

A MARRIAGE PREPARATION INVENTORY

This questionnaire is designed to help identify strengths and potential trouble-spots in your relationship. Most of the questions have no “right” answers; the important thing is for you to clearly state your **perceptions** in each case. Please do not discuss your answers with each other until after you have finished the questionnaire and emailed copies to your premarital counselor (mblack@biblicalcounselingcenter.org). The counselor conducting your pre-marital counseling is the only other person who will read your responses.

Your name _____ Birth date _____ Age _____

Local Address _____

Phone _____ Occupation _____

Schooling Completed _____

A. YOUR BACKGROUNDS

1. How long have you known your fiancé(e)? _____ When did you become convinced that you wanted to be married? (approximate date) _____

2. Indicate your parents' attitude toward your fiancé(e): total acceptance _____; acceptance with reservations _____; disapproval _____.

3. How do you perceive your prospective in-laws' attitude toward you: total acceptance _____; acceptance with reservations _____; disapproval _____.

4. Comment on the familiar statement, “You don’t just marry the individual; you marry the whole family,” in terms of how you see it applying in your case. _____

5. Compare your family backgrounds:

	<u>Yours</u>	<u>Fiancé (e)’s</u>
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Parents living? (if not, date of death)	_____	_____
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Parents living together? (if not, date of sep.)	_____	_____
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Number and gender of siblings	_____	_____
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Hometown	_____	_____
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Father’s occupation	_____	_____
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Mother’s occupation	_____	_____
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Family’s socio-economic level	_____	_____
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Family’s church affiliation	_____	_____
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Degree of their church involvement	_____	_____
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Depth of their Christian commitment	_____	_____
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Their political party affiliation _____

Hereditary health problems? _____

6. Have you been married before? _____

7. Have you been in any other relationship that you thought would lead to marriage?

If so, what happened?

8. Describe the marriage you have observed which you most want yours to resemble. _____

9. List the strengths of your parents' marriage that you most want to experience in your own.

10. What weaknesses in your parents' marriage do you wish to avoid? _____

B. YOUR PERSONALITIES AND TEMPERAMENTS

1. Indicate which of you tends more (in relation to the other) to be:
(mark "M" for the man "W" for the woman; be prepared to cite examples)

the extrovert	_____	the home-body	_____
the introvert	_____	the party-person	_____
the talker	_____	neater	_____
the listener	_____	messier	_____
the thinker	_____	more ambitious	_____
the doer	_____	more complacent	_____
the planner	_____	more punctual	_____
the procrastinator	_____	more tardy	_____
the pouter	_____	more easy-going	_____
the shouter	_____	more quick-tempered	_____
the optimist	_____	more impulsive	_____
the pessimist	_____	more cautious	_____

the night person _____
 the morning person _____
 the spender _____
 the saver _____

more spontaneous _____
 more organized _____
 more manipulative _____
 more compliant _____

2. On the lines below, indicate the relative levels of maturity which you think you and your fiancé(e) have reached respectively, as compared with your age group. (On each line place an "M" for the man, and a "W" for the woman at the appropriate spot.)

Emotionally	Immature	Mature	
Intellectually			
Socially			
Spiritually			
	1	2	3 4 5

3. In the same fashion, indicate how each of you tends to express the following feelings:

	Internalize	Internalize, then verbalize	Verbalize quickly	
Anger				
Disappointment				
Frustration				
Guilt				
Joy				
	1	2	3 4 5	

4. List some of your fiancé(e)'s characteristics which are most attractive to you. _____

5. Which of your fiancé(e)'s traits, habits, or mannerisms do you at least occasionally find irritating? _____

6. Which traits does your fiancé(e) share with:

his/her father

his/her mother

your father

your mother

7. Which traits identified in #6 do you tend to dislike?

8. In which areas would you like your fiancé(e) to help you improve yourself? _____

9. In which areas would you like to help your fiancé(e) improve? _____

C. YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1. List the most significant interests you share in common.

2. Indicate the relative importance of the following aspects of your relationship as indicated by the time and attention devoted to each. (Mark with an "X" at the appropriate spot.)

Little

Much

Practical (doing things together) _____

Intellectual (discussing thoughts, ideas) _____

Physical (discussing, engaging in sexual activity) _____

Emotional (dealing with feelings) _____

Spiritual (Bible reading, prayer, discussing faith) _____

3. Is the time you spend with your other close friends usually with _____, or without _____ your fiancé(e) also present?

4. What are your reading preferences?

Your fiancé(e)'s reading preferences?

5. Which books on marriage have you read?

6. What are some of the relational strengths which you can bring to the marriage? _____

7. What do you consider to be your weaknesses as a prospective marriage partner? _____

8. State honestly any fears, concerns, or apprehensions you feel about your anticipated marriage.

9. How do you intend to deal with these concerns? _____

10. What are some matters about which the two of you have different opinions? _____

11. How do you feel about arguing with him/her? Enjoyable _____; unpleasant _____; destructive _____; (other) _____

12. Do you sometimes feel guilty about the sexual involvement you have had with him/her?

D. YOUR FAITH

1. Describe your relationship with God. _____

2. What are the main influences that have shaped that relationship? _____

3. How does your expression of your faith differ from that of your fiancé(e)? _____

4. As you see it, how does a Christian marriage differ from any other? _____

5. How do you expect to cultivate your faith together after you are married? _____

6. What does the biblical phrase, “the husband is the head of the wife” mean to you?

E. YOUR FINANCES

1. Indicate relative inclinations to spend money in the following areas: (“M” for man, “W” for woman at the appropriate spot)

	Least Likely	Most Likely
New clothes	_____	_____
Hobbies, recreation	_____	_____
Automobile	_____	_____
Books, magazines	_____	_____
Movies, concerts	_____	_____
Music equipment, tapes, CDs	_____	_____
Home furnishings	_____	_____
Groceries	_____	_____
Eating out	_____	_____
Entertaining guests	_____	_____
Gifts for spouse	_____	_____
Gifts for others	_____	_____
Vacations	_____	_____

In which of the areas above would you say that your fiancé(e) might spend money frivolously?

In which areas do you think he/she might be too frugal? _____

2. For which does each of you tend to spend money more freely: experiences _____ or things _____? (Indicate with “M” or “W”)

3. Which of you has had more experience in managing finances? _____

4. Who will manage your family finances? _____

5. Do you have a tentative budget? _____

6. Will the wife be employed after you are married? _____ If so, are the reasons primarily financial _____, or commitment to a career _____?

F. YOUR FUTURE

1. If both plan careers, whose job determines where you will live? _____

2. How soon would you like to have children? _____ How many? _____

3. What form of birth control do you expect to use? _____

4. If an “accidental” pregnancy occurred, would you consider an abortion? _____ Does your fiancé(e) share your feeling about this? _____

5. If you should be unable to have your own, would you adopt a child? _____

6. What methods of discipline were most effective for you as a child? _____

7. How would your discipline of your children differ from that which you received? _____

8. What do you consider to be your primary responsibility for your spouse’s growth and development during the years of your marriage? _____

9. What would you like for him/her to say in answer to the previous question? _____

10. What do you intend to do to stay in love? _____

11. What circumstances, as you see it now, would lead you to seek a divorce? _____

12. If you specified a circumstance in #11, what will you do to prevent it? _____

13. If your answer to #11 was “none”, on what do you base that confidence? _____