

A Marriage Preparation Inventory

This questionnaire is designed to help identify strengths and potential trouble-spots in your relationship. Most of the questions have no “right” answers. The important thing is for you to state clearly your perceptions in each case.

Instructions: (1) Fill out your individual questionnaire. Do **not** talk to each other about your answers until after you have each filled out your own questionnaire. (2) After you have each finished your individual questionnaires, be sure to talk through the inventory together **before you come for your first session**. The pastor conducting your pre-marital counseling is the only other person who will read your responses. (3) Don't forget to turn it in to your pastor about a week before your first premarital session.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Your name _____ Birth date _____ Age _____

Local Address _____ Email: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Occupation _____ Schooling Completed _____

Wedding Date and Location _____ Presiding Minister _____

How long have you been a member of Gum Branch Baptist Church? _____

If not a member, where do you go to church (name and location)? _____

Brief summary of circumstances for meeting and dating _____

Why are you excited to marry your fiancé(e)? _____

B. GENDER ROLES IN MARRIAGE

1. What does biblical leadership and submission look like in a marriage? _____

2. In what ways were your parents a good or poor example of biblical leadership and submission in a marriage? _____

3. *For the man:* What are your fears, struggles, or concerns in learning to lead your future wife?

4. *For the woman:* What are your fears, struggles, or concerns in learning to submit to your future husband?

C. THE IMPACT OF SIN, IDOLATRY AND STRESS

1. What sins characterize you? List a few: _____
2. Pick one sin that has been harmful for your relationship with your fiancé(e). Describe why it has hurt the relationship; what you need to do to change this pattern; and, how your fiancé(e) can help. _____

3. Pick a sin that has ruined, worsened or compromised a particular season of your life (either previously or currently)? _____

4. What are your idols or false gods? What do you do with these idols? _____

5. Check off any of these struggles, sickness or sins that you have experienced in the past or continue to wrestle with in the present...

Abortion	___	Pornography	___
Abuse	___	Obsessive Compulsive	___
ADD/ADHD	___	Panic Attacks	___
Adultery	___	Rape	___
Alcohol Overuse	___	Same Sex Attraction	___
Anger or Aggression	___	Self-Harm	___
Anxiety	___	Sexual Dysfunction	___
Attention/Concentration	___	Sexual Immorality	___
Cancer	___	Sleeplessness	___
Chronic Physical Pain	___	Suicidal thoughts/attempts	___
Depression	___		
Divorce	___		
Eating Disorder	___		
Drug Addiction	___		
Financial Problems/Debt	___		

6. How do you react to stress? Which sins come out when you are stressed? _____

7. Where do you find refuge/safety/comfort/security when you are stressed? _____

8. How would you like your fiancé(e) to help you fight stress? _____

D. YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUNDS (Leaving and Cleaving)

1. How long have you known your fiancé(e)? _____ When did you become convinced that you wanted to be married? (approximate date) _____
2. Indicate your parents' attitude toward your fiancé(e): Total acceptance _____
 Acceptance with reservations _____ Disapproval _____
3. How do you perceive your prospective in-laws' attitude toward you:
 Total acceptance _____ Acceptance with reservations _____
 Disapproval _____

4. Compare your family backgrounds:	<u>Yours</u>	<u>Fiancé(e)'s</u>
Parents living? (if not, date of death)	_____	_____
Parents living together? (if not, date of sep.)	_____	_____
Number and gender of siblings	_____	_____
Home town	_____	_____
Father's occupation	_____	_____
Mother's occupation	_____	_____
Family's socio-economic level	_____	_____
Family's church affiliation	_____	_____
Degree of their church involvement	_____	_____
Depth of their Christian commitment	_____	_____
Their political party affiliation	_____	_____
Hereditary health problems?	_____	_____

5. In what ways are you alike or different from your father or mother? How will you consciously work to be different from them?
- Father: _____
- Mother: _____

6. Have you been married before? _____ To whom were you married? _____

7. Have you been in any other relationship that you thought would lead to marriage? _____

If so, what happened? _____

8. Describe the marriage you have observed which you most want yours to resemble:

9. List the strengths of your parents' marriage that you most want to experience in your own:

10. What weaknesses in your parents' marriage do you wish to avoid? _____

E. PERSONALITY AND TEMPERAMENT (How did God make you? What do you like?)

1. Indicate which of you tends more (in relation to the other) to be: (mark "M" for the man and "W" for the woman; "B" for both; "N" for no one)

The extrovert	_____	The home-body	_____
The introvert	_____	The party-person	_____
The talker	_____	Neater	_____
The listener	_____	Messier	_____
The thinker	_____	More ambitious	_____
The doer	_____	More complacent	_____
The planner	_____	More punctual	_____
The procrastinator	_____	More tardy	_____
The pouter	_____		
The shouter	_____		
The optimist	_____		
The pessimist	_____		
The night person	_____		
The morning person	_____		
The spender	_____		
The saver	_____		
The leader	_____		
The follower	_____		
The helper	_____		
The artist	_____		

2. List some of your fiancé(e)'s characteristics which are most attractive to you:

3. List some of your fiancé(e)'s traits, habits or mannerisms do you at least occasionally find irritating: _____

4. In which areas would you like your fiancé(e) to help you improve yourself? _____

5. In which areas would you like to help your fiancé(e) improve? _____

6. On the lines below, indicate the relative levels of maturity which you think you and your fiancé(e) have reached respectively as compared with your age group (On each line place an "M" for the man and a "W" for the woman at the appropriate spot)

Immature

Mature

Emotionally _____

Intellectually _____

Socially _____

Spiritually _____

7. Name a few significant life events (good and bad) that have significantly shaped you?

F. YOUR COMMUNICATION

1. Are you an:

____ External processor (you tend to verbalize things *before* you think them through)

____ Internal processor (you tend to think things through *before* you verbalize them)

2. What are the key components to an apology? _____

3. Are you quick or slow to apologize and reconcile? If slow, why? _____

4. Indicate how each of you tends to express the following feelings. On each line place an "M" for the man and a "W" for the woman at the appropriate spot.

	Internalize	Internalize, then verbalize	Verbalize Quickly		
Anger	_____	_____	_____		
Disappointment	_____	_____	_____		
Frustration	_____	_____	_____		
Guilt	_____	_____	_____		
Joy	_____	_____	_____		
	1	2	3	4	5

5. What do you usually fight about and when do you usually fight? _____

6. How do you try to resolve conflict with your fiancé(e)? _____

7. List one or two communication struggles that have been harmful for your relationship with your fiancé(e). Describe why it has hurt the relationship; what you need to do to change this pattern; and, how your fiancé(e) can help. _____

8. List one or two of your fiancé(e)'s greatest communication strengths and list them here. Explain briefly why you picked them. _____

G. YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1. List the most significant interests you share in common. _____

2. Which books on marriage have you read? _____

3. What are some of the relational strengths that you can bring to the marriage? _____

4. What do you consider to be your weaknesses as a prospective marriage partner? _____

5. State honestly any fears, concerns, or apprehensions you feel about your anticipated marriage. _____

6. How do you intend to deal with these concerns? _____

7. What are some matters about which the two of you have different opinions? _____

8. Are there any areas in which you are struggling to trust your fiancé(e)? _____

H. YOUR SEXUALITY

1. Are you a virgin? _____

2. If you are not a virgin, how would you describe your previous sexual experiences?

Numerous___Rare___Destructive___Abusive___(other) _____

3. Do you sometimes feel guilty about the sexual involvement you have had with your fiancé(e)? _____

4. What are you doing to protect yourself from sexual temptation? _____

I. YOUR FAITH

1. Describe your relationship with God: _____

2. In what ways do you struggle to trust, follow, love God? _____

3. What are the main influences that have shaped your relationship with God? _____

4. How does your expression of your faith differ from that of your fiancé(e)? _____

5. As you see it, how does a Christian marriage differ from any other? _____

6. How do you expect to cultivate your faith together after you are married? _____

7. After marriage, where do you plan to go to church? Will this church be a good place for you both to grow spiritually? _____

J. YOUR FINANCES

1. Which of you has had more experience in managing finances? _____

2. Who will manage your family finances? _____

3. Do you have a tentative budget? _____

4. Will the wife be employed after you are married? _____ If so, are the reasons primarily financial _____ or commitment to a career _____?

5. After marriage, do you plan to merge your bank accounts? _____

6. If you answer "no" to question #5, then please explain: _____

7. Do you have any concern in how your fiancé(e) handles his/her finances? If so, explain.

8. In which of the areas below (see question 10) would you say that your fiancé(e) might spend money frivolously? _____

9. In which areas do you think he/she might be too frugal? _____

10. Indicate relative inclinations to spend money in the following areas ("M" for man, "W" for woman at the appropriate spot).

	Least Likely	Most Likely
New clothes	_____	_____
Hobbies, recreation	_____	_____
Automobile	_____	_____
Books, magazines	_____	_____
Movies, concerts	_____	_____
Music equipment, CDs	_____	_____
Home furnishings	_____	_____
Groceries	_____	_____
Eating out	_____	_____
Entertaining guests	_____	_____
Gifts for spouse	_____	_____
Gifts for others	_____	_____
Vacations	_____	_____

K. FUTURE (Children, Birth Control, Spiritual Growth, Forgiveness, Divorce)

1. If both plan careers, whose job determines where you will live? _____
2. How soon would you like to have children? _____ How many? _____
3. What form of birth control do you expect to use? _____
4. If an "accidental" pregnancy occurred, would you consider an abortion? _____ Does your fiancé(e) share your feeling about this? _____
5. If you should be unable to have your own, would you adopt a child? _____

6. How can you help your spouse to grow spiritually? _____

7. What would you like for him/her to say in answer to the previous question? _____

8. What do you intend to do to stay in love? _____

9. Have you ever struggled with forgiving someone? If so, give an example: _____

10. If your answer to #9 was "yes," how can you prevent this from ever happening with your fiancé(e)? _____

11. What circumstances, as you see it now, would lead you to seek a divorce? _____

12. If you specified a circumstance in #11, what will you do to prevent it? _____

13. In regards to the future, what do you tend to worry about? _____
