you do? (Check your response, whether or not you think it is ideal)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. ___ Move away | g. ___ Just accept it |
| b. ___ Tell them off | h. ___ Not visit them anymore |
| c. ___ Become very defensive | i. ___ Pray about it |
| d. ___ Not speak to them | j. ___ Talk to them honestly and forthrightly |
| e. ___ Get angry | k. ___ Other _____ |
| f. ___ Try to reason with them | |

7. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. It is appropriate for in-laws to live with their married children. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. A couple should get advice periodically from their in-laws. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. Equal amounts of time should be spent with the in-laws at vacation time. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. It’s all right to accept money from in-laws. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| e. Marriage partners should do what brings happiness between them even if it disturbs their parents’ happiness. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

8. Describe two things about your future mother-in-law and father-in-law that you really like.

Mother-in-law

a.

b.

Father-in-law

a.

b.

9. Describe two things about your future mother-in-law and father-in-law that you do not like.

Mother-in-law

a.

b.

Father-in-law

a.

b.

10. What do you plan to do about the items mentioned in #8 above?

11. Complete the following statements:

"In-laws

12. "If I should become a mother-in-law/father-in-law

PART VIII – FINANCES

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? In the left-hand column put "A" or "D" for your answers; in the right-hand column put "A" or "D" according to the way you think your fiancé(e) feels.

___ a. A home should have a television set. _____

___ b. It is important for a woman to go to the beauty salon each week. _____

___ c. Tithe belongs to the Lord and should never be spent for anything else. _____

___ d. A vacation should be planned each year. _____

___ e. It is best to have two cars in the family. _____

- ___ f. Money earned by the husband and wife should be kept separate and used separately. _____
- ___ g. A couple should always have some money in a savings account. _____
- ___ h. Everyone should have two or three credit cards. _____
- ___ i. Buying on the installment plan is a good idea. _____
- ___ j. Offerings are free-will gifts to God and may vary each time we give. _____
- ___ k. Life insurance is a must for the head of the household. _____
- ___ l. The budget should be planned together. _____
- ___ m. Only monthly expenditures should be included in the budget. _____
- ___ n. A house should be fully furnished when a couple moves in. _____
- ___ o. Quality should be considered more than price when purchasing clothing or furnishings. _____
- ___ p. The man should handle the checkbook. _____
- ___ q. Purchases of \$25 or more should not be made without both partners consulting together. _____
- ___ r. Each member of the family (including children as soon as they are old enough) should have a personal allowance. _____

2. Do you think your fiancé(e) handles money well? Yes No

 If "No," how will you relate to this?

3. If your parents or your parents-in-law offered to give you a generous sum of money to help you out, what would you do? (Circle your answer)

- a. Accept it graciously as a gift without thought of repayment
- b. Receive it reluctantly with a promise to repay
- c. Reject the offer
- d. Accept only that portion which you were confident you could repay

4. How will you determine how much money you as a couple give to the church?

PART IX – SEXUALITY AND FAMILY PLANNING

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following? (Circle your answer) Key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; NS=Not Sure; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree.

- | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| a. Sex in marriage is a beautiful thing over which God commissions angels to preside. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| b. Sex is appropriate on Sabbath. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| c. Either partner may initiate sexual intimacy. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |
| d. Each partner should experience orgasm for sex to be satisfactory. | SD | D | NS | A | SA |

2. Where did you get your earliest information about sex?

3. Indicate your level of comfort with the following: (Check the appropriate column)

- | | Very Comfortable | Comfortable | Uncomfortable |
|---|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| a. Your physical relationship so far. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b. The amount of demonstration of affection so far. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c. Your present knowledge of sex. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| d. Your ability to communicate with your fiancé(e) about the role sex should have now. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| e. Your ability to communicate with your fiancé(e) about the role sex will have when you are married. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| f. Your fiancé(e)'s friendships with those of the opposite sex. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

4. Who generally takes the initiative in the demonstration of affection?

5. Will you use contraceptives?

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|
| Yes | No | Uncertain |
|-----|----|-----------|
6. Do you plan to have children?

- | | | |
|-----|----|-----------|
| Yes | No | Uncertain |
|-----|----|-----------|

7. How does your future wife/husband feel about your plans for children?

___ a. Strongly Disagrees

___ b. Disagrees

___ c. Not Sure

___ d. Agrees

___ e. Strongly Agrees

___ f. Other

8. How many children would be ideal for you?

9. When do you plan for your first child to be born? _____

Your Second? _____

Others? _____

10. Complete the following to include your beliefs and feelings:

“Abortion is

PART X – HEALTH AND HABITS

1. Do you Agree or Disagree with the following statement:

The state of one’s health has little to do with marital happiness.

Agree

Disagree

Uncertain

2. How would you rate your present overall state of health?

Poor

Fair

Good

Above Average Excellent

3. In which of the following areas have you ever experienced ill health?

___ a. Physical

___ b. Mental

___ c. Emotional

___ d. Spiritual

___ e. Non of the Above

4. Complete the following: (use reverse side for added space)

a. I feel best physically

b. I feel worst physically

c. Mental health

d. Meal preparation

e. My prospective spouse’s health

f. To improve my health I will

g. My fiancé(e) can help me in my emotional development by

5. Does your fiancé(e) have any habits that are annoying to you?

Yes No Uncertain

If "Yes," list them and indicate how you plan to relate to them.

6. Do you think you have any habits that are annoying to your fiancé(e)?

Yes No Uncertain

If "Yes," list them and indicate what you plan to do about them.

PART XI – FAMILY BACKGROUND

1. On the continuums below place an (x) to rate the family atmosphere of the home in which you grew up.

Competitive Cooperative
Hostile Friendly
Autocratic Permissive
Orderly Chaotic

2. Check the appropriate column regarding the home in which you grew up:

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
a. We worked things out together.	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. It was o.k. to share feelings.	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. There was freedom to make choices and learn from mistakes.	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. I felt listened to.	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. All family members were treated as equals.	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Everyone's ideas were important.	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. I was allowed to do pretty much as I pleased.	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. I was afraid of my father.	_____	_____	_____	_____
i. I was afraid of my mother.	_____	_____	_____	_____
j. I was in conflict with someone.	_____	_____	_____	_____

k. I felt "put down." _____

3. Rate the following according to the way they were felt about in your family.

	Very Important	Less Important	Insignificant
a. Athletics/physical fitness	_____	_____	_____
b. Academic achievement	_____	_____	_____
c. Music	_____	_____	_____
d. Money	_____	_____	_____
e. Accumulating goods	_____	_____	_____
f. Hard work	_____	_____	_____
g. Education	_____	_____	_____
h. Power	_____	_____	_____
i. Control	_____	_____	_____
j. Winning	_____	_____	_____
k. Religion	_____	_____	_____
l. Cleanliness	_____	_____	_____
m. Respect for others	_____	_____	_____
n. Forgiveness	_____	_____	_____

4. In my family I was: ___eldest, ___second, ___middle, ___youngest, ___the only child.

5. Describe what your relationship with your father was/is like.

6. What similarities are there between you and your father?

What differences?

7. Describe what your relationship with your mother was/is like.

8. What similarities are there between you and your mother?

What differences?

9. Describe any similarities and differences you see between your fiancé and your father/your fiancée and your mother.

What differences?

10. What similarities will exist between the family you came from and the family you will be establishing?

What differences?

PART XII – PREPARING FOR REMARRIAGE

1. List the key reasons why you have decided to marry again:

a.

b.

c.

2. Some things I learned about myself from my previous marriage:

a.

b.

c.

3. Describe any changes which have come about in your life since the time of your previous marriage.

a.

b.

c.

4. What similarities exist between the expectations you had for your previous marriage and those you have for your next marriage?

a.

b.

c.

What differences?

a.

b.

c.

5. About my prospective marriage my children feel

6. Indications I see in my life that healing of the hurt and pain brought about by the ending of my first marriage is taking place:

a.

b.

c.

7. Some challenges I will face in a new relationship because of carry-overs from the past are:

a.

b.

c.