

Important Bases to Cover BEFORE Marriage.

Both in the relationship should first individually consider their responses to each point below. It's important enough that you might want to take the time to write out your response by completing each sentence until the statement is complete and informative. When both have completed the exercise, then share your answers with each other.

Your name: _____ Date: _____

Faith - spiritual foundation and focus

1. My personal relationship with Jesus Christ is based on –
2. My desire as a Christian is –
3. In our marriage, I would like to ensure that we –
4. When it comes to my responsibility to the Lord and to the local (church) assembly, my priority will be –
5. As a couple, my role in ensuring we prosper spiritually will be –
6. I worry that –

Fundamentals – husband and wife roles

1. I want to marry this person because –
2. I understand from the Word of God that the husband's role in a marriage is –
3. I understand from the Word of God that the wife's role in a marriage is –
4. Society's values and perspectives on the role of a husband and wife often conflict with the Biblical view in these ways –
5. Home chores and domestic work should be –
6. When it comes to work and careers and my spouse's role versus mine, I think –

First Things in Life - agreement on priorities

Three things very important to me are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Finances

1. My policy on spending is –
2. My views on bills and debts are –
3. I believe to manage our finances successfully and to have minimum stress over money, we must –
4. My partner's education and salary are different than mine. Recognizing this can often become a source of friction in a marriage, I will –

Family - children and approach to child-rearing

1. When it comes to having children, I feel –
2. If we can't have children, I hope we will –
3. When it comes to giving our children structure, direction and discipline, I feel that we should –
4. One of the priorities for our future family will be –

Faithfulness in purity, sanctity, sex

1. According to the Word of God, I believe sexual relations and activity outside of the marriage bond is –
2. In the New Testament, here are a couple of verses I have come across in my reading that have spoken to me about keeping myself sexually clean –

Feelings - sensitivity

1. I am particularly sensitive and hurt easily when someone –
2. One of my weaknesses in communicating is –
3. I think the basics of good communications can be summarized this way –
4. When I'm upset, I usually show it by –

Flexibility - give and take

1. I believe we complement each other in these ways –
2. I have changed in this relationship since we started dating in these ways –
3. I feel the one I intend to marry has also changed in certain ways, such as –
4. The only things I think we cannot compromise on are –
5. I usually insist that I am right only when –

Friction and Fights

1. So far in our relationship, our *little disagreements have been* mainly over –
2. I think the *little irritants* we will have to work through after we are married will probably be over –
3. The *major 'Yes'* answers in *the Marriage Flashing Warning Lights* document that could potentially cause friction in the future are –

Forgiveness

1. I think that when there has been a disagreement in our relationship, we should –
2. My own role in resolving conflict should be –
3. I think we could avoid a major argument if we –

Friends

1. My friends understand that when we get married, we will need to –
2. The only potential conflict over our friends that I can see is –
3. My family background is different from my partner's in this way –
4. After we get married, I hope that my parents and my in-laws will respect our –
5. I hope we will be able to spend Christmas or other holidays with –
6. One potential problem I might have with my future in-laws could be –

Fun - Leisure

1. We share the same ideas of fun, pleasure, and recreation except for –
2. If my spouse does not enjoy doing the same things in our spare time, then I will –
3. For animals and pets, I hope –

Forever - until death separates or the Lord comes.

1. I understand that marriage is –
2. I think the reasons why many marriages break up or fall apart are primarily –

Finally – what question(s) would you recommend adding to this list?

Some helpful readings:

Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 24:5; Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 5:15-6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1Timothy 1:9-10, 3:11, 5:8; 1Peter 3:1-7; 1Corinthians 6:15-20, 7:3-5; 1Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

Remember: If you have a very uneasy feeling about committing to marriage as you complete this list, you have the **right** and **the responsibility** to put on the brakes until your fears are addressed. It is not too late to suspend things – even if it is the day before. It may cause embarrassment and many tears, but with the passing of time, your life will return to normal. After the vows are exchanged, it's too late.

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