

Appendix A

Pre-Marriage Counseling Topics

Below is a broad list of topics that most couples run into at one time or another. Now is the time to talk about them. Circle the number and letter that best describes your level of interest. If you haven't thought much about the topic you should have a high level of interest in talking about it (= "1"). If both you and your fiancé have thought through and talked about the ramifications of your opinions you may have a low interest in talking about it (= "5") during our counseling sessions. Your fiancé should fill out one of these on their own as well.

"1" = low familiarity/high interest "5" = high familiarity/low interest
 "D" = discuss "R" = resource

1. My male friends – how will things change?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
2. My female friends – how will things change?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
3. Communication diff. – male/female	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
4. How to have a fair fight & stay married	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
5. "Buttons" my fiancé tends to push	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
6. "Buttons" I tend to push	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
7. Personality/Temperament differences	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
8. Different "love languages"	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
9. Fears about my past	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
10. Fears about my fiancé's past	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
11. Work ethic priorities	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
12. What is entitlement? Are we guilty?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
13. That's a man's work	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
14. That's a woman's work	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
15. Housekeeping expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
16. Your parent's influence in your marriage	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
17. Your sibling's influence in your marriage	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
18. Your friend's influence in your marriage	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
19. Family roles in the Bible	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
20. Standard of living expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
21. Home (geographically speaking)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
22. Home (standard of living speaking)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
23. Long term life plans	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
24. Long term career plans	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
25. Financial planning	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
26. How much our first year together will cost?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
27. How much our first year, first child will cost	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
28. How will we pay the bills? & Why?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
29. Continuing education expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
30. Entertainment expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R

31. Insurance (life, medical, home, vehicle)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
32. How much should/can we save?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
33. Vacation expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
34. Holiday/family visiting expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
35. Giving gifts to family/friends	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
36. Personal recreation alone? Together?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
37. Time management	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
38. Career development expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
39. The best ways to deal with stress	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
40. The worst ways to deal with stress	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
41. Addictions... 100+ "Yeah really!"	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
42. Number of children	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
43. Discipline of children	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
44. Outside childcare or staying at home?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
45. Children: ground rules for development	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
46. Home school? Public/Private school?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
47. Death: Who will take care of the kids?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
48. Marriage: in the Bible	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
49. Marriage: Motives, Myths, REALITY	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
50. The Wedding: in the Bible	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
51. Wedding: how much to spend?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
52. Wedding: who will come?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
53. Wedding: who will participate?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
54. Divorce: in the Bible	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
55. Christian sex? You're kidding!	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
56. Can Christians be "romantic?"	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
57. Birth control	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
58. Potential of infertility	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
59. Authority/submission & the Bible	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
60. Does my fiancé have "authority issues?"	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
61. Spiritual priorities	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
62. Charitable giving expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
63. Church involvement expectations	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
64. Spiritual growth habits	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
65. Personal spiritual growth	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
66. Troubled relationships from the past	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
67. Keeping yourselves pure during engagement	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
68. Chronic illness – what if?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
69. Terminal illness – what if?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
70. Dreams about the future- Your's? Their's?	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
71. Organ donation/cremation/burial	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5	D	R
