

# PREMARITAL CARE

This brief discussion paper is designed to give the participants a clearer view of what lays ahead maritally. It is not intended to reveal how much you don't know of one another, but rather how much you do know. Some of the questions may surprise you and others not. Whatever you make of the study is down to your honesty and willingness to communicate frankly with one another. Your answers will neither shock nor surprise your discussion group leader, so feel free to have your say and above all, remember the process is about YOU and not us.

The questionnaire includes the following topics:

- Interests and Activities
- Religion and Beliefs
- Personal Adjustment
- Role Adjustment
- Home Duty List
- Interpersonal Communication
- Marriage Readiness
- Finance
- In-Laws
- Children
- Sexuality

If you have any difficulty answering any of the questions, do not hesitate to contact your appointed counsellors or your Pastor

# Instructions

**Please read instructions before beginning.**

The premarital inventory is designed to aid an engaged couple in examining their feelings and expectations about a marital relationship. Choose the answer which most accurately complies with your opinion or feelings about the statement. Draw a circle around the appropriate answer.

A = agree      D = disagree      U = uncertain

For example, if you agree with question 1, circle A, as in example. If you disagree with question 2, circle D, as in example, if you are uncertain with question 3, circle U, as in example.

1.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	D	U	Agree
2.	A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> D	U	Disagree
3.	A	D	<input checked="" type="radio"/> U	Uncertain

There is no particularly ‘correct’ answer, but the answer you feel happiest with, or think is the most appropriate for you. These are to be answered on your own, without consultation with your fiancé. It is important that you give the answer that is true for you.

Pray before you answer, asking God to help you.

**Note:** The results of this will be strictly confidential and will be returned at the end of sessions.

This inventory will help in the premarital counselling you are about to undertake.

It will give your counsellors an idea of your relationship with your future partner, an idea of your understanding of what is required for marriage and will help to make the time spent with counsellors fruitful. Any areas of difficulty or misunderstanding can also be worked through so that you will have a better understanding of marriage, of each other and of how you can build and develop your relationship more fully.

God wants you to have a marriage relationship that is good and blessed and brings glory to Him. As you open up to Him, He will indeed help to stimulate, enrich and strengthen your relationship.

As you grow as a couple in your understanding and relationship with Jesus Christ, you will find marriage can enhance your faith in Him. Marriage is a picture of Jesus Christ’s relationship with His people, Eph 5:21-33.

# PREMARITAL INVENTORY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner \_\_\_\_\_

The following questions should be answered separately by each person.

## Interests and Activities

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 1  | We enjoy many of the same interests  |
| A | D | U | 2  | I have too few hobbies or leisure activities   |
| A | D | U | 3  | One of us pushes his/her choice of leisure time activities<br>Onto both of us                        |
| A | D | U | 4  | my future partner respects my wishes to pursue some of<br>My own interests (hobbies, activities)     |
| A | D | U | 5  | I am unhappy with one or more of my future partner's<br>Activities                                   |
| A | D | U | 6  | my future partner is too busy for us to do enough<br>Together  |
| A | D | U | 7  | we have "his" and "her" friends, but few friends we<br>share in common                               |
| A | D | U | 8  | I am comfortable with my future partner's friends  |
| A | U | D | 9  | My future partner feels comfortable with most of my<br>friends                                       |
| A | D | U | 10 | I feel comfortable in allowing my future partner some<br>time with his/her friends                   |
| A | D | U | 11 | We are comfortable with our choice of political<br>part(is).   |
| A | D | U | 12 | My future partner places too much emphasis on<br>being an important part of the community            |
| A | D | U | 13 | I am satisfied with my future partner's idea about<br>housing  |
| A | D | U | 14 | There are no problems between us about how we will<br>furnish and decorate our home                  |
| A | D | U | 15 | We agree that, if our finances are limited, television will<br>be the most satisfying pastime for us |

## Religion and Beliefs

- |   |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| A | D | U | 1  | I am born again, have a personal faith in Jesus Christ and am comfortable with being a Christian                          |
| A | D | U | 2  | My future partner is a born again Christian and has a faith, maturity and understanding of Christian things similar to me |
| A | D | U | 3  | I strongly believe that Christian faith, beliefs and values is the basis of our future marriage                           |
| A | D | U | 4  | My Christian convictions have caused some conflict with my future in-laws   |
| A | D | U | 5  | I feel a great pressure on my freedom in choosing the church to attend  |
| A | D | U | 6  | Many aspects of the church's teachings and emphasis cause a great deal of conflict between us                             |
| A | D | U | 7  | We both agree in the amount of involvement we wish in our church  |
| A | D | U | 8  | I feel God has a greater involvement for me in Christian work in the future   |
| A | D | U | 9  | My future partner and I agree about greater involvement in Christian work in the future                                   |
| A | D | U | 10 | I am not a born again Christian, but would be interested in knowing something about Christian faith                       |
| A | D | U | 11 | I am often bothered about my future partner's prejudices against other people or groups of people                         |

### Personal Adjustment

- |   |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| A | D | U | 1  | My future partner has certain mannerisms which annoy me   |
| A | D | U | 2  | A problem is that my future partner places too much emphasis on neatness                            |
| A | D | U | 3  | I am often displeased with the appearance of my future partner                                      |
| A | D | U | 4  | I sometimes worry about my future partner's temper  |
| A | D | U | 5  | I am sometimes uncomfortable with the behaviour of my future partner at social/fellowship functions |
| A | D | U | 6  | My future partner and I can trust each other with members of the opposite sex                       |
| A | D | U | 7  | I am bothered by the way in which my future partner shows affection to me in public                 |
| A | D | U | 8  | I feel rejected when my future partner seemingly ignores me when in the company of others           |
| A | D | U | 9  | At times I am disturbed by my future partner's sense of humour                                      |
| A | D | U | 10 | I am worried about the use of tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs by either of us                         |
| A | D | U | 11 | I worry that the physical/mental health of one of both of us will cause problems between us         |
| A | D | U | 12 | Most of the time I am satisfied with life   |
| A | D | U | 13 | I accept the way my future partner handles his/her personal problems                                |
| A | D | U | 14 | My future partner frequently seems depressed  |
| A | D | U | 15 | I am sometimes at a loss to know what to do about my future partner's moodiness                     |
| A | D | U | 16 | My future partner is too dependant on his/her parents   |
| A | D | U | 17 | Too often my future partner refuses to bend on a particular issue                                   |

## **Role Adjustment**

- |   |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| A | D | U | 1  | We are in agreement about our future goals and ambitions  |
| A | D | U | 2  | I am content with what my future partner expects of me in marriage  |
| A | D | U | 3  | I am comfortable with my future partner's career expectations   |
| A | D | U | 4  | There are some disagreements between us about chosen occupations  |
| A | D | U | 5  | We have worked out who will be the wage earner(s) in the family   |
| A | D | U | 6  | With us there is no dispute about the wife's working outside the home   |
| A | D | U | 7  | I feel my social background limits me my future partner's friends   |
| A | D | U | 8  | One or both of us feels some concern about educational background causing problems between us   |
| A | D | U | 9  | We have considered carefully that we are racially and/or socially from different backgrounds and are convinced these will not hinder our marriage |
| A | D | U | 10 | We have discussed our duties about the operation of our home  |
| A | D | U | 11 | We are happy with those things we have agreed upon to be our responsibilities around the house. (see "Home Duties List" at end)                   |

**Home Duties List** (Relates to Role Adjustment question 11)

Each partner should look at each statement and comment on whether they are willing to do the activity and especially how they feel.

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Plan meals                            | Hang Pictures             |
| Buy groceries                         | Take out rubbish          |
| Carry in and put groceries away       | Water plants              |
| Do cooking                            | Cut grass                 |
| Feed and clean up after pets          | Clean cupboards           |
| Clean over and refrigerator           | Water grass               |
| Wash and dry dishes                   | Write letters to families |
| Remember important family dates       | Polish silver             |
| Arrange social events at home         | Sweep vacuum and dust     |
| Choose and buy presents               | Choose vacation site      |
| Fix small things around the house     | Work out income tax       |
| Put dirty clothes in laundry          | Iron                      |
| Wash and fold the laundry             | Mend                      |
| Make a final decision in a discussion | Scrub walls               |
| Change sheets and make bed            | Keep car repaired         |
| Drive car when both are along         | Give babies a bath        |
| Decorating house                      | Arrange furniture         |
| Mow lawns                             | Do the gardening          |

Can you think of something not on the list that will be or will not be your responsibility?

## **Interpersonal Communication**

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 1  | My future partner and I are most alert at the same time of the day                           |
| A | D | U | 2  | My future partner is a good companion to have in doing things together                       |
| A | D | U | 3  | I find I am at ease with him/her most of the time  |
| A | D | U | 4  | I can count on my future partner to give me support when I am feeling let down               |
| A | D | U | 5  | I have noticed undesirable personality changes in my future partner when their guard is down |
| A | D | U | 6  | We are really able to talk together  |
| A | D | U | 7  | I am seldom able to express my true feelings adequately to my future partner                 |
| A | D | U | 8  | I will do anything to avoid becoming involved in disagreements with my future partner        |
| A | D | U | 9  | I am satisfied with the way we resolve differences between us                                |
| A | D | U | 10 | One of always has to be right  |
| A | D | U | 11 | A problem is that when we offend each other, my future partner refuses to talk about it      |
| A | D | U | 12 | When I am angry I say and do hurtful things to my future partner                             |
| A | D | U | 13 | I am bothered by belittling remarks my future partner makes about me                         |
| A | D | U | 14 | I am sometimes afraid of my future partner   |
| A | D | U | 15 | I sometimes worry that in a fit of temper my future partner will harm me                     |
| A | D | U | 16 | If we should ever find ourselves drifting apart, having a baby will bring us back together   |
| A | D | U | 17 | My future partner is too possessive of me  |
| A | D | U | 18 | Most of the time I can count on my future partner to be a good listener                      |
| A | D | U | 19 | I am content with the ways in which we show affection to each other                          |

### Marriage Readiness

- |   |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| A | D | U | 1  | There is some objections to our marriage  |
| A | D | U | 2  | I am the right age to get married   |
| A | D | U | 3  | I am ready for marriage   |
| A | D | U | 4  | I will solve a number of problems I now have by getting married                                     |
| A | D | U | 5  | Some difficulties have been created because my future partner wants to get married sooner than I do |
| A | D | U | 6  | Pregnancy has affected our marriage plans   |
| A | D | U | 7  | Neither of us feels we are being pushed into marriage   |
| A | D | U | 8  | I am feeling great pressure from someone about our wedding plans                                    |
| A | D | U | 9  | I feel that I have very little to do with the decisions made about our marriage                     |
| A | D | U | 10 | There is conflict between my future partner and me about the type of wedding we want                |
| A | D | U | 11 | At times I have strong doubts that I have made the right choice of a partner                        |
| A | D | U | 12 | There is no possible way we could have problems in our marriage                                     |
| A | D | U | 13 | I am sure I will never doubt my love for my future partner  |
| A | D | U | 14 | One cannot be absolutely sure that his/her choice of partner is correct                             |
| A | D | U | 15 | I accept the idea of permanence of marriage   |
| A | D | U | 16 | We have discussed the meaning of marriage vows which will be recited at our wedding ceremony?       |
| A | D | U | 17 | We have made plans about where we will live after marriage  |
| A | D | U | 18 | I have been married before  |

If so, answer 19, otherwise go to Finance

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 19 | There were children resulting from that marriage |
|---|---|---|----|--|

## **Finance**

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 1  | I am concerned about my future partner's ability to handle money   |
| A | D | U | 2  | We are in agreement about who will be in charge of handling money matters  |
| A | D | U | 3  | We are in agreement about how to handle our cheque account(s), credit cards and credit accounts                  |
| A | D | U | 4  | I am satisfied about the way we have decided to budget our money   |
| A | D | U | 5  | We agree in the practise of tithing to the local church we attend  |
| A | D | U | 6  | I am confident that our income will cover our expenses   |
| A | D | U | 7  | We are in agreement on how much of our budget will be spent on rent/mortgage                                     |
| A | D | U | 8  | We are in agreement about how we will handle savings and debts in our budget                                     |
| A | D | U | 9  | One or both of us has some worrisome debts outstanding   |
| A | D | U | 10 | I believe that there will be enough income to allow some expense for enjoyment of sports, hobbies, interests etc |
| A | D | U | 11 | I am worried that we do not have enough insurance  |

### **In-Laws**

- |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | D | U | 1 | I am worried that the financial help from the in-laws will cause us some trouble            |
| A | D | U | 2 | There is no interference from family members about our choice of housing and/or furnishings |
| A | D | U | 3 | I worry that either of our families will cause friction between us                          |
| A | D | U | 4 | My family agrees with my choice of partner  |
| A | D | U | 5 | My in-laws approve of me  |
| A | D | U | 6 | My family and the family of my future partner have quite different socio-economic standards |
| A | D | U | 7 | I am uncomfortable when I am around some of my in-laws                                      |

### **Children**

- |   |   |   |    |   |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| A | D | U | 1  | My future partner and I have discussed whether or not we want children            |
| A | D | U | 2  | There is a conflict between us about whether or not we want children              |
| A | D | U | 3  | We are in agreement with each other about how many children we would like to have |
| A | D | U | 4  | We have a strong disagreement about adoption                                      |
| A | D | U | 5  | I have discussed all of my feelings about having children with my future partner  |
| A | D | U | 6  | I am not afraid to accept the duties of being a parent                            |
| A | D | U | 7  | Because of my childhood, I have concerns about raising children                   |
| A | D | U | 8  | There is no question in my mind that my future partner would be a good parent     |
| A | D | U | 9  | I feel that I would be a good parent  |
| A | D | U | 10 | We agree in what the role of a mother is in raising our own children              |

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 11 | We agree on what the role of a father is in raising our own children         |
| A | D | U | 12 | Our ideas on child raising methods are compatible                            |
| A | D | U | 13 | I agree with my future parent's biblical beliefs about disciplining children |
| A | D | U | 14 | We have similar attitudes about what we want our children to get out of life |

**Sexuality**

- |   |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|---|----|--|
| A | D | U | 1  | I think I know what to do in the act of love making and sexual intercourse   |
| A | D | U | 2  | I have grown up with good feelings about sex   |
| A | D | U | 3  | I feel comfortable in discussing sexual matters with my future partner (Note: wisdom and care needed in this area) |
| A | D | U | 4  | Sex is something I very much want  |
| A | D | U | 5  | I feel that sexual intimacy with my future partner will be embarrassing to me                                      |
| A | D | U | 6  | We have been involved sexually with each other   |
| A | D | U | 7  | The thought of revealing my body to my future partner makes me very nervous  |
| A | D | U | 8  | I am somewhat afraid of being sexually unsatisfying to my future partner   |
| A | D | U | 9  | I am fearful that I might be sexually impotent / frigid  |
| A | D | U | 10 | With us sex and love are definitely separate things  |
| A | D | U | 11 | Knowing good technique in the sex act is the most important thing in seeking a satisfying sex relationship         |
| A | D | U | 12 | A god way to work out problems between us will be to have sexual intercourse                                       |
| A | D | U | 13 | The issue of premarital sex has caused some conflict   |
| A | D | U | 14 | We are in agreement about our attitudes about birth control  |

- A D U 15 Homosexual tendencies in either one of us has me worried
- A D U 16 If my future partner was unfaithful it would end our marriage relationship
- A D U 17 I have no reason to believe my previous sexual behaviour, (if any) had affected me with communicable diseases (AIDS, VD etc)

I give approval for collecting this information solely for the purpose of pre-marriage counselling.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(This is now required by the Privacy Act)