

Important Questions to Discuss For a Healthy Marriage

(For you and your prospective spouse)

1. Spiritual:

- a. Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?
 - i. If yes, how committed are you and your partner to Him? What does this reveal that applies to your / their commitment to the marriage?
 - ii. If not, what will be the foundation on which you and your marriage stand?
- b. Where will you gain the wisdom and strength required to build and maintain a strong marriage?
- c. Are you equally yoked? (2 Cor. 6:14)
- d. What are your expectations for you and any children that you may have, about where to worship, serve and learn about the Lord?
- e. Who will take the responsibility for your children's spiritual growth? (Deut. 6:5-7)
- f. Who will lead in spiritual matters in your home?
- g. Do you have someone who is willing to encourage you and hold you accountable in your spiritual growth and marriage? If not, are you willing to find a wise friend or couple to do this?
- h. Do you believe the Bible is God's Word and that it is true?
 - i. If yes, do you study and obey His Word?
 - ii. If no, what determines what is right and wrong for you?
 1. Your opinion
 2. Your feelings
 3. Someone or something else?

2. Relational:

- a. Are you willing to marry this person if they never change?
- b. Do you respect your future spouse's character enough to live with it for the rest of your life? (honesty, integrity, responsible, etc.)
- c. How does each of you view the role of men and women, and how will this affect your marriage? (God's blueprint: Ephesians 5:22-33)
- d. How does each of you handle conflict and how will this affect your marriage and how do you plan to handle conflict in your marriage? What will be your plan or protocol for handling conflict?
- e. Describe your parents when it comes to:
 - i. Marriage
 - ii. Communication methods
 - iii. How affection is shown (or not)
 - iv. How conflict is handled
- f. Based on each of your pasts and how each of you were raised, discuss potential problems that you may encounter.
- g. How will you handle extended family relationships?
 - i. The contact you both plan to have with your extended families.
 - ii. Handling any family issues or conflicts that may arise during the holidays
 - iii. Expectations in family relationships.

- h. Have you given your relationship the test of time to see if you are just attracted to each other or if this is real lasting love?
 - i. What past hurts and disappointments have you experienced and how has this affected the person you are today?
 - i. Have you forgiven those that have hurt you?
 - ii. Have you forgiven yourself for past choices?
 - iii. Are you enslaved to the past due to un-forgiveness?
 - iv. How may past hurts affect your marriage?
 - v. Will either of you allow the painful past to poison your future?
 - j. Similarities and differences (such as quiet vs. outgoing, etc.):
 - i. What similarities do you have?
 - ii. What differences do you have?
 - iii. How may these affect your marriage?
 - iv. How might they be a source of frustration or strength to your marriage?
 - k. What are your expectations about sex?
 - l. How do you plan to keep romance in your marriage?
 - m. What makes you feel most loved? Such as:
 - i. Someone pending time with you
 - ii. Gifts
 - iii. Physical touch
 - iv. Acts of kindness
 - v. Words of appreciation or affirmation
 - n. What hobbies, recreation and fun activities do each of you enjoy and how will you build these in to your relationship?
 - o. What can you enjoy together as a family?
3. Communication:
- a. Are you willing to share your thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams and hurts with your spouse? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself, and feel your spouse should know you without having to say anything?
 - i. If yes, how will this impact your marriage?
 - ii. Is this fair to your spouse?
 - iii. What happens when they guess wrong?
 - c. Are you willing to take time each day to keep your communication strong?
4. Financial:
- a. Who will be the provider / “bread winner”?
 - b. Who will pay the bills?
 - c. What are each of your views on spending and saving? And, how will this affect your daily life and relationship?
 - d. What will you do when you have a difference of opinion on your finances? Who will have the final word on this?
 - e. What are your views on:
 - i. Tithing
 - ii. Retirement
 - iii. Savings

- iv. Credit cards and debt
 - v. Joint ownership or separate accounts
 - vi. Gift giving
 - vii. The kids: clothing; allowance; college; etc.
 - f. In what ways, if any, might you feel entitled to spend money on yourself?
 - g. Do you seek God's will in your financial decisions / stewardship?
5. Child rearing:
- a. Do you want to have children? How many? When?
 - b. Do you have children and if so, how do you plan to handle step children, half-siblings, adopted children and your birth children as it applies?
 - c. What are your roles and expectations in:
 - i. Discipline and correction
 - ii. Spiritual education
 - iii. Values, character training
 - iv. Education
 - v. Chores and teaching them a work ethic
 - vi. Dating
 - vii. TV, video games, entertainment
 - viii. Computer and internet
 - ix. Time with your children
 - x. Teaching them life skills
 - xi. How to handle conflict
 - xii. Fun and recreation
 - xiii. Allowance
 - xiv. How you and your spouse plan to share these responsibilities
 - d. How will you handle issues with your step children's parents if this applies?

The following are some Bible references on marriage:

- † Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5 (one flesh)
- † Hebrews 14:4 (the marriage bed held in honor)
- † 1 Corinthians 11:3 (headship)
- † Ephesians 5:22-6:4 (husband, wives and children)
- † 1 Peter 3:1-12 (more on husbands and wives)
- † Colossians 3:18-21 (wives, husbands and children)
- † 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (Love)
- † Matthew 6:19-21; 24-25; 31-33 (serve God or money)
- † Proverbs 3:9-10 (honor God with our wealth)
- † 2 Corinthians 9:7-14 (a cheerful giver)