

Homework Questions 1

You are physically and emotionally attracted to each other. Wonderful.

Two out of three is a great start but it won't sustain a relationship when everyday decisions and life interruptions bring challenges to the marriage.

The homework questions are a compilation gathered from seminary and years of living married as well as mentoring others. These are questions that should be discussed prior to engagement or at least before the ceremony itself. (But it doesn't hurt to review these even if you've been married for years.)

Do you have to be 100% in agreement before your marriage? No, few couples will be. Should you go from counselor, to therapist, to pastor in order to 'fix' each other before marriage? Again, no. Unless there's a diagnosed mental disorder, most of these topics will be worked out by two Spirit-filled believers communicating with each other.

Remember, marriage is the Gospel, and it is a method of sanctification. God choose you two to be instruments in rubbing off each other's rough edges. Marriage is work in God's highest order. We recommend you compile your answers in a notebook to be used as a manual. When an argument arises you can say, "We discussed this, let's read and review our plan. We can adapt as necessary."

Here's how it works.

First, find a mediator to meet with you both to discuss your answers. It's important to have a pastor, faithful older married couple, or mature believer present in order to guide discussions. This person should be knowledgeable in the Word of God and have strong communication skills. Pay attention, good communication is a must for marriage.

Determine the number of meetings. You can do these in four weeks, but we recommend breaking them down into smaller portions. They are marked for your convenience.

Second, each week download three copies: one for each of you and the mediator. You will answer the questions separately, without discussion. Answer honestly, not how you think he/she would want you to answer.

Third, meet together. One at a time read your answers verbatim, one question at a time.

Then discuss any differences or 'red flags' that appear. You want to communicate the following:

- How do you handle and live with differences?
- How do you decide what can remain a difference without jeopardizing the relationship?
- How does your family upbringing effect your opinions and reactions to these differences?

A trained mediator will not dictate to you what you should or should not do. You must work together to determine what God's Word says, how the Spirit is leading, and how you will obey.

Homework Questions 2

Session 1 - Theology

What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

How do you handle the Bible?

What do you believe about prayer?

Is it important that a married couple have similar beliefs about these subjects?

1 - Worship and devotion (Or can be separate session)

Should we attend the same church?

How important is corporate worship? Other participation in church life?

How important is it to be part of a small accountability/support group?

What is the importance of music in life and worship?

What are your daily personal devotional practices? Prayer, reading, meditation, memorization.

What would our family devotions look like? Who leads out in this?

Are we doing this now in an appropriate way: praying together about our lives and future, reading the Bible together?

Session 2 - Husband and wife

What is the meaning of headship and submission in the Bible and in our marriage?

What are expectations about situations where one of you might be alone with someone of the opposite sex?

How are tasks shared in the home: cleaning, cooking, washing dishes, yard work, car upkeep, repairs, shopping for food, and household stuff?

What are the expectations for togetherness?

What is an ideal non-special evening?

How do you understand who and how often sex is initiated?

2 - Children (Or can be a separate session)

If and when, should we have children? Why?

How many? How far apart?

Would we consider adoption?

What are the standards of behavior?

What are the appropriate ways to discipline them? How many strikes before they're...whatever?

What are the expectations of time spent with them and when they go to bed?

What signs of affection will you show them?

What about school? Home school? Christian school? Public school?

Homework Questions 3

Session 3 - Work

Who is the main breadwinner?

Who does the bank account—or are there two?

Should the wife work outside the home? Before kids? With kids at home? After kids?

What are your views of daycare for children?

What determines where you will locate? Job? Whose job? Church? Family?

3 - Lifestyle (Or can be a separate session)

Own a home or not? Why?

What kind of neighborhood? Why?

How many cars? New? Used?

View of money in general. How much to the church?

How do you make money decisions?

Where will you buy clothes: Designer store? Department store? Thrift store? Why?

3 - Entertainment (Or can be a separate session)

How much money should we spend on entertainment?

How often we eat out? Where?

What kind of vacations are appropriate and helpful for us?

How many toys? Snowmobile, boat, cabin?

Should we have a television? Where? What is fitting to watch? How much?

What are the criteria for movies and theater and video/DVD? What will our guidelines be for the kids?

Is it good to do things with friends but without fiancé, or without spouse?

What will you do if one of you really likes to hang out with 'so and so' and the other doesn't?

Session 4 - Conflict management

What makes you angry?

How do you handle your frustration or anger?

How did your parents handle conflict?

Who should bring up an issue that is bothersome? How should this be done?

What if we disagree both about what should be done, AND whether it is serious?

Will we go to bed angry with each other?

What is our view of getting help from friends or counselors?

Homework Questions 4

4 - Health and Sickness (Or can be a separate session)

Do you have, or have you had any, sicknesses or physical problems that could affect our relationship? (Allergies, cancer, eating disorders, venereal disease, etc.)

Do you believe in divine healing and how would prayer relate to medical attention?

How do you think about exercise and healthy eating?

Do you have any habits that adversely affect health?