

Early Marriage Considerations

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Marriage – Blending of two lives into oneness

God's idea – our blessing – God has a plan

Our opportunity to serve and bless each other

Healing experience as we accept each other unconditionally

“It is not good for man to be alone”

Wedding takes a day – marriage takes a life time

1. Communication – share intimacy

She needs love

He needs respect

No silent treatment

Be reflective

Take time

2. Money management

Earning/spending/saving/investing

Tithe

Borrowing

Agree together on money issues

3. Families

You marry a family

Time for visits

Parental involvement

Holidays

4. Household responsibilities

Meals, lawn, shopping, etc

5. Spirituality

Devotions – personal and couple and family

Church

6. Sexuality

Absolute fidelity

Mutual expression of love

Find healing from any abuse or inappropriate experiences

Non-sexual touching and communication is important for women

Gentleness and kindness

Men tend to express themselves physically

- Find mutually pleasing expressions of love
- 7. Expectations/adjustments
 - Give yourselves time to adjust to each other
 - Be kind and forgiving
 - Respect individuality and privacy
 - Share needs with each other – do not dominate each other
- 8. Recreation
 - Work together
 - Have things you enjoy together
- 9. Outside relationships
 - Women need other women with whom to fellowship
 - Men need other men to keep them accountable
- 10. Work and occupation
 - Is wife expected to work?
 - Does wife want to work outside the home?
 - Some men can work all the time and hide in their occupation
- 11. Common struggle in today's homes
 - Men passive at home – (gets fulfillment at work)
 - Women aggressive at home – (takes over men's role in the home)
 - Children angry – manifests as hostility, moral problems, depression, apathy
 - Men need to take strong, gentle leadership at home and family
 - Women need to be submissive (not passive) and set a happy tone in the home
 - Obedient, happy children are the joy of the parents

10 Commandments for Marriage

Definition of love –

1. I will never intentionally hurt you
 2. I will always do what is best for you
 3. I want you to be all God made you to be
1. Keep your love fresh
Through thick and thin – marriage vows
Share joys and sorrows –
 2. Be thankful
Express your thankfulness –
 3. Guard your heart
Men - guard your eyes and your heart, women – guard your heart
 4. Use “magic” words
I am sorry, be and act sorry, forgive me, thank you
Not take person for granted
 5. Learn Spouse’s love language
Women need words of love
Men need words of affirmation
 6. Absolute commitment
Break controlling ties with mom and all other women
Respect all women but have allegiance to only one
 7. Marriage is not about you
You love your spouse and God will love you
Your body is not yours – Rom. 12:2, I Cor. 7:4
 8. Communicate
Women talk two times as much as men
 9. Not demand love
Accept the love your spouse gives to you
 10. We are brothers and sisters
Song of Solomon – “my sister, my spouse”

Notes

1. Dating – Who sets the standard?
2. Early marriage – Who is in charge?
 - Young wife expresses unhappiness
 - Young husband tries to make her happy at all costs
 - Young husband gives up and lets her have her way and lets her set the tone for the family
 - Husband becomes more and more passive in the home and relationships
3. Children in the home - Who is responsible for the discipline of the children?
 - Many wives must assume the role of disciplinarian
 - Husbands must set a tone of respect for authority
 - Fathers must command respect and authoritative (not authoritarian) leadership
4. Occupation – Does husband hide or does he work with and for the family?
 - Husbands can hide in: truck, business, pornography, buddies, business, study, etc.
5. Home life – who is the spiritual leader in the home?
 - Husbands need to assume responsibility to spiritual training of children and spiritual nurture of his wife.
6. Leadership in the Church – Who rules?
 - Many men in leadership are not in charge at home and are controlled by their wives and many of them are involved in destructive and defensive behaviors.
7. Next generation – Can the cycle be broken?
 - Many men are breaking the cycle.