



# THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH

## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING



When TTC ministers are asked to perform a marriage ceremony we also provide in-depth pre-marital counseling. We want to ensure that you get off to a great start in the spiritual and natural dimensions of matrimony.

This ministry is also available to any prospective couples or individuals who are looking for a scriptural foundation to becoming one flesh.



## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Marriage is a both a wonderful experience and a serious responsibility. It requires regular effort, focused attention and a lot if introspection. There are a numerous areas that both the prospective bride and the prospective groom need to be aware of with which they need to be able to develop some skills .

For that reason we provide a comprehensive process that can be tailored to each couple. Here are the normal topics:

1. Spiritual Status/Background
2. The Marriage Covenant
3. Roles in Marriage
4. The Laws of Harvest
5. Forgiveness
6. Prayer & Agreement
7. Sex
8. Understanding Spirituality
9. Heavenly Habits
10. Finances

Many of the questions we will ask you are quite personal and we will cover every area of life. At no time however, is our goal to be invasive or to violate the privacy of anyone. It's just that we take this marriage thing really seriously! And especially if you want us to validate that the union is founded on solid spiritual and natural ground, there are certain things we need to be able to talk about.



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #1: Spiritual Status & Background-Sample Questions**

1. Do you have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Have you formally repented of your sins, asked Jesus to be Lord of your life, and been baptized in His name? If not, are you willing and ready to do that?
3. Have you been married before? If so, describe the nature of the marriage. What happened?
4. Describe the pattern of your current relationship with each other.
5. Have you engaged in sex? If so, are you willing to acknowledge it as sin, and ask for forgiveness?

Next Session: Read and Study Genesis 2:23-25



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #2 - The Marriage Covenant**

- I. A covenant is a commitment to loyalty, mutual trust, and exchange - (1 Cor. 7:4)
  - it means laying down your lives for each other
  - it means committing to share all that you have with one another
  
- II. Before entering into marriage covenant both of you must be clear on:
  - “Terms” of the covenant
  - What you are promising each other
  - What behavior you expect of one another
  
- III. When two people marry several things are occurring:
  - God is joining himself to your union in order to bless it.
  - The two of you become “one flesh”.  
(Ephesians 5:28)
  - You have promised to dedicate yourself to God’s plan for your lives.

**For next Session: Read and Study Ephesians 5:22-23**



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #3 - Roles in Marriage**

- I. What does it mean to love one another the way Jesus loves the church?
  
- II. It is important to understand what roles you expect each other to play in your marriage.
  - leading
  - reassuring
  - serving
  - honoring
  - forgiving
  
- III. In the beginning Eve was created to be Adam's help meet". (ezer kenedgo)
  - The word "help" means to appeal to one who is stronger.
  - Adam was incomplete without Eve.
  - A wife and husband come together to "complete" one another.
  
- IV. On a practical level you must also have agreement on lifestyle roles:
  - work/career
  - childcare
  - decision -making
  - spiritual emphasis
  - handling finances
  - private time

**For next Session: Read and Study Galatians 6:7-9**



## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

### Session #4 - Laws of the Harvest

- I. Spiritual laws, like natural ones, govern the quality of our relationships.
- II. If you plant a seed of corn into the ground what will come up?
- III. You should think of you mate's spirit, soul, and body as a fertile field.
  - Your responsibility is to sow seeds that will produce a good crop.

#### **GOOD SEEDS**

Unconditional love  
Forgiveness  
Encouragement  
Patience  
Cooperating/Yielding  
Complimenting

#### **BAD SEEDS**

Selfishness  
Holding grudges  
Discouragement  
Wanting your way  
Being aloof  
Criticizing

- IV. When you sow you will always reap a larger amount. This applies to good as well as bad seed.

**For next Session: Read and Study Hebrews 12:11-16**



## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

### Session #5 - Forgiveness

- I. Unforgiveness is the primary cause of separation and divorce.
  - it creates bitterness
  - it puts both parties in bondage
  - it blocks the blessings
  
- II. Forgiving is a decision that you make in order to be obedient to God.
  - Once you choose to “hang on” to unforgiveness it’s hard to control the outcome. (Proverbs 26:17)
  - The desire for “justice” when you are wronged is natural and God will deal with those who wronged you.
  - The point is simply that God does not want you to be the avenger. (Romans 12:19)
  
- III. Remember that before we can forgive others we must first forgive ourselves.

**For next Session: Read and Study Matt. 18:15-20**



## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

### **Session #6 - Prayer & Agreement**

- I. Both of you need to seek God for a vision of where he wants you to go.
  - The Holy Spirit through the Word of God will strengthen your faith to work towards the vision.
  - Faith is essentially leaning on your whole personality on the certainty of God's promises.
  
- II. What is necessary for two people to become friends and trust each other?
  
- III. Knowledge of the promises of God found in the Bible plus regular communication with God produces power in your life and marriage.
  
- IV. When the husband and wife pray together there is an even greater release of power. \  
(Matthew 18:19-20)
  
- V. Set a simple goal for your mutual prayer time and then increase it as you are able.

**For Next Session: Read & Study Song of Solomon 4:1-11**



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #7 - Sex**

- I. God planned for sex to be good!
  - mutual fulfillment
  - deepest of spiritual unions
  - a physical representation of your completing one another
  - sexual intimacy based on a gift from the covenant
  
- II. Our society is full of a counterfeits which cheapens intimacy and destroy the beauty of sex.
  
- III. The curse of sin produced separation between husband and wife. (Genesis 3:16)
  - The curse is lifted when Jesus is invited into your marriage.
  - Sexual union is act of establishing a strong covenant.
  
- IV. Previous sexual encounters need to be repented of or you will bring destructive elements into your marriage.

**For Next Session: Read & Study 1 Cor. 20:3-6**



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #8 - Understand Spirituality**

- I. In many ways marriages are under pressure from demonic forces that want to create strife and division.
  
- II. God equips your marriage with weapons to protect the peace and joy God intends for you to have.
  - fruit of the Spirit (character) (Galatians 5:22)
  - gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12)
  - the name of Jesus
  - the blood of Jesus
  - the heavenly host (angelic beings)
  - praise
  - the armor of God (Eph. 6:11-17)
  
- III. As husband and wife you have a responsibility to “watch each other’s back”.
  - avoid responding based on feelings
  - realize the enemy is not the other person
  - encourage one another in the Lord

**For Next Session: Read and Study Ephesians 2:14-15**



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #9 - Heavenly Habits**

- I. People are creatures of habit based upon:
  - how we were raised
  - what messages were planted in our heads
  - good and bad experiences
  - our unique personality traits
  
- II. A successful marriage is based upon both parties developing Godly patterns of thought and behavior.
  - what you think (meditate) or will eventually manifest itself
  - husband and wife must avoid keeping secrets from one another
  - both must make the other comfortable in confessing sin and seeking God's forgiveness (1John 1:9)
  
- III. The Word of God as expressed in the Bible sets the standard for your marriage.

**For Next Session: Read and Study Malachi 3:8-10**



# PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

## **Session #10 - Finances**

- I. Conflict over money is a major tool of the enemy in bringing division into a marriage.
  
- II. There are some key elements to using God's plan for finances.
  1. Learn to tithe.
  2. Give generous offerings as the Lord leads.
  3. Agree on a budget for your spending.
  4. Plan ahead for important expenditures.
  5. Learn to save and invest wisely.
  6. Make sure the "right" person is responsible for keeping track of your finances.
  
- III. Avoid major expenditures unless both of you are in agreement.
  
- IV. Avoid impulse buying - pray about things you want to ensure the need is valid.