

Pre-Marriage Interview

Email _____

Phone _____

Full Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Birth date _____

Full name of intended mate _____ Age _____

Length of acquaintance _____ Length of engagement _____

Planned marriage date _____ Location _____

Time _____ Size of wedding party _____

Describe how you and your intended met for the very first time:

What were the characteristics or qualities of your intended that drew you together?

Have you been previously engaged? _____ Previously married? _____

If previously engaged/married, length of that engagement/marriage?

_____ Any children? _____ Ages of children?

_____ Who is the custodial parent?

_____ Have you and your intended discussed step-family dynamics? _____ Please explain: _____

Please complete this statement: "I want to get married at this particular time because..."

What things cause you irritation? _____

How do you express your irritation? _____

Sincere gratitude is a characteristic of being unselfish. **On a scale of 1-10**, please rate yourself as a "thanker" _____ Your intended _____

Using the same 1-10 scale, please rate the following:

My ability to be open and honest with my intended _____

My intended's ability to be open and honest with me _____

My desire and ability to listen to and really "hear" my intended _____

My intended's desire and ability to listen to and really "hear" me _____

My ability to accept uncomfortable truth about myself _____

My intended's ability to accept uncomfortable truth about them _____

My ability to accept complements _____

My intended's ability to accept compliment's _____

Your willingness to seek outside help for relationship problems _____

Your intended's willingness to do the same _____

How important is another's tone of voice to you _____

What does your intended do to help you feel valid as a person?

The proposal of marriage is always a special experience. Describe your proposal "scene"

Describe another especially meaningful time or experience you shared with your intended _____

When did your intended last surprise you with some kind of expression that served to say, "I love you"? _____ What was it? _____

What is your birth order within your family (1st born, middle, 2nd of 6, etc.) _____ If you were adopted, where do you fit in the "birth order" of your adopted family _____ If you have siblings, are they boys or girls, and are they older or younger _____

Describe the relationship you have with your parents _____

Family traditions are important for many reasons. What were some of the traditions your family had while you were growing up? _____

What traditions would you like to cultivate in the family you are now forming?

Describe your intended's health (good, bad, etc.) _____ Describe any health concerns that you are aware of: _____

Describe some fun things the two of you have *not* tried that you think might be fun for the two of you _____

Do you think that there is only one person in the whole world who is the "right one" for you? _____ Explain _____

Please indicate what you consider the best description of the marital adjustment of your parents during most of your childhood and adolescence:

Living together and very happy _____ Living together and fairly happy _____

Living together and fairly unhappy _____ Living together in bitter conflict _____

Divorced or separated _____ If separated or divorced, your age when they separated _____ Anything else? _____

As a child, did you attend church? _____ Which one? _____

Describe what your current walk with God looks like: _____

Describe your intended's current walk with God: _____

Are there any spiritual differences that give you cause for concern, or that you do not understand or agree with? _____ What are they? _____

Have you and your intended discussed church attendance for once you are married? _____ What agreement have you reached? _____

How often have the two of you attended church together in the last six months? _____ How do you feel about this? _____

Please write your personal definition of "marriage": _____

Place an "M" on the scale below indicating **your** interest in spiritual things and a "I" to indicate the interest of your **intended mate**:

0 _____ 10

Please list any aspects that may be troubling you regarding your coming marriage:

If you could relive your courtship with your intended, what would you like to do differently? _____

Describe your current employment _____

What professional, career, and educational goals do you have? _____

Describe your intended's current employment _____

What professional, career, and educational goals do they have? _____

Good communication is vital in marriage. How do you define "communication"?

Do you get the sense that you are talking and it seems your intended isn't really listening?

How do you deal with trying to listen to your intended if they have done something to irritate or hurt you? _____

Describe your picture of the ideal wife: _____

Describe your picture of the ideal husband: _____

Please rate yourself and your intended in terms of the following areas. Place an "M" for **yourself** and a "T" for **your intended** under the column that best indicates the degree each of you has each trait:

	<u>Very Much</u>	<u>Considerable</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not At All</u>
<u>Flexible</u>				
<u>Dominating</u>				
<u>Submissive</u>				
<u>Anxious</u>				
<u>Jealous</u>				
<u>Ambitious</u>				
<u>Moody</u>				
<u>Loving</u>				
<u>Respectful</u>				
<u>Responsible w/money</u>				
<u>Honest</u>				
<u>Teachable</u>				

How much time do you spend on average each day looking at a screen that is not work-related (computer, phone, television, other?) _____ Your intended? _____

How many and which social-media accounts do you have? _____

Your intended? _____

How often do you access/check/update your account/status? _____

Your intended? _____

What are your thoughts about you and your intended having complete, unfettered access to each other's' email and other accounts? _____

What are your thoughts on having a site blocking and accountability program (like "Covenant Eyes") running on all of your and your intended's devices that can access the internet? _____

Have the two of you discussed having children together? _____ What have the two of you agreed on? _____ If you are planning on having children after you are married, how soon would you want to have them and how many do you want to have? _____

Children change the dynamics of a marriage. Describe the conclusions the two of you have come to on parenting roles and responsibilities as well as parenting/discipline styles:

Is there any other aspect regarding your coming marriage that you particularly wish to discuss? _____

Describe any issues that you and your intended disagree on that you would like to see resolved soon _____

Is there some aspect of your family's life or relationship that you would like to see different in the family you are beginning? _____

Describe some specific things you have admired or appreciated about your parents

Do you know a couple whose marriage you would consider "successful"?
_____ If so, who? _____ What do you
perceive about their relationship that makes it that way? _____

From what you have observed, what are some specific causes of marriages failing and
breaking apart? _____

What are your personal feelings on "joint" versus "separate" finances once the two of
you are married? _____

Are you aware of all financial obligations of your intended? _____

Will these become "joint" obligations, or how will they be treated? _____

Have the two of you discussed having a will? _____ At what point will this
become important enough to pursue? _____

Have the two of you discussed life insurance? _____ At what point will this
become important enough to pursue? _____

Have either one or both of you begun financial planning that will adequately provide for
your family when you reach retirement age? _____

What is your philosophy about credit cards? _____

Your intended's philosophy about them? _____

How much money would you feel comfortable spending without conferring with your
partner? _____ How come? _____

What are the social situations in which you feel the *least* comfortable and why?

What are the social situations in which you feel the *most* comfortable and why?

Take a moment to describe an ideal vacation for you: _____

If you were guaranteed that you could not possibly fail, what would you dream of doing?

If you could have lunch with any person, living or departed, in the world (your intended excluded), whom would you choose and what would you want to discuss with them?

If you could re-enter history during any event or specific period, where would you most like to "show up", and why? _____

Name 3 people who have been the greatest influence on your life and describe specifically how they have impacted you: _____

What is it that you feel you have to bring to this marriage that will help to ensure that it is full and rich with all that God intends for it to have and to be? _____

What is your view of the traditional marriage vows: _____

Who do you have in your life that your intended can speak to who knows you well and will speak honestly about your strengths, weaknesses, character, and life experiences? _____ . If you have not already done so, are you willing to provide this resource for your intended? _____. If yes, when can that be arranged? _____ If no, why not? _____

Who is there in your life who knows you well and would give you the best and most honest opinion about whether or not this is a good match for you? _____ . If you have not already done so, are you willing to see that this person meets your intended and has an opportunity to make that assessment? _____. If yes, when can that be arranged? _____ If no, why not? _____

If this has already taken place, what was the outcome? _____

Is there anything else you feel I should know or that you want to ensure that the three of us discuss? _____

Uniqueness and Acceptance in Marriage

Every person who marries has characteristics similar to the one they marry. They also have many characteristics that are different. Understanding and adjusting to different ways of thinking, of feeling, of perceiving, of reacting and of behaving are part of the excitement and challenge of blending two people into one. Understanding and dealing with “different-ness” is an important part of developing healthy, meaningful relationships. Consciously or unconsciously, people choose mates who can harmonize with their own characteristics. On the other hand, this natural different-ness may contain seeds for hurt and disorder, resulting in trouble and disruption. Why? Simply put, we can often feel threatened by the differences once the newness has worn off. We can fear having to give up something that we see as our right, or as a part of us that has great value. Also, many times we easily but wrongly believe that different is necessarily “wrong”.

Complete the following section as objectively as possible:

<u>We are similar in these areas:</u>	<u>We are different in these areas:</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____

Where do you stand on the Bible's formula for marriage and description of the different roles of the husband and the wife as found in *Ephesians 5:22-33*, and *1 Peter 3:1-7*?

Where do you believe your intended stands on these same matters? _____

Do you see any cause for concern in this area? _____ Please explain:

There is one final section I would like for you to complete before the two of you discuss what you have written and before the three of us meet together. Please take time to prayerfully consider your answers and to speak openly and honestly, from your own heart. There really are no “right” or “wrong” answers – what you perceive is real, and it is important for both of you to understand these things.

What Are You Expecting?

Every person who marries enters the relationship with certain expectations. These can come from a variety of sources and influences: from parents, society, books, movies, past experience, personal values, etc. It is extremely important to take the time to identify what is expected, what is achievable, what is negotiable, and what is non-negotiable, what is realistic, and how to handle the situation when things do not work out as we thought. Write down at least 10 expectations that you have of your spouse. Having more than 10 is okay. Use the reverse side if you need to. Your honest response to this exercise can have an enormous effect on the marriage that follows your wedding. Keep in mind that honesty and authenticity are a vital part of any healthy relationship. This is ever truer for those entering into the marriage relationship.

I am expecting that my spouse:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

These items will certainly need to be discussed with your intended before your wedding day. If you have not already done so, plan a time when the two of you can sit down without interruptions and spend time with your lists.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. I hope that you found it thought provoking and rewarding as well. I consider it a privilege to work with both of you on one of the most significant steps of commitment in all of life. My desire is to accurately communicate God's plan and design for marriage and to be His spokesperson as you prepare to exchange the most important vows of your lives. I will do what I can do to help ensure that this happens.

May God graciously guide and richly bless you both on this leg of your journey toward the day when you become husband and wife, the day when you publicly celebrate the love you share, and the day that you enter into the mystery of marriage that God describes with the words, "and they shall become one flesh."

