

Living Together Before Marriage

It is becoming increasingly common for couples to live together before pursuing a marriage commitment. When God first spoke about this issue, He said that both a man and woman would leave their parents and join together to form a new home and a new union in marriage [Genesis 2:24]. But many couples want to see how they will get along before they commit to marriage. While it may be convenient to follow what the world says is appropriate, we believe that God has something more for you.

The key to a great relationship before marriage is clear communication and boundaries. If one person is really pushing the other to live together, they are most likely doing it for selfish reasons. They are focusing on what they want, rather than the well-being of the relationship or other person. Don't expect your partner to be strong enough to avoid temptation for both of you. Have an honest conversation about realistic boundaries that you can set to keep your relationship pure. The standards set early on will lead to true intimacy in marriage.

Additional Helpful Scriptures

- Acts 15:20
- 1 Corinthians 5:1
- 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18
- 1 Corinthians 10:8
- 2 Corinthians 12:21
- Matthew 19:4-5

Community Resources:

- Smalley Institute is an online resource of books, articles, audio and DVD media on the subject of marriage, dating and parenting. smalley.cc
- Focus on the Family is a global Christian ministry dedicated to helping families thrive. We provide help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages that reflect God's design, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in biblical principles.
- Cloud and Townsend is an online resource that offer books, articles, audio and DVD media resources on emotional struggles, marriage, spiritual life, relationships, parenting, boundaries as well as additional topics. cloudtownsend.com/resources/question-answers/
- Family Life provides multiple resources that help people build stronger homes and communities. familylifetoday.com/

Grace Resources:

GFC Christian Counselor List - Provided by Pastor