

E-mail: _____

Wedding Date: _____
Fiancé(e): _____

A MARRIAGE PREPARATORY INVENTORY

Revision: Jul-12

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 state clearly your perceptions in each case. Obviously, this exercise will be more helpful if you do not discuss your answers with each other until after you have finished the questionnaire. These forms will be returned to you when the counseling is completed.

Your Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Local Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____, Zip Code: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Schooling Completed: _____

A. YOUR BACKGROUND

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>Fiancée</u>
Parents living? (If not, date of death)	_____	_____
Parents living together? (if not, date of sep)	_____	_____
Number and gender of siblings	_____	_____
Hometown	_____	_____
Father’s Occupation	_____	_____
Mother’s Occupation	_____	_____
Family’s socio-economic level	_____	_____
Family’s church affiliation	_____	_____
Degree of their church involvement	_____	_____
Their political party affiliation	_____	_____
Hereditary health problems	_____	_____

6. Have you ever been married before? _____ * If yes, provide on a separate sheet of paper an explanation for efforts to reconcile, reasons for divorce, and marital status of your ex-spouse.
7. Have you been in any other relationship which 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 which 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	_____	the night person	_____
more spontaneous	_____	more organized	_____
the morning person	_____	more manipulative	_____
the spender	_____	more compliant	_____
the saver	_____		

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.)

	Immature				Mature
emotionally	_____				
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. 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:
 fiancé(e)’s father _____
 fiancé(e)’s mother _____
 your father _____
 your mother _____

7. Which of the 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 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 his 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, CD's	_____	_____
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 do each of you tend to spend money more freely: experiences _____ or things _____? (Indicate with "M" and "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 feelings 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? _____
