



## Premarital Counseling Ministry

Millersville Bible Church  
121 North George Street  
Millersville, PA 17551

### **Introduction:**

God ordained marriage and emphasized the importance of the family unit throughout Scripture. Yet the concept of “marriage for life” is nearly obsolete in our society. Unfortunately, the Christian community has not been left untouched. Although physical divorce or separation may not be quite as commonplace in the Christian world, there are many emotionally divorced couples in church Sunday after Sunday.

Premarital counseling is one way to deal with this problem. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Premarital counseling is a preventative problem-solver. It’s dealing with problems before they come up; it’s examining strengths and weaknesses within the individuals as people and as a couple, and then seeking to find out how each person can best compliment the other.

### **Philosophy:**

The premarital counseling ministry is intended to begin developing relationships that will continue into your married life. One of the elders will meet with you to develop an appropriate plan for your current circumstances. If appropriate, we will also seek to help you develop an ongoing relationship with an older couple. This couple will be able to walk with you through the joys and challenges of married life.

The actual approach will be determined by the needs of the couple being counseled. Much of the counseling content is meant to be an introduction to the practical day-to-day situations and problems that come up in marriage.

1. Premarital counseling needs to be viewed as preventative medicine. Although marriage was intended by God to be a positive experience for man, even the best of relationships experience times of stress. It is the desire of this ministry to give marital candidates the opportunity to work through— at least hypothetically— some of the pitfalls that could plague them in the future.
2. Marriage must be entered into with the proper understanding. We believe the following are essential:
  - a. Marriage is not a struggle for rights.
  - b. Marriage is a composite relationship of which its components are equal.

- c. This equality does not demand synonymity in function, i.e. each partner has a specific role to follow.

### **The Plan:**

An initial meeting: This interactive session will help to design the approach to the counseling sessions.

Initial evaluation: Question & Answer time. This is designed to determine the readiness of a couple for marriage. It also helps us evaluate our commitment to be involved with the couple.

The couple will be asked to meet with a financial coach to help prepare them as they join their finances together.

The couple could also be asked to view videos, listen to CDs, and read materials related to marital readiness.

Several sessions will be necessary to discuss the information and situations related to preparing for marriage God's way.

**Note: Each of you should please fill out your own questionnaire (attached) and return them to the church office. After receiving them, one of the elders will contact you.**



## Premarital Counseling Questionnaire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Yes/No

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Have you been previously married?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Do your parents completely approve of your marriage? Have you ever asked them? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are you a member of any church? If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Do you attend church regularly? If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Do you get along well with your parents?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Are you living separately from your future spouse? If no, are you willing to find other living arrangements until your marriage? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Do you plan to live with either of your parents?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Do you desire to have children?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Do you believe that marriage is permanent?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior? Please explain (continue on back of this sheet):

### Further Questions:

1. Give several reasons for wanting to marry your future spouse (continue on back of this sheet):
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long have you been engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you believe that premarital sex is wrong? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where are you employed? \_\_\_\_\_ How long? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is your level of education? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Briefly define the word love: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Do you have a date set for your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are your parents Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Describe how you seek to build your personal relationship to the Lord.

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## Pre-Marital Counseling Information Wedding Details

### I. Names & Phone numbers:

Bride's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's parents: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Wedding

A. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Attendants (Ladies): (Ushers/Groomsmen)

Maid of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_ Best Man: \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

D. Organist: \_\_\_\_\_ Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Pianist: \_\_\_\_\_ Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

F. Vocalists: \_\_\_\_\_ Contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Songs to be used: \_\_\_\_\_

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### G. Ceremony Instructions:

1. Father will give bride away? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Wish guests to stand when bride enters? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Will have ring bearer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will have flower girl? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Wish to memorize vows? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
6. Will have single ring \_\_\_\_\_ or double ring \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony?
7. Wish to kneel during prayer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. Wish song sung after prayer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
9. Wish recording made of ceremony? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

H. Rehearsal:

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Reception:

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Services

A. Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Pictures taken: Before ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_ After ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_  
 After reception: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Florist: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Candelabra ordered? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Aisle cloth/runner? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Kneeling bench? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

4. Aisle candles? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Custodial Service: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Marriage License:

Blood test taken \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

License purchased \_\_\_\_\_

Returned \_\_\_\_\_