

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. Do not talk about the inventory until after you have filled it out individually. After you have filled it out, be sure to talk through the inventory before you come for your first session. The pastor conducting your pre-marital counseling is the only other person who will read your responses.

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 CHBC? _____

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

Brief summary of circumstances for meeting and dating _____

A. 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 “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 _____	more easy-going _____
the shouter _____	more quick-tempered _____
the optimist _____	more impulsive _____
the pessimist _____	more cautious _____
the night person _____	more spontaneous _____
the morning person _____	more organized _____
the spender _____	more manipulative _____
the saver _____	more compliant _____
the leader _____	more analytical _____
the follower _____	more emotional _____
the helper _____	more happy _____
the artist _____	more depressed _____

2. What makes you tick? What lights up your world? What really matters to you? _____

3. 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	_____				
	1	2	3	4	5

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

5. Which of your fiancé(e)'s traits, habits, or mannerisms do you at least occasionally find irritating?

6. Which traits does your fiancé(e) share with:

his/her father _____

his/her mother _____

your father _____

your mother _____

7. Which traits identified in #6 do you tend to dislike? _____

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

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

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

B. THE IMPACT OF THE SIN/PROBLEM CHECK-LISTS

1. Mark on the list below things you or your fiancée have struggled with previously or still continue to struggle with presently: mark "P" for past struggles and/or "C" for current struggles. For those that don't apply, you can leave blank.

<i>MYSELF</i>		<i>MY FIANCE(E)</i>	
apathy	_____	apathy	_____
appetite	_____	appetite	_____
argumentative	_____	argumentative	_____
arrogant	_____	arrogant	_____
bitterness	_____	bitterness	_____
deception	_____	deception	_____
depression	_____	depression	_____
doubts	_____	doubts	_____
drunkenness	_____	drunkenness	_____
envy	_____	envy	_____
finances/debt	_____	finances/debt	_____
guilt	_____	guilt	_____
homosexuality	_____	homosexuality	_____
indecisive	_____	indecisive	_____
indifferent	_____	indifferent	_____
irresponsible	_____	irresponsible	_____
judgmental attitude	_____	judgmental attitude	_____
laziness	_____	laziness	_____
loneliness	_____	loneliness	_____
lust	_____	lust	_____
lying	_____	lying	_____
memory	_____	memory	_____
moodiness	_____	moodiness	_____
perfectionist	_____	perfectionist	_____
rebellion	_____	rebellion	_____
sex	_____	sex	_____
sleep	_____	sleep	_____
worry, anxiety	_____	worry, anxiety	_____
uncontrolled tongue	_____	uncontrolled tongue	_____

2. On the list above, pick one sin that has been harmful for your relationship with our 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. Which of these sins have *ruined*, *worsened*, or *compromised* a particular season of your life (either previously or currently)? _____

4. If there are sins from your past or present (i.e., suicide attempts, eating disorders, pornography viewing, etc.) that you don't want to talk about in front of your fiancé, please let the pastor know (you can call during the week or send an email) and he will set up a separate time to discuss things with you.

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

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? _____

C. 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. Comment on the familiar statement, "You don't just marry the individual; you marry the whole family," in terms of how you see it applying in your case. _____

5. 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?	_____	_____

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? _____

D. 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? _____

E. YOUR COMMUNICATION

1. Indicate how each of you tends to express the following feelings:

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

Looking at how you marked above, are you an:

_____ external processor (you tend to verbalize things *before* you think through them)

_____ internal processor (you tend to think through things *before* you verbalize)

2. *What* do you usually fight about and *when* do you usually fight? _____

3. How do you feel about arguing with him/her? Enjoyable ____; unpleasant ____; destructive ____; (other) _____

4. How do you try to resolve conflict with your fiancé? _____

5. Mark any communication weaknesses that you or your fiancée have struggled with previously or still continue to struggle with presently: mark “P” for past struggles and/or “C” for current struggles. For those that don’t apply, you can leave blank.

<i>MYSELF</i>		<i>MY FINANCEE</i>	
always gets the last word	_____	always gets the last word	_____
argumentative	_____	argumentative	_____
blame-shifting	_____	blame-shifting	_____
blows up	_____	blows up	_____
brash, harsh, rude	_____	brash, harsh, rude	_____
clams up	_____	clams up	_____
complaining/nagging	_____	complaining/nagging	_____
correcting	_____	correcting	_____
domineering	_____	domineering	_____
impatient	_____	impatient	_____
insulting/slanderous	_____	insulting/slanderous	_____
interrupting	_____	interrupting	_____
gossip	_____	gossip	_____
manipulative	_____	manipulative	_____

6. Mark below the communication strengths that characterize your relationship.

<i>MYSELF</i>		<i>MY FINANCEE</i>	
accurate/precise with words	_____	accurate/precise with words	_____
encouraging/affirming	_____	encouraging/affirming	_____
gentle/soft tone	_____	gentle/soft tone	_____
good at listening	_____	good at listening	_____
hopeful/optimistic	_____	hopeful/optimistic	_____
honest/truthful	_____	honest/truthful	_____
keeps no record of wrongs	_____	keeps no record of wrongs	_____
kind	_____	kind	_____
loving	_____	loving	_____
not easily angered	_____	not easily angered	_____
open to correction	_____	open to correction	_____
patient	_____	patient	_____
rejoices in the truth	_____	rejoices in the truth	_____
slow to speak	_____	slow to speak	_____
quick to forgive	_____	quick to forgive	_____
vulnerable	_____	vulnerable	_____
welcoming	_____	welcoming	_____
puts off confronting	_____	puts off confronting	_____
shuts-down in arguments	_____	shuts down in arguments	_____
sarcastic	_____	sarcastic	_____
tactless	_____	tactless	_____

7. Looking at #5 above, pick one or two communication struggles that have been harmful for your relationship with our 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. Looking at #6 above, pick one or two of your fiancé's *greatest* communication strengths and list them here. Explain briefly why you picked them. _____

F. YOUR RELATIONSHIP

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

2. Indicate the relative importance of the following aspects of your relationship as indicated by the time and attention devoted to each. (Mark with an "X" at the appropriate spot.)

	Little	Much
Practical (doing things together)	_____	_____
Intellectual (discussing thoughts, ideas)	_____	_____
Physical (discussing, engaging in sexual activity)	_____	_____
Emotional (dealing with feelings)	_____	_____
Spiritual (Bible reading, prayer, discussing faith)	_____	_____

3. Is the time you spend with your other close friends usually with _____, or without _____ your fiancé(e) also present?

4. What are your reading preferences? _____

Your fiancé(e)'s reading preferences? _____

5. Which books on marriage have you read? _____

6. What are some of the relational strengths which you can bring to the marriage? _____

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

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

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

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

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

G. 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 fiancée? _____

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

5. Define sexual intimacy. _____

H. 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 that relationship? _____

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?

I. YOUR FINANCES

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, tapes, CDs	_____	_____
Home furnishings	_____	_____
Groceries	_____	_____
Eating out	_____	_____
Entertaining guests	_____	_____
Gifts for spouse	_____	_____
Gifts for others	_____	_____
Vacations	_____	_____

- In which of the areas above would you say that your fiancé(e) might spend money frivolously?

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

- For which does each of you tend to spend money more freely: experiences _____ or things _____? (Indicate with “M” or “W”)
- Which of you has had more experience in managing finances? _____
- Who will manage your family finances? _____
- Do you have a tentative budget? _____
- Will the wife be employed after you are married? _____ If so, are the reasons primarily financial _____, or commitment to a career _____?
- After marriage, do you plan to merge your bank accounts? _____

- If you answer “no” to questions #8, then please explain› _____

J. 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. What methods of discipline were most effective for you as a child? _____

7. How would your discipline of your children differ from that which you received? _____

8. What do you consider to be your primary responsibility for your spouse's growth and development during the years of your marriage?

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

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

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

12. If your answer to #11 was “yes”, how can you prevent this from ever happening with your fiancée? _____

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

14. If you specified a circumstance in #13, what will you do to prevent it? _____

15. If your answer to #13 was “none”, on what do you base that confidence? _____

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

17. On your deathbed, what would sum up your life as worthwhile? What would give meaning to your life?
