

## Background Information

Family History and Interview Questions - Use the following questions to discover as much as you can about your partner. Be ready to talk about the ones in italics during your first session with your premarital counselor.

- What special memories do you have about your childhood?
- How did you get along with each of your parents? What were they like? *What did you like and dislike about your parents?*
- *What were your hurts and disappointments as a child?*
- What were your hobbies and favorite games?
- *How did you usually get into trouble?*
- *How did you usually try to get out of trouble?*
- What did you enjoy about school activities?
- What pets did you have? Which were your favorites and why?
- What did you dream about doing when you were older?
- *Did you like yourself as a child? Explain.*
- *Did you like yourself as a teenager? Explain.*
- What were your talents and special abilities?
- What awards and achievements did you win?
- Did you have a nickname?
- Who were your close friends? Where are they today?
- Describe the area where you grew up—people, neighborhood, etc.
- *What was your spiritual life like as a child? As an adolescent?*
- Who were the Christians in your family?
- What were you afraid of? Do you have any of those fears today?
- What parts of your childhood would you like to relive? Why?
- What do you remember from your first day of school?
- Did you enjoy school? Why or why not? What was your favorite grade, and who were your favorite teachers?
- Who was your first date?
- Who were your other dates or boyfriends/girlfriends? What did you like and dislike about each one?
- Where did you go on dates?
- How did you feel when you liked some-one and that person didn't care for you?
- How has being an adult (over age 18) changed your life?
- *Compare yourself now to when you were 10.*
- What have been your greatest disappointments? How have you handled them? What have you learned from them?
- At what age did you first like the opposite sex?
- *What was your birth order in your family?*
- Did you have enough money in your youth? Enough clothing?
- *Who educated you in sex? What were your sexual experiences? What is your standard for sexual expression in your life now?*
- What are your political views?
- What do you enjoy reading? Watching on TV?
- *Have you ever had a child? Do you want children?*
- What is your first real memory?
- Who were your favorite relatives?
- *Describe your education and job experiences. What were your emotional reactions to jobs, fellow employees, and bosses? What are your ambitions?*
- What are your natural gifts? What do you consider your strong points? Weak points?
- What is your medical history?
- What is your favorite holiday, type of music, television program, and pastime?
- *What is your definition of an ideal spouse?*
- Who are the five most important people in your life?
- What are your views on aging?
- Describe the best year of your life.

Some questions taken from: Preparing for Marriage (Augsburg Fortress, 1992).

## Our Premarital Pledge

We have committed ourselves to Biblical principles in preparing for our marriage. We believe it is God's will for us to honor one another as we live pure and holy lives. In pursuit of this goal, we agree to abstain from sexual intimacy until we share our marriage vows together.

*1 Thessalonians (AMP) 4:3-8 3 For this is the will of God, that you should be consecrated (separated and set apart for pure and holy living): that you should abstain and shrink from all sexual vice, 4 That each one of you should know how to possess (control, manage) his own body in consecration (purity, separated from things profane) and honor, 5 Not [to be used] in the passion of lust like the heathen, who are ignorant of the true God and have no knowledge of His will, 6 That no man transgress and overreach his brother and defraud him in this matter or defraud his brother in business. For the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we have already warned you solemnly and told you plainly. 7 For God has not called us to impurity but to consecration [to dedicate ourselves to the most thorough purity]. 8 Therefore whoever disregards (sets aside and rejects this) disregards not man but God, Whose [very] Spirit [Whom] He gives to you is holy (chaste, pure).*

We also understand that God's love and commitment to us will not jeopardized by our past failures. When we confess our sins and ask for His forgiveness us through Christ Jesus, He will see us as a completely new couple. He looks at us as broken people, whom He has given the hope of a fresh start.

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9(NIV) Ps.66:18-20*

We seek to trust and honor God and to protect each other by upholding His guidelines of sexual purity and intimacy within the context of our future marriage. We believe that with God's power, we will be able to keep this promise and be greatly blessed by our obedience to Him.

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Groom's signature & date

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Bride's signature & date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature & Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature & Date