

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE PREMARITAL COUNSELING SESSIONS

1. Marriage is one of God's key ways to help His people grow and change. The focus in premarital counseling is not on the wedding but on qualities needed for a God-honoring marriage.
2. Since your goal in life is to become like Jesus Christ, the goal of your engagement period and your marriage is to help one another become more like Christ. Therefore there must be a commitment to moral purity during the engagement period. If there has been physical intimacy in the relationship, a commitment must be made to seek forgiveness and immediately end this sinful behavior. If you are living together, you must agree to discontinue this arrangement until the wedding.
3. Post-marital sessions will be scheduled for your help and encouragement.
4. As a Christian couple, you need the care and discipline of the local church. Church membership and faithful attendance and involvement in the local church are expected. Various leaders of the church may be involved in the counseling process.
5. All counsel and projects in the premarital counseling sessions will be based completely on the Scriptures as authoritative. Marriage is a God-ordained and permanent institution that must not be entered lightly.



When you vow to love your partner for better or for worse, you must be sincere about what you are vowing. Divorce, though acceptable in our day, is not acceptable with God. 'Til death do us part means just that... 'til death do us part. Marriage is the most blessed relationship on earth, but weddings do not change people. The person you are marrying is a sinner. After the romantic feelings run thin and the responsibilities and temptations of marriage surge, the factor that will keep you committed to your marriage is not feelings of "love" but the sacred covenant or promise that you made to one another before God and others. At the same time, when two people desire to please God and work at changing and communicating, their relationship will grow and deepen and become a shining testimony to the power of God and His Word at work in their marriage.

6. Biblical premarital counseling assumes the couple desiring to marry are Christians who have developed the basic disciplines of 1) Daily Bible reading, 2) Prayer, 3) Local church attendance, and 4) a Christian witness in the world. If you have not developed these disciplines, now is the time to begin.
7. Plan on 6 to 8 (or more if needed) sessions together.