



Premarital Counseling

Congratulations on your engagement! We are grateful and excited to have opportunity to help you prepare for marriage. We want to support you and provide you with tools that will help you build a Christ-centered and God-honoring marriage! To do this, we will adhere to biblical principles and convictions as we walk with you through the pre-marital process.

At Island Community Church, we will provide your pre-marital counseling and perform your wedding on the following conditions:

- Both people must be believers and committed to growing in their relationship with the Lord.
- Both people must be free to marry (never married or spouse is deceased).
- Both people agree to hold a biblical model of marriage. Marriage is a life-long, sacred-covenant formed by God and only breakable by God. The marriage relationship is a physical representation of our relationship with God and therefore we hold it in utmost honor.
- The couple agrees to abstain from sexual relations from this point on until after the wedding ceremony. Based on Scripture, we believe God intended for sex to be expressed only in the context of the marriage relationship.

Our pre-marital process is as follows:

- Purchase four books:
 - *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller
 - *His Needs, Her Needs* by William Harley
 - *What Did You Expect* by Paul David Tripp
 - *The Marriage You Always Wanted* by Gary Chapman
- Complete and submit the Pre-Marital Questionnaire (*adapted from ASCC*) as well as the Symbis Online Assessment before the first session. This will help us counsel you in the best way possible!
- Schedule four 1.5 hour sessions with your pre-marital counselor. If we are officiating your wedding, one additional meeting will be scheduled. Sessions can be combined into longer sessions if requested.
- If desired, submit Officiating Request. Understand ICC officiating pastor has the opportunity to refuse officiating your wedding ceremony at any time.
- Please note: If your wedding is not in the Memphis area, you will be responsible for helping to arrange or reimburse the travel expenses of the officiating pastor.

We have read, understand, and commit to adhere to the convictions and principles laid out by the Bible as well as the process laid out by Island Community Church in preparing for and living out a God-centered marriage. **Date:**

GROOM:

BRIDE:

_____(signature)

_____(signature)

_____(printed)

_____(printed)

QUESTIONNAIRE

THIS FORM SHOULD BE FILLED OUT INDEPENDENTLY BY BOTH INDIVIDUALS:

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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COUPLE INFORMATION

Fiancé's Name: _____ Wedding Date: _____

How long have you attended Island Community Church? _____

Are you a member? ____ Yes ____ No Involved in a small group? ____ Yes ____ No

How have you been involved at Island Community Church?

If you are not a member of Island Community Church, where are you in church now?

Are you a member of that church? ____ Yes ____ No

What is your involvement there?

Have you been married previously? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, please give important details of the termination of the marriage:

Do you have any children? ____ Yes ____ No If so, what are their ages? ____

How long have you dated your fiancé? ____ Been engaged? ____

Have you been engaged before ____ Yes ____ No If so, how long? ____

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EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION

Briefly describe your education background:

What is your occupation? _____

Where are you employed? _____

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RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

Did you grow up in church? If so, what was your experience?

Describe your current relationship with God:

Briefly describe what it means to be a Christian & your personal experience with Christ:

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PARENTS AND IN-LAWS

Are both your parents excited about your upcoming marriage? ____ Yes ____ No

If no, please explain:

Are your future in-laws excited about your upcoming marriage? ____ Yes ____ No

If no, please explain:

On a scale of 1-10, how would you describe your parents' marriage? _____
(1— horrible/unhappy, 10 – amazing/happy)? Explain.

Are your parents separated or divorced? ____ Yes ____ No If so, how long? ____

What is your relationship like with your dad?

List what you feel are the positive and negative qualities of your dad's character?

What is your relationship like with your mom?

List what you feel are the positive and negative qualities of your mom's character?

How many siblings do you have? _____

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FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Compared with your fiancé, is there a large difference in your family's financial background? _____ Yes _____ No

Growing up, who handled the money in your family? _____
Who will handle the money matters in your new family? _____

Do you have any large debts? _____ Yes _____ No
If so, do you have a debt repayment plan? _____ Yes _____ No

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SEXUAL/HEALTH QUESTIONS

Have you and your fiancé set boundaries for intimacy in your relationship? If so, what are they and how are you maintaining them?

Are you presently, or have you been in the past, sexually active? If so, is your fiancé aware of your sexual history?

What, in your understanding, is the role of sex in marriage?

Are there any concerns about the impact your sexual history could have on marriage? If so, please explain.

Do you have any health problems or physical problems that might create difficulties in your marriage?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please describe:

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HERITAGE CHECK-UP

Describe your childhood background.

Did you feel accepted and loved by your parents?

How were feelings of love, warmth and tenderness shown in your home as you were growing up (between parents and between siblings)?

How would you describe your relationship with your siblings?

What kind of conflicts did you have with...

.... Your father?

.... Your mother?

.... Your siblings?

How were differences of opinion handled in your home growing up?

Use the chart to mark decision-making and conflict-resolution tendencies in your family:

	Win	Compromise	Yield	Withdraw	Resolve
You					
Father					
Mother					
Sibling					
Sibling					
Sibling					

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RELIGIOUS CHECK-UP

Do you feel accepted, forgiven, and loved by God? Why or why not?

Religious belief and practice in our lives will be:

List two religious attitudes you like about your fiancé?

List two religious attitudes you dislike about your fiancé?

Responsibility for the religious education of our children will be:

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IN-LAW CHECK-UP

List three things about your fiancé's parents you really like:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List three things about your fiancé's parents you really dislike:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In our marriage, as far as I am concerned, my parents....

In our marriage, as far as I am concerned, my fiancé's parents....

As far as our marriage is concerned, our in-laws need to learn....

How do you plan to handle conflict with in-laws after you are married?

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EMOTIONAL CHECK-UP

List ten things you love about your fiancé with your favorite as #1....

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

I am embarrassed when my fiancé...

I am annoyed when my fiancé...

After we are married, I hope my fiancé will....

After we are married, I will...

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RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION

How would you describe your communication with your fiancé?

Is there anything you would like to see change?

What do you argue about (or discuss heatedly) most often?

How do arguments (animated discussions) usually end? Why?

What have you noticed as healthy about your typical conflict resolution?

What have you noticed as unhealthy about your typical conflict resolution?

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INTERPERSONAL CHECK-UP

Recall two instances of how your fiancé demonstrated love toward you during the last month.

Of the following methods of showing love, rank how would like feelings of love, warmth, and tenderness shown to you (1-Most Preferred, 5- Least Preferred):

- _____ Quality time ("Let's go out just the two of us tonight...." ; "Tell me about...")
- _____ Gifts ("I got this for you just because ...")
- _____ Physical Touch ("Let's cuddle...")
- _____ Acts of Service ("I did your laundry today..." ; "I made you this...")
- _____ Words of Affirmation ("You know what I love about you?....")

List two situations in which you, intentionally or unintentionally, were hurtful to your fiancé in the last month.

List two things your fiancé "bugged" you about recently which you could have corrected, but didn't.

What is one strength you will bring to your marriage?

What is one strength your fiancé will bring to your marriage?

What is a weakness you will bring to your marriage?

What is a weakness your fiancé will bring to your marriage?

Two things my fiancé does which makes it difficult to share myself with him/her are:

Two things my fiancé does which makes it easy to share myself with him/her are:

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HOPES AND FUTURE

After we are married, I fear the following changes in our relationship:

After we are married, I hope the following changes for our relationship:

Do you have a dream for your life? If so, what is it?

Do you have a dream for your fiancé's life? If so, what is it?

What do you see as the biggest adjustment /problem the two of you will face in marriage?

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PRE-MARITAL INFORMATION

List five reasons you feel that it is the right time of your life to marry?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Is there anyone who has advised you against your current plans to marry? If so explain.

What have you done to prepare yourself for marriage? (books, seminars, counsel)

Is there anything specific you feel I need to know before we begin counseling?

Is there anything still unknown that you feel your fiancé needs to know about you (past, present or future) before you marry? If so, please explain.

Check all the areas that you feel you want and/or need help with:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debt | <input type="checkbox"/> Help With In-Laws |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth Control/Family Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Working Wives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finances / Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion / Spirituality | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding What Love Is |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Role of Husband / Wife | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Devotions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fears | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Adjustments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiancé's Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Past Hurts / Relationships |

If you need additional space to complete any of your answers, please use the following page. Please reference the section and question with your response.