



## 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 Cornerstone? \_\_\_\_\_

If not a member, where do you go to church (name, location, and contact info)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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?

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

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### C. THE IMPACT OF THE 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	_____
Abuse	_____
ADD/ADHD	_____
Adultery	_____
Alcohol Overuse	_____
Anger or Aggression	_____
Anxiety	_____
Attention/Concentration	_____
Cancer	_____
Chronic Physical Pain	_____
Depression	_____
Divorce	_____
Eating Disorder	_____
Drug Addiction	_____
Financial Problems/Debt	_____

Pornography	_____
Obsessive Compulsive	_____
Panic Attacks	_____
Rape	_____
Same Sex Attraction	_____
Self-Harm	_____
Sexual Dysfunction	_____
Sexual Immorality	_____
Sleeplessness	_____
Suicidal thoughts/attempts	_____



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

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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?

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## 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? If slow, why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. 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

3. What do you usually fight about and when do you usually fight? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How do you try to resolve conflict with your fiancé(e)? \_\_\_\_\_

6. 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. \_\_\_\_\_

7. 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)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What do other people think of your fiancé(e) and your relationship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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. Would you say that you are a Christian? If so why? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In what ways do you struggle to trust, follow, love God? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What are the main influences that have shaped your relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How does your expression of your faith differ from that of your fiancé(e)? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. As you see it, how does a Christian marriage differ from any other? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How do you expect to cultivate your faith together after you are married? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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#### **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

8. In which of the areas above 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_