

# Discussion points before Marriage



# Discussion points before Marriage

## INTRODUCTION:

God ordained and created marriage and intimacy / oneness for man's own good – it was His idea.

*That is being totally called in to question today...*

1. God says: A man and a woman come together in marriage – make a vow and to a **lifetime commitment** – it is God's plan. It is not an option – it is so ordained by our Creator.

2. The **goal** of marriage is **intimacy / oneness** in all the wholeness of a relationship – body, soul and spirit.

We come together as fellow-worshippers (spirit); soul mates and best friends (soul); passionate lovers (body).

The marriage goal is oneness – it is a gift from God:

- to solve the loneliness problem,
- to provide pleasure,
- to provide off-spring,
- to magnify and reflect God's relationship with His people.

3. As couples **get closer to God**, so you get closer to one another. God has placed within each one of us a strong desire for intimacy. As we start the journey of marriage you find you are married to this very selfish person – just like you!!

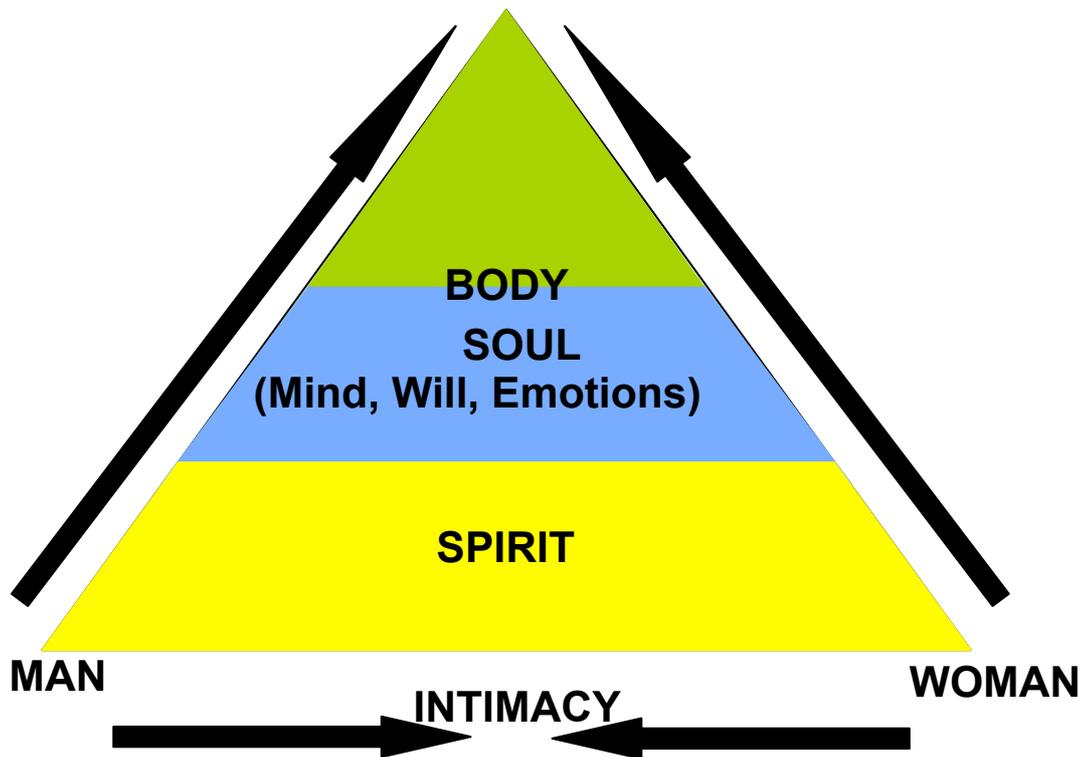
Now you have all this conflict – and this was done on purpose! You have these desires for intimacy and you have some huge roadblocks.

**Remember:** you don't have it in you to unconditionally love anyone. In this fallen world, God has given you these unbelievable passions for intimacy – at the heart level, at the mind level, and at the body level.

Because we live in a fallen world, God sets up a system where you are destined to fail – so that you will learn there is something bigger than just a person – MARRIAGE!

God gave us marriage to teach us you can't get there by yourself – just like you can't do anything else in life by your self – and that you need Him.

Marriage is designed in such a way that I must draw near to God – draw on His supernatural resources – have my sins forgiven, allow Christ to be Lord of my life – and then give unconditional love that He is giving me – whether I get anything back or not – for it to work.



So the design is to produce **dependency** in you – **intimacy does not just occur between husband and wife, but intimacy occurs between man and God** – because His bigger plan for your life is not just to be fulfilled and happy – His bigger plan is to make you like His SON.

**The most fundamental relationship that will make you like His Son is a deep, intimate marriage with all the conflict that occurs as you learn to love someone else who is as imperfect as you are.**

**What is God's definition of Marriage?**

Marriage is a Holy Covenant



If you do not understand what a Holy Covenant is, you will never have the marriage God has intended for you to have.

A covenant is a solemn agreement with binding force – to cut in order to bleed – the blood of one and the blood of another intermingling – never to be separated out again. It is an all or nothing agreement.

The Hebrew word for Covenant used in the Old Testament comes from the verb “to cut”.

We see in the Bible that God made very serious agreements where He established a “covenant” which represents a serious occasion which the parties involved seal their promises in the midst of “cutting” which generally involved blood.

### **Characteristics of a Covenant:**

1. Initiated by a vow or promise.
2. Given the conditions.
3. Ratified by blood.
4. Usually, if not always, there is a sign - in this case - your exchanged rings.

**THUS: Marriage is an irrevocable commitment, of unconditional love (it’s not about what you get back or if you’re fulfilled) toward an imperfect person (just like you are), FOREVER!**

This is really an exciting time in a couple’s journey ...

*Here are a few things to consider before making a life long commitment:*

**Importantly**, you both need to articulate visions of what you expect the marriage to be.

I would suggest that you can take of these topics and start the discussion. Some are critical but you may well feel that they must be dealt with later on in the relationship.

- 1) Understanding of **differences / our gifting**<sup>1</sup> — that what God placed inside of us that make us unique. Each gifting has specific attributes that will cause us to act/react in certain ways.

We need to understand these differences in order to know how I must adapt to meet my partner’s gift. I must react to the nature and spiritual attributes that my partner reflects from GOD-- *not what I would like to give ...*

- 2) Talk about and come to an understanding of the concept of “**corresponding opposite**” — How you are **uniquely different**, and why this is so important when two people become ONE, you should be **complementing** one another—“*ezer kenegdo*”<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> A complete study of the GIFTS available in Man’s Purpose J2F1

<sup>2</sup> A complete explanation is available in God’s Plan for a Healthy Family

Think about the concept of UNITY, how both of you have unique and different insight into each situation which, when you have both contributed towards the final decision, keeps you on the inside of the Covenant.

Think also about the concept of submission, find out what the world understands about submission and then find out exactly what Y'shua (Jesus) wants us to do when thinking about submission in Biblical terms.

3) Speak about learning to **communicate** — you need to define exactly what you constitute as fair - how do you speak to each other, and at the same time give each other space so that you can think about what you want to say - and it is also important to LEARN to listen - discuss how you are going to make quality time to really hear with understanding what the other one says.

Consider whether you have been building enough **trust** yet ...without trust you will not be prepared to share those fears/concerns, and so on.

4) Make a commitment to understand how to deal with **conflict** — you may be very accommodating now, but the time will come when there will be some real conflict issues which you will have to work through ... So think about how we deal with the subject matter of the fight and not focus on each other.

5) Understand and define God's idea of the concept of **Covenant** - of giving 100% of yourself at all times - irrespective of what you get in return.

6) Understand the basic but critical elements of marriage, of:

[a] man - *loving* unconditionally and

[b] wife - showing *respect* through all circumstances.

Speak about how you can identify actions that break down these godly attributes, and how you will go about building these pillars of marriage

7) Speak frankly about your understanding of and what you expect from **sexual intimacy**. While this is a sensitive matter, build an understanding of how you can meet your partner's needs for safety, intimacy, and love.

8) Make sure that you have both fully surrendered your lives to Y'shua (Jesus) and are committed to walking in obedience to His Commandments - it is only as we grow closer to God that we will grow closer to each other. Make sure that your partner's commitment is truly from the heart.

9) Make a concerted effort to be **open** about your past — are old girlfriends and boyfriends **dealt with and** under the Blood of the Lamb? Take off the masks and understand that the disappointments of past relationships may hide wounds that must be dealt with.

10) This is not a very "*exciting*" topic, but you need to talk about **finances** — we advocate a single joint bank account — but talk about your **expectations**.

11) Have you both dealt with the generational issues, such as anger, jealousy, etc.? We want to recommend that you work through Journey2Freedom and Journey2Wholeness together.

Sounds like a lot of things to consider, but you can often go over much in a short time and when you hit a pressure point — stop and take the time to consider, reflect and discuss.

MANY blessings!!



## Still Single? Ask These Questions Before You Say 'I Do'<sup>3</sup>

By J. Lee Grady



Are you truly ready for marriage? Consider these things. (iStock photo)

Last year, I had the privilege of performing the wedding of a Russian-speaking couple in Seattle. I met Roman when I was teaching at a ministry school two years ago, and he has traveled with me on a missionary trip to Peru. When he got engaged to his girlfriend, Ina, he asked me to do the honors—and I was thrilled to be a part of their big day. The celebration ended with a Ukrainian feast for 300 people!

Like many Slavic Christian immigrants, Roman and Ina got married young. Roman turned 21 only a week after his wedding, and Ina is only 18. Yet they are incredibly mature and responsible for their age. When I did premarital counseling with them (I have a conviction that I won't marry anyone without doing basic counseling) I was amazed to see how ready they were to embrace a lifelong marriage covenant.

But not every Christian who is old enough to get married is actually ready to tie the knot. And if you aren't ready, the worst thing you can do is rush to the altar. When I talk to singles about their desire to get married, I always ask if they have gone through this simple checklist. You can also share this with single friends who are eager to tie the knot:

### **Have you fully surrendered your life to Jesus?**

You can't build a strong marriage on romance, sexual passion or feelings alone.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.charismamag.com/blogs/fire-in-my-bones/22894-still-single-ask-these-questions-before-you-say-i-do>

Your marriage will be weak if you are weak spiritually—and the same is true if your partner is not wholeheartedly sold out to God. You are taking a huge risk if you get married when your spiritual life is not healthy.

### **Do you get along with others?**

If you have a history of broken relationships and continual drama, don't expect marriage to be any different. You need to get control of your anger, jealousy, pouting sessions and pity parties now, not after you commit to live the rest of your life with your spouse.

### **How have you and your partner handled conflict?**

All couples have arguments. But if you are having shouting matches and continual disagreements before your wedding, you are asking for trouble. And if there has been any form of physical or verbal abuse, call things off immediately and get counseling.

### **Have you been open about your past?**

Marriage is about intimacy. But you will never experience this gift if you can't be transparent about your faults and struggles. If you hide your pain behind a mask, you will bring that pain into the marriage and it will eventually hurt your spouse. Whether you deal with depression, addiction or some form of sexual brokenness, get as much healing as you can before marriage.

### **Do you trust your partner's past?**

Don't rush into a marriage if you feel unsure about your partner's history—especially if he or she has been married before. It's OK to ask lots of questions. Get all the cards on the table. You don't want to wake up after the honeymoon and learn that your Dr. Jekyll has become a Mr. Hyde.

### **Are you planning a life together, or just a wedding ceremony?**

Too many couples today are in love with the idea of marriage, but they haven't thought beyond the honeymoon. If you are obsessing over cakes, flowers and the guest list, get your priorities straight. You don't want to spend \$25,000 on a wedding and then watch it disintegrate after one year.

### **Are you financially responsible?**

You don't have to have boatloads of money to be a happy couple. But if you have not planned how to pay your bills, financial stress will choke your marriage. Be wise. Many couples today have not even learned how to manage a bank account, create a budget or save money. Find a mentor if your parents didn't teach you the basics of life management.

### **How does your family and your partner's family feel about this marriage?**

There's no guarantee that all parents will be happy with your choices. But if there are major conflicts in the extended family, you may need to assess whether this is a wise decision.

Romeo and Juliet loved each other, but their story ended in tragedy because of their parents' attitudes. Seek pastoral support if family members are trying to stir up conflict.

### **Do you and your partner have similar goals and dreams?**

You don't have to like the same movies or prefer the same kinds of foods. But when God puts two people together, they support each other's dreams. This is especially true when it comes to expectations about children. If your spouse doesn't want kids, and you do, don't assume this will just "work out." If you are a woman who wants a career and your fiancée prefers you to stay home, it's time to reevaluate.

### **Do you and your partner pray together?**

This is a perfect way to tell if you are spiritually compatible with your partner. If you feel a deep level of spiritual intimacy when you pray with your fiancée, that's a good sign God is putting you together. But if your partner isn't interested in growing spiritually with you, take that as a hint to look elsewhere. When God brings a man and woman together, they should become one in every way.