



Effective Pre-Marital Counseling

Additional Notes:

Introduction

There are several reasons why I am advocating for personal mentoring.

1. Personal meetings are beneficial to the mentors and to your church.
2. Personal meetings are beneficial to the couple.
3. Personal meetings accomplish something classes cannot.

There are eight principles that I want every one of my couples to think about before they marry.

Principle #1: Jesus must be the Center of your life

A. What would m o t i v a t e my counselees to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and mind?

- Jesus died for them. (Matt 27:46)
- Jesus gave them a new identity.
- Jesus provides all the s p i r i t u a l
r e s o u r c e s they need to love, serve, and give.
(Romans 8:31-35)
- Jesus is their spouse's ONLY hero.

B. How can their marriage be the proper picture of C h r i s t and the church?

- Marital harmony and marital challenge can often be summarized by w o r s h i p.
- When you love Jesus first, you will be prepared to love your spouse.
- Person ... Partner ... Parent ... If you do not have the person part right, it is very hard to be a godly spouse.

Principle #2: Love with Jesus as the Center



**Additional
Notes:**

- A. Love is patient.**
- B. Love is k i n d.**
- C. Love is not jealous.**
- D. Love does not seek its own.**
- E. Love e n d u r e s all things.**

Principle #3: Problem Solving with Jesus as the Center

- A. Step 1: Take Responsibility for y o u r part of the problem.**
- B. Step 2: You must r e p e n t for your part of the problem.**
- C. Step 3: You must forgive.**
- D. Step 4: You must move forward.**

Principle #4: Roles and Expectations with Jesus as the Center

- A. God's Expectations for a Husband.**
- B. God's Expectations for a Wife.**
- C. The importance of being c a r e f u l regarding all other expectations.**

Principle #5: Communication with Jesus as the Center

- A. Communication begins with what you want.**
- B. Communication must be changed at the h e a r t l e v e l.**
- C. Those who communicate p r o p e r l y have similar characteristics.**
 - 1. They are honest.
 - 2. They do not allow a n g e r and b i t t e r n e s s to fester.
 - 3. They are e n c o u r a g i n g.



→ Affirmation

→ Affection

→ Security

Additional Notes:

4. They keep the filter in place that separates what they think from what comes out of their mouth.

Principle #6: Finances with Jesus as the Center

A. It is primarily about the heart.

B. It requires a budget governed by b i b l i c a l truth.

C. It demands a system of management.

Principle #7: Community with Jesus as the Center

A. It encourages couples to love and s e r v e others.

B. It equips couples to mature in the faith.

C. It provides others to care for the young couples.

Principle #8: Intimacy with J e s u s as the Center

A. God created sex for both procreation and meaningful relationship.

B. God created sex to be enjoyed within a m o n o g a m o u s marriage.

C. God designed sex for mutual benefit with a focus on pleasing one's spouse.