

Two Session Pre-Wedding Counsel

Session 1: Marriage

- Give pen and paper

1. God's Blessing in a Marriage

Genesis 2:18 — And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Ecclesiastes 4: — 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- (Three-fold Cord) God and You and You
- Seriousness of the Wedding Vow, Vow not a mistake

Ecclesiastes 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

- “She’s Your wife” / “He’s Your Husband”

Malachi 2:14,15 14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. 15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

- "Take Head to your spirit"

Ephesians 5:22-33 — Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

- (Like hurting your ownself to hurt him/her.)

2. Solid Advice

- In Engagement, If you need to then test each other, after — NEVER!!! The marriage is not a foregone conclusion yet.

- Love is a Choice
 - A PLAN TO LOVE EACH OTHER AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER
 - Real love is an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person.
 - (lust isn't always a choice, physical attraction)
- Commit to Work
 - Commit to always work at relationship ... Study
 - Discover and remember the things that bring you together as well as the things that pull you apart
 - Practice to always to be Tender .. I love you and thank you
 - Continue to "Date" - create special moments
- Someone has to say I'm sorry
- Communication don't assume
- Enough in life will erode and whittle away at your relationship, never bad mouth
- Common vision and interests - you don't have to like all the same things to have a good marriage - pay attention to the things that pull you apart even in small measures and the things that bring you a little bit closer together.

3. Pre-Marriage Questions

- Why Do You Want to Get Married?
 - Marriage is no longer the preeminent way that adults organize their lives.
 - Why are you?
- Are you right for each other?
- What does MARRIAGE mean to you?
 - outmoded institution, or, at best, a necessary evil
- Amos 3:3 — Can two walk together, except they be agreed?
 - What's your strategy for disagreements?
- What do you think of the Will of God? Is it discernable? How?
- What do you think of the Bible? Its Doctrines concerning discipline in the home? Speech? Leadership? Child raising? Authority of the Bible? God?
- Is there something you've been too nervous to ask each other about? (i.e.,

previous relationships)

- What are YOUR expectations concerning:
 - Church? Where? How Often? How Important in Priority?
 - Children? Soon? Later? At All? How Many? Would You Consider Adoption and/or Fostering? Etc.
 - Sex: Frequency? Initiating? Not in the mood? Birth Control? For or Against. Is there such a thing as an unwanted pregnancy?
 - Christian Ministry
 - Finances, Budgeting, Bills, Roles, Responsibility, Who MANAGES the money? How much can you spend without your spouses approval?
 - Work: “Fun” balance? Will Both work? Schedules? What about in the case of children? Child care?
 - Holidays: Whose Family?
 - Home: location now? location 5 years from now? Value? “Niceness” importance?
 - Social Life: Best friends and managing other relationships, “out with the guys/girls”, Husband having “girl” friends and visa-versa
- What is Your Concept of Your Role in the Marriage and Your Spouses Role?
 - How will you divide the roles and responsibilities in your relationship?
 - Who will do the house work?
 - Cook?
 - Who will mow the lawn?
 - When something breaks in the home, car, etc.
 - Who will discipline the kids? Both?
 - Who will “Stay home” with the children? (Share a childhood experience with each other)
 - When you can’t compromise, who decides? The HEAD.
- Unfaithfulness - Infidelity? How do you define it? How/Can/Will You recover? Preventative Measures? How willing are you to ASK for HELP?

4. Marriage is Difficult to do Well

a. Tension on Personal Self-Fulfillment (“my happiness”)

- Be Complete and Whole in yourself
- Stress is Put on your Relationship when you are acting "too needy".
- a successful marriage impels individuals to grow along multiple dimensions.

b. What will happen when the tension created by your “economic union” (To consolidate income, provide emotional sustenance, and offer a secure setting in which children can grow, etc.) is out of balance and it is no longer “financially smart” to be married?

- all happy marriages are not alike

c. Marriage is an intense relationship and inevitably is often an arena for conflicts over power and authority. Highly “romanticized” notions of togetherness, bonding, and soul mates joined togetherness fade in the everyday conflicts that pervade married life.

- ships passing in the night?
- spend surprisingly little time together (“companionship”)
- career demands

d. Tension created by ever escalating expectations attached to marriage and the erosion of the supports that helped sustain marriages in the past.

- Marriage, more than ever before, has become a risky endeavor, more fraught and fragile than ever.
- Family Supports: including extended kinship relations and friendships rooted in geographical proximity.
- Marriage can become overtime a lonely life raft in a storm-tossed sea if you allow yourselves to become isolated.
- Marrying each other's families.

5. Next Session Prep

- Will there be others Involved in Meeting?
- When?

Session 2: Wedding

- Desired Length of Overall Ceremony & Sermon?
- Wedding Vows?
 - Write Your Own
 - Traditional Set
 - Customized by Preacher