

PRE-MARITAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS I -- FOUNDATIONS

Discuss these questions with each other during an intentional moment of peace and relaxation. Jot a few notes about what surprised you, excited you, challenged or worried you in your responses. Bring this sheet and your notes to the next session.

1. Why do you want to marry when you could choose not to?
2. Why should a couple choose to stay unmarried?
3. Why do you wish to marry your fiancé?
4. What kind of marriage do/did your parents have?
5. What reasons can you offer why your fiancé should not marry you?
6. What reasons can you offer why your fiancé should marry you?
7. Why are you asking a pastor (as opposed to a Justice of the Peace) to marry you?
8. Where do you fit together? Where do you clash? What do you argue about?
9. What do each of you believe about divorce? How do each of you feel about it? How would you handle this question?
10. What do each of you believe about adultery? What do you feel about adultery? How would you handle this question?
11. How do you propose to continue your faith journey as a couple?

PRE-MARITAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS II -- MONEY

1. How many checking accounts do you expect to need?
Whose accounts? What other kinds of accounts will you have? Why?
2. Who is responsible for seeing that monthly/quarterly/yearly bills are paid? Which bills? Why?
3. Who buys insurance, takes out loans, registers cars, signs contracts and so on? Why?
How do we make financial decisions? What is a major financial decision for us? How do we settle a serious financial difference of opinion?
4. Who organizes taxes/forms/etc. Why?
5. Whose money is "his" paycheck?
6. Whose money is "her" paycheck?
7. How does the person who doesn't have a paycheck at the time get money?
8. Describe all formal and informal financial debt you bring to this marriage. Whose responsibility is this debt? What is your plan and timeline for paying it off?
9. Describe all financial assets you bring to this marriage – include real estate, pension contributions, 401K, etc. Whose money is this?
10. How much money do you need to save to feel secure?
11. Where do you save money? Why?
12. Do you "invest" saved money?
13. How serious is an unpaid bill? How serious is an overdue notice?
14. What kind of living quarters do we need now? In ten years? In 20 years? When we retire?

15. Imagine a comfortable, happy, but not “wealthy” or “moneyed” lifestyle. Describe it – without interruption – to your partner.
16. What would losing your job mean to you?
17. What would your partners’ losing his/her job mean to you?
18. Who buys gas/tires/new clothes/furniture/dinner out/etc.?
19. Have we altered our life/health/etc./insurance policies to reflect married/children status?
20. Have we new wills which take into account each other and future children?
21. How will we make decisions about giving to God’s work and to other causes we believe in? What percentage of our income would you like to be able to “give away” to help others?
22. Under what circumstances would you ask for a loan from a friend or family member? Under what circumstances would you loan money to a friend or family member?

PRE-MARITAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS III -- CHILDREN

1. Do we want children? How many children do I want? How many children does s(he) want?
2. If we can't have children naturally or biologically, what other options would we consider? In vitro? Adoption?
3. How close together should our children be spaced? Why? What are the disadvantages to this answer? Advantages?
4. What are the 3 most important things I want to teach my child(ren)?
5. What are the 3 most important things I want to pass on to my child from my family? From his/her family?
6. What do I like best about my family? About his/her family?
7. What do I want to avoid that happened in my family? What do I want to avoid that I see in his/her family?
8. How important is it that our children be:

a. smart	c. healthy	e. athletic	g. faithful
b. attractive	d. well-behaved	f. popular	
9. What do the words above mean to me? To my partner?
10. How do I feel about contraception? Whose responsibility is this, especially when we want no more children?
11. How do I feel about abortion? How do you feel about abortion?
12. If the ob/gyn were to tell us that an unborn fetus had some form of mental or physical anomaly, how would we handle that? How would we handle the birth of a physically handicapped or intellectually disabled child?

13. Do either of us have genetic problems (inherited diseases-sickle-cell, Tay-Scachs, hemophilia, fertility problems, etc)? If so, have we seen or do we plan to see a genetic counselor?
14. Have either of you ever done anything which might harm our ability to have healthy children together? Have you ever been told that you may not be able to have children naturally?
15. What picture of myself with my child/children do I see in the future?
16. What age and sex are the children in these pictures?
17. Share with each other your medical history, both physical and mental. Include STDs or other communicable conditions if they might put your partner at risk. What prescription or over-the-counter drugs are you taking on a regular basis?
18. What do each of you believe about vaccinating our children?
19. Are we baptizing our children? Are we planning to attend the same church? Which church?

PRE-MARITAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS IV -- SEX AND ROMANCE

1. The things I find most attractive about you are...
2. The things I find most exciting about you are...
3. I wish that you would...
4. I wish that you would not...
5. My favorite ways to say/show that I love you are...
6. My favorite ways for you to show me that you love me are...
7. "Romantic" gestures are/are not very important to me? to you?
8. I am comfortable/uncomfortable? talking to you about sex and love because....
9. I am comfortable/uncomfortable? talking to you about what I do and don't like when we make love because...
10. If one or both of us are uncomfortable with these questions, how do we fix that before the not-talking ruins our marriage?
11. I do/do not think of intercourse as a sacramental act because...
12. I think sexual relationship will be _____ of our future married life together.
 - a. the most important part
 - b. one of the most important parts
 - c. one of many parts
 - d. the "for having children" part