

Pre-Marital Counseling

Questionnaire

YOUR NAME _____

TODAY'S DATE _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

The following questions should be answered *independently* of your fiancé(e). By doing this, you will give me a better idea which topics we should spend more time on during our sessions together. I will not openly compare and contrast your answers. Rather, I hope to use what I learn to try to bring the greatest possible unity of thought between you and especially between you as a couple and God's Word.

Please write your answers on ordinary lined paper, making sure to number your answers according to the question numbers. Staple or otherwise affix your answers to the question sheets. Take as much room to answer each question as necessary. It would be appreciated if you would answer the questions in order.

I. PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. a. Please state your first, middle, and last name.
b. Please give your age and date of birth.
c. By what name would you like to be addressed during the wedding ceremony?
2. Please give the date, time, and place of your wedding and reception if known.
3. Do you both have the full consent and blessing of both sets of parents with regard to your marriage?
If not, please briefly explain the situation.
4. Are you at all distantly related to your fiancé(e)? If so, how?
5. a. Were you ever married before?
b. If so, please indicate whether you are a widow(er) or divorced?
c. If divorced, what were the grounds (reasons) for your divorce?
6. Is this wedding compulsory because a child has already been conceived?
7. a. Are you a confessing member of a church? If so, which?
b. After marriage, in which church do you intend to be members?
c. Are there any circumstances under which you would feel it permissible that your spouse attend a different church than you? Please explain your answer.
8. How much education will you have completed by the time of the wedding?
9. Financially, would you describe your parents as lower class, lower-middle class, middle class, upper-middle class, or upper class?
10. a. Where do you plan on living once married?
b. Will you be buying or renting?
c. Would the income of one spouse be sufficient to maintain the payments needed?
11. Are there any special requests you might have regarding the wedding ceremony or the reception?
[music, decor, photography, etc.]
12. When do you plan on obtaining a marriage license?

II. SPIRITUAL MATTERS

13. a. Do you believe your fiancé(e) is a believer? Give reasons for your answer.
b. Are you? Give reasons for your answer.
c. Do you believe your parents are Christian? Your fiancé(e)'s parents? Explain if needed.
d. Do you believe that the Armenian Church has a true and orthodox Christian confession of faith?
e. Why?
d. Do you know the Creed?
14. a. How often do you attend church?
b. How often do you pray?

- c. How often do you read the Bible?
 - d. Describe how often you read other sound Christian writings and describe what you read
 - e. Describe any other religious activities you are involved in (examples: youth group, women's group, prayer meeting, etc.)
15. Giving specifics, what do you believe is the husband's responsibility regarding his...
 - a. Wife's spiritual welfare
 - b. Children's spiritual welfare
 16. Giving specifics, what do you believe is the wife's responsibility regarding her...
 - a. Husband's spiritual welfare
 - b. Children's spiritual welfare
 17.
 - a. Have you ever discussed how family worship would be conducted in your home?
 - b. Describe how you believe family worship should be conducted. Be specific.
 - c. How would family worship be conducted if husband/father should be absent?
 18.
 - a. Do you plan on worshipping God alone as a couple as well as privately as individuals?
 - b. When alone as a couple, do you worship together now? [read, discuss Scripture, etc.] Explain.
 - c. What is your opinion of praying aloud when worshipping as a couple?
 19. Have you discussed and agreed upon what part of your family income you will give to God?
 20. With respect to non-work time....
 - a. How do you typically spend your non-work time?
 - b. Do you anticipate any change in this after you're married? If so, specify how.
 - c. Describe in your own words the difference between entertainment, recreation, and edification.
 - d. What place, if any, does each have in your life and describe how each affects your life.
 21. Regarding the media...
 - a. Do you keep abreast of current events? If so, by what means?
 - b. Describe your position on the use of...
 - 1) Television
 - 2) VCR's and DVD's
 - 3) The Internet
 - 4) Movies viewed in movie theaters
 - c. Aside from religious books and/or periodicals do you normally read anything else? If so, what?
 22.
 - a. What kind(s) of music do you listen to?
 - b. Does your fiancé(e) have similar tastes in music? If not, what are his/her preferences?
 23. Regarding politics, how would you describe your views?

III. RELATIONAL MATTERS

24.
 - a. How long have you known each other?
 - b. How long have you been betrothed or engaged?
25. List as many positive qualities as you can think of about your fiancé(e). *Take time on this question.*
26. If it were possible, what would you like to see changed about your fiancé(e)? *Take time on this.*
27. What would you like to see changed in yourself?
28. What, if anything, would you like to see changed in your relationship together?
29. How are you, the fiancée, uniquely suited to be a helpmeet for the man you are marrying, also with respect to his calling? (The man should write how he believes she is uniquely suited to be his helpmeet, especially with respect to his calling.)
30. In addition to the positive qualities mentioned in q. 25, are there any other reasons you want to marry your fiancé(e)? Be specific.
31. Aside from the specifically spiritual aspects of marriage covered in q. 15, what else do you believe pertains to the husband's role in marriage?
32. How about the wife's role?

33. Aside from one another's different roles in marriage, what other differences are there between men and women that you think would be helpful to recognize in a courtship/marriage relationship?
34. Do you have an opinion about who should do household chores and duties? [cleaning, chores, etc.]
35. Please respond to the following statement. "Each spouse should be allowed one or two nights out per week to pursue his or her own interests."
36. Describe your relationship with...
 - a. Your parents
 - b. Your brothers and sisters, if you have any
 - c. Your perspective mother and father-in-law
 - d. Your spouses' brothers and sisters, if he or she has any
37. About how much of your relationship was spent in the company of each other's family? In other words, on average, how often did you spend time together visiting each other's family?
38. Do you see any potential challenges with your parents or future in-laws? If so, please explain.
39. Regarding the married couple's physical relationship...
 - a. In general, what are God's purposes for giving this gift in marriage?
 - b. What particular sensitivities should the husband have toward his wife in this area of marriage?
 - c. What particular sensitivities should the wife have toward her husband in this area of marriage?
40. What kinds of precautions do you (should you) take to avoid physical temptations before marriage?
41. a. Have you discussed with each other matters from your past that might be potential sources of difficulty if they became known later on? Examples: former relationships, a criminal record, an illegitimate or aborted child, sterility, etc. If there are no such issues, simply answer "no." If there are, please do *not* tell me what those issues might be unless you believe you need to share them with me for the purpose of receiving counsel regarding them.
 - b. If there are such issues and you have not already discussed them, do you intend to do so before your wedding? If yes, when? If not, why not?
42. Should your fiancé(e) [husband/wife] ever keep anything secret from you? If so, what kinds of things?
43. a. What are your goals in life? Include but don't limit your answer to career considerations.
 - b. Have you discussed these with your fiancé(e)?
44. Do you believe there are any Biblical grounds for divorce? If so, what are they?

IV. FINANCES

45. Have you ever discussed a proposed family budget with your fiancé(e)?
46. Have you discussed which of you would be the *primary* caretaker of your finances? If so, who would and why?
47. What is your belief regarding the use of credit (loans, credit cards, etc.)?
48. What is your belief about the wife working outside the home?
49. a. What do you believe is the *husband's* role regarding "bread winning?" Family finances?
 - b. How about the *wife's* role?
50. Do either of you have any debts that will still be outstanding at the time you plan to marry? If yes, what plans have you made with regard to how the debt(s) would be repaid?

V. CHILD REARING

51. Why should married couples have children? Give this some thought
52. a. What is your belief regarding the number of children you as a couple should have?
 - b. Please supply Scriptural references that support your answer.
53. Concerning your view of children...
 - a. Do children born into the church and those brought up apart from it differ in any way? If so, how? If not, why not?
 - b. Should believing parents assume their children have a saving relationship with God unless the child's life clearly indicates otherwise?

- c. Describe how you would expect Godliness to show itself in the life of a young child? Be specific giving concrete examples.
54. Describe your thoughts regarding disciplining the children God may give you. In your answer, specifically address...
- a. Whether you consider corporal chastisement (spanking) appropriate. If not, why not. If so, under what circumstances?
 - b. The function of parental anger in disciplining children. Is anger always sinful? Explain if possible
 - c. If God would give you more than one child, should each be disciplined in the same way?
55. a. Have you discussed how you plan on educating children God may give you?
- b. What are your plans?
 - c. What kinds of things should you consider when planning your children's education?
 - d. How do you feel about parents paying for or assisting their children pay for college or other post-high school education?

VI. FEEDBACK

56. Your turn – is there any way you would suggest improving this questionnaire? Any questions not clear? Unnecessary? Questions you think *should* be asked but were left out?