

## Pre-Marriage Basics

### Good reasons to marry

- **Relationship** (Song of Solomon; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)
- **Joy** (Psalm 127)
- **Children** (Psalm 127) [A legacy (Ecclesiastes); To have help in old age (1 Timothy 5:4)]
- **Sex** (help avoid fornication, 1 Corinthians 7:1-9)

### Responsibilities

#### *Man*

- **Leave** father and mother and
- **Cleave/Cling** to your wife (Genesis 2).
- **Provide** for needs (1 Timothy 5:8).
- **Lead** and
- **Love** (Ephesians 5:23-33).
- Dwell with her in an **understanding** way, treating her as a fragile vase (1 Peter 3:7).

#### *Woman*

- **Submit** to your husband “as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:1; Titus 2:5).  
*Obvious exception:* If he were to expect something against God’s will (Acts 5:29).
- **Respect** your husband (Ephesians 5:33).
- **Love** your husband (Titus 2:4).
- Be a **homemaker** (Titus 2:5).

- Both*
- Marriage is a **covenant** (and God takes vows *very seriously*, Psalm 15:4).
  - The two become “**one flesh**” (Genesis 2; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9). So be **faithful** emotionally, sexually, and mentally, not lusting after others (Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:27-32; 19:1-9) because unfaithfulness to a spouse is ultimately hurting *yourself* (Ephesians 5:28-31).
  - **God makes the two people one** and gives them His Spirit **for a purpose**: He seeks **godly offspring**! So the husband and wife need to work together as a team to raise their children (if they are blessed to have them) in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

### Axioms

1. Each person’s life changes over time, so any *relationship* between *two people* will **change over time**.
2. **You cannot control the other person** (i.e., guarantee his or her future faithfulness to you or to the Lord), but you can *influence* him/her (1 Peter 3:1-6).

### Myths

**Myth:** “There is only one right person for me.”

**Fact:** Many *arranged* marriages have been *successful* marriages.

**Myth:** “Having a *longer* relationship *before* marriage helps ensure a longer marriage.”

**Fact:** Long, successful marriages have been started after *very brief* courtships. In fact, long courtships (and especially *engagements*) can *increase* sexual *temptation* and *strain* the relationship.

**Myth:** “Sex before marriage helps ensure compatibility.”

**Fact:** As long as both people are healthy, they *will be* compatible physically. Sex before marriage – aside from bringing potential health risks – makes it *less likely* that the people will make a permanent commitment. Besides, if they have sex outside of marriage *before* marriage, what’s to stop them from having sex outside of marriage *afterwards*?

### The formula for success: *Both people must have...*

- 1) **The right to marry:**
  - a) Never married before, OR
  - b) Widowed (Romans 7:1-3), OR
  - c) Divorced because of the other person’s sexual immorality (Matthew 19:1-12; See also 1 Corinthians 7:10-13, 39; See Ezra chapters 9 & 10 for a case where men had to put away wives whom they had no right to marry in the first place.)
- 2) **The proper foundation**, namely, a solid relationship with the Lord (Ecclesiastes 4:12; Matthew 7:24-25)  
*Illustration (at right):* The “**marriage triangle**.”  
The **closer** the two draw **to God**, the **closer** they draw **to each other**.
- 3) **The right mind-set:** A priority on growth/increased **maturity** and **togetherness**.  
**Divorce must not** even be considered to be **an option**. (See Malachi 2:13-16.)

