



PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING
and
MARRIAGE PREPARATION



Faith Deliverance Ministry

Let Go & Let God

Faith Deliverance Ministry
Greensboro, North Carolina
www.faithdm.org

Purpose

Each couple will need to meet with the Pastor in order to arrange for pre-marital counseling. In most cases, this will consist of six to eight one-hour sessions over a two to four month period. The purpose of these sessions is three-fold:

- For the couple to examine their readiness for marriage;
- For the couple to examine important issues in their relationship, so that they may get to know each other more deeply.
- For the Pastor to get to know the couple more deeply, and examine their readiness for marriage.

Counseling Sessions

Introductory Meeting

The Pastor's wedding policy will be discussed along with the expectations of the couple concerning the pre-marital counseling. If both parties are in agreement to proceed, the couple will contact the Pastor to set up the first session.

Session #1

The couple will be given a copy of the latest version of a marriage document by the name of "[Free Pre-Marriage Counseling](#)". This information will be given to both the bride and a separate copy to the groom. This document will be discussed and the bride and groom will be advised as to the contents of the remaining sessions.

The couple will also be administered a short quiz called "Marriage Compatibility Rating Test". This is currently a 15 question compatibility test. The couple will not see each other results at this point but they will be revealed in a later session.

Session #2

During session two the bride and the groom will arrive at separate times for their appointments. Each will be asked a series of initial questions pertaining to their upcoming marriage.

The bride and groom answers will be compared to each other in attempts to locate positive and negative aspects of their possible lives together as husband and wife.

The bride and groom will each be given a copy of a marriage preparation book. If the bride and / groom is a member of Faith Deliverance Ministry the church will pay for the cost of the book. If the bride nor the groom is a member of Faith Deliverance Ministry then the bride and groom but purchase or pay in advance for their books.

The current book used is called “Before You Say I Do” by H. Norman Wright & Wes Roberts. (This Is A Marriage Preparation Manual For Couples) The current price of the book is \$9.99 plus sales tax. This book can be purchased at your favorite book store or you may want to pay the counselor in advanced who will purchase the book for you, making sure you get the correct book.

The book ISBN is: 978-1-56507-637-2 (pbk.) Copyright 1977, 1997 by Harvest House Publishers www.harvesthousepublishers.com

Homework and Attendance

There will be homework assignments given at most of the meetings. These will be done either alone or together as a couple between sessions. It is important that these be completed on time, and that couples place their highest priority in attending all of the sessions. Couples will be acquiring skills and knowledge to help them the rest of their lives. Some of the assignments will involve study and discussion of various biblical passages so that the couple will learn what God has to say about various topics.

□ Session #3

During this session couples will be taught together about the following topics:

Christian Faith

A Christian wedding ceremony implies that the people being married are devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and that they intend to make Jesus an active participant in their marriage. The spiritual aspect of the marriage relationship is an essential component in a healthy marriage. Therefore, for those who have not made a commitment to Jesus Christ, or do not know what that entails, time will be given to explore this issue with the couple. Consequently, the Pastor will not knowingly perform the wedding ceremony for couples where either both partners are not Christians or only one partner is a Christian.

Church Attendance

A church wedding is a worship service to God. Those who are devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and who are actively involved in a church family, can best appreciate the significance of the service. Thus, for those couples who have no present church relationship, the Pastor will require attendance at our church worship services as a prerequisite to performing the ceremony so that the couple can show in one tangible way their commitment to being a part of God's family.

Promise to Wait

Sex is a beautiful act of love, commitment, and unity that God has created only within the bounds of marriage for a husband and wife. For the couple's own well-being (physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually), each couple is asked to promise to remain sexually pure from this moment on until the wedding is over. In addition, time will be taken during the counseling sessions to discuss God's view of sex and the couple's understanding of sex.

If a couple is cohabitating, there are various issues that will need to be worked out before the pastor will be able to agree to perform the wedding ceremony.

Approval of Wedding

When our Pastor performs a wedding ceremony, he in essence is proclaiming to those present that God agrees that this couple should be united in marriage, and that they have the intent to have a Christian marriage. Our Pastor cannot make that judgment until he has had time to get to know the couple. Therefore, our Pastor will tentatively inform each couple by the mid-way point of the pre-marital counseling sessions whether or not he will officiate a couple's wedding. This will be based upon his knowledge at that point. Should he agree to officiate, then later become aware of matters that could have a significant negative impact upon the couple's relationship, or if either partner fails to meet the agreed upon condition of the marriage preparation/counseling process, he reserves the right to rescind his approval. The date and time of the wedding will be placed on the church calendar after the Pastor has agreed to perform the ceremony.

☐ **Session #4**

This session will mostly be for the couple to express themselves concerning what they have learned and / discovered about themselves and their potential spouse. Afterwards the Pastor will begin to share with the couple important information about the bride and groom that was submitted earlier such as credit and criminal background check, work history, information submitted in individual session, etc...

☐ **Session #5**

In this session all home work will be turn in to the pastor completed or not. The pastor will advise the couple of some FREE online counseling materials where available. The pastor will explain to the couple what he / she will do with the couple's information and set a date for the couple to return for a final session which is when the pastor will inform the couple of his / her thoughts / concerns about the marriage along with rather he will make himself available to officiate the marriage union.

☐ **Session #6**

This is the final session and the pastor will inform the couple of his / her thoughts / concerns about the marriage along with rather he will make himself available to officiate the marriage union.

If the pastor agrees to officiate the marriage he will give both the bride and groom a written statement informing them as well as tell them in person.

If the pastor does not agree to officiate the wedding he will give both the bride and groom a written statement informing them of his decision not to officiate their marriage and why. If the pastor believes further counseling of any type is needed prior to marriage he will attempt to locate places locally where more advanced and in-depth counseling may be offered. Attempts to locate FREE services will be made but not promised. (The couple may or may not have to pay for the additional services)