

Questions to Ask Before Getting Married

These questions are guides for you and your loved one to discuss as you determine whether or not you want to marry. The questions are grouped by topic. You are encouraged to work through each of the questions and add any other questions you may have. You may have additional topics you wish to add and that is okay as well. Feel free to send me those topics and questions at jmaxwell@myrealmarriage.com so they can be included in an update of this resource. One general question in each area is, "What are my expectations regarding this area/subject?"

Topics

Meaning of Marriage
Trust
Listening
Sex & affection
Recreation
Children & Parenting
Health Issues
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General Questions

Expectations
Needs
Communication
Roles & responsibilities
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Spiritual Issues
Family of Origin
Work

Love
Scheduling
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Commitment
Friends
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Education

Meaning of Marriage

1. What does marriage mean to you?
2. How important is marriage to you?
3. Is marriage for a lifetime or only as long as it works for you?
4. What do you think makes a good marriage?
5. Does a good marriage just happen or does it take work?
6. Are you willing to learn more about making a good marriage?

Expectations

1. What are your expectations for marriage?
2. What are your expectations of a spouse?
3. What are your expectations of yourself?

Love

1. What does love mean to you?
2. How important is love to you?
3. How do you know when someone loves you?
4. How do you want to be shown love?
5. How do you usually show love to others?
6. What do you do when you don't "feel" loving?

Trust

1. What does trust mean to you?
2. How important is trust to you?
3. How do you know when someone trusts you?
4. How do you know you are trusted?
5. How do you develop trust with others?
6. What do you do when you don't "feel" trusting?

Needs

1. How do you define "needs?"
2. What are your needs in marriage?
3. What other needs do you have?
4. How do you handle the needs of others?

Scheduling

1. How important is time to you?
2. How important is being on time to you?
3. How do you prioritize your schedule, how do you determine what to do first?
4. What kinds of things do you schedule?
5. What kinds of things don't you schedule?

Listening

1. Do you think you are a good listener?
2. Do you think it is important to be a good listener?
3. How do you like to be listened to?
4. How do you show that you are listening to others?
5. How do you like to be shown that others are listening to you?

Communication

1. How important is communication to you?
2. How do you like to receive communication?
3. What is the best way for you to communicate?
4. How often do you like to receive communication?
5. What areas are important to you to receive communication about?
6. What areas would you rather not communicate about?

Conflict Resolution

1. How do you typically resolve conflict?
2. What topics are likely to cause conflict with you?
3. How do you like others to resolve conflict with you?
4. Are you willing to learn more about conflict resolution?

Sex and Affection

1. What does affection mean to you?
2. How do you like to be shown affection?
3. How do you not like to be shown affection?
4. How do you like to show affection?
5. How do you not like to show affection?
6. How is affection different from sex?
7. What does sex mean to you?
8. Are you a virgin?
9. How many partners have you had?
10. Have you ever had sex with someone of the same sex?
11. Have you ever been pregnant/fathered a child?
12. Do you have any sexually transmitted diseases?
13. Have you ever had any sexually transmitted diseases?
14. Have you ever been raped or sexually abused?
15. What are your views on birth control?
16. What are your views on fidelity?
17. What kinds of sex will you want to try when we are married?
18. Will you be willing to try different sex positions?
19. In what places is it acceptable to have sex?
20. Will you want to have sex only in the bedroom or are other rooms acceptable?
21. What is your view of pornography?
22. Will you want to have sex only in the dark?
23. How frequently will you want sex when we are married?

Roles and Responsibilities

1. What roles do you have?
2. What do you see as your role in our marriage?
3. What responsibilities do you have?
4. What responsibilities will you accept in our marriage?
5. How do you see my role our marriage?
6. What responsibilities do you want me to take in our marriage?

Money and Budget

1. What does money mean to you?
2. What do you think about a budget?
3. Should there be a primary money maker? If so, who?
4. Who will handle the finances and pay the bills?
5. What is our spending limit before we consult one another before buying?
6. What needs to go in our budget?
7. How do plan for retirement?
8. What kind of savings do you want to have?

Recreation

1. What does recreation mean to you?
2. What kinds of things do you like to do for recreation?
3. Do you like to enjoy your recreation by yourself or with others?
4. What hobbies do you have?
5. What do you want to do about vacations?
6. Is it okay to take separate vacations?

Traditions and Rituals

1. What are your family traditions and rituals?
2. What are your personal traditions and rituals?
3. What are your holiday traditions and rituals?
4. Do you have a tradition or ritual for arguing?
5. Do you have a tradition or ritual for making up?

Commitment

1. What does commitment mean to you?
2. Is commitment important to you?
3. Is commitment important in marriage?
4. What does commitment look like to you?
5. How do you respond when you break a commitment?
6. How do you respond when someone breaks a commitment with you?
7. What commitments do you already have?
8. Will you keep all of these commitments?
9. What commitments are you considering adding in the future?

Children and Parenting

1. Do you want children?
2. How many children do you want?
3. When do you want children?
4. Who is the primary caretaker for the children?
5. What is the parent's responsibility to children?
6. How do you see yourself as a parent?
7. How do you want to discipline as a parent?
8. Do you want public or private school for your children?

Spiritual Issues

1. What is your religion or faith?
2. Where do attend religious services?
3. How often do you attend religious services?
4. How important are spiritual issues to you?
5. How important do you want spiritual issues to be?
6. How will you blend spiritual issues in marriage?
7. How will spiritual issues affect you as a parent?
8. What religion or faith do you want for your children?

Friends

1. How many friends do you have?
2. Do you have friends of the opposite sex?
3. Is it okay to have opposite sex friends when married?
4. How important is friendship to you?
5. How much time do you spend with friends or would you like to spend with friends?
6. Are your friends a good or bad influence on you?

Health Issues

1. How important is your health to you?
2. What do you do to take care of your health?
3. How important are regular check-ups to you?
4. Do you have corrected vision?
5. Do you go to the dentist regularly?
6. What do you think of immunizations?
7. What do you think about taking medicine?
8. What kinds of illnesses or diseases have you had?
9. What kinds of health issues do you have?
10. Are you on medication? What kind?
11. Is it okay to have an opposite sex medical provider?
12. In what circumstances is it okay to have an opposite sex medical provider?
13. In what circumstances is it not okay to have an opposite sex medical provider?
14. How important is insurance to you?
15. What do you think about alternative forms of medicine?
16. Do you exercise? What kinds? How often?

Family of Origin

1. Are your parents still alive?
2. How long have your parents been married to each other?
3. Do you have brothers and sisters?
4. What is your birth order?
5. How do you get along with your parents?
6. How do you get along with your siblings?
7. How close are you to extended family?
8. What was it like growing up in your home?
9. What do you like about your family?
10. What don't you like about your family?

Home

1. What does "home" mean to you?
2. What kind of home do you want?
3. How will chores be divided in the home and yard?
4. Where would you really like to live? (Country, state, geographic area, city, etc)
5. What kind of neighborhood do you want to live in?

Pets

1. Do you have pets?
2. Do you want pets?
3. How important are pets?
4. How much do we spend on pets? (What about major vet bills?)

Work

1. What kind of work do you do?
2. Do you like it?
3. What kind of work would you like to do?
4. What is the ideal number of hours to work?
5. What do you think of both spouses working?
6. Is work more important than your marriage?
7. How would you handle conflicts between work and your marriage?

Education

1. How important is education to you?
2. What is your current level of education?
3. What level of education do you plan to attain? By when?

General Questions

1. What are your favorites? (Use favorites list from www.myrealmarriage.com)