

Promised Land Ministries

Pre-Marital Counseling Sessions

Date: _____

Marriage Counseling

The Objective of these counseling sessions is for both of you to come to an agreement on how you will make decisions affecting your marriage as husband and wife after you both say I do.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete the questions as fully as possible. Be prepared to review and discuss your responses at your counseling sessions.

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK: _____

FIANCE'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK: _____

SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

1. Are you a "born again" Christian? _____ If yes, how long?

2. Briefly share your relationship with Jesus Christ

3. Briefly state your views regarding the authority of the Bible and its place in your life:

4. Do you attend Promised Land Ministries Church? _____ If yes, how long? _____

5. If you do not attend Promised Land Ministries Church, do you attend another church? _____

If yes, where? _____

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PREVIOUS MARRIAGE HISTORY (if applicable)

1. Have you been previously married? _____ How many times? _____
2. Please provide dates and duration's of previous marriage(s):

3. Please provide the names(s) of previous spouse(s): _____
4. Did the marriage end because of death _____ or divorce? _____
5. If death, how long have you been a widow/widower? _____
6. If divorce, how long have you been separated? _____
7. Is the divorce final? _____ Date divorce became final: _____
8. Do you have children? _____ How many? _____ Ages(s): _____
9. What are the custody and visitation arrangements?

10. What will be the role of your future spouse in the live of your children?

11. Why was the marriage(s) terminated?

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DATING HISTORY

1. Have you ever been interviewed for marriage at Promised Land Ministries Church prior to this time?

If yes, when? _____ By whom? _____

2. Have you ever been engaged to anyone other than your current fiancé? _____

If yes, why was that engagement terminated?

YOUR CONCEPTS OF MARRIAGE

1. Why do you want to get married?

2. What do you expect of marriage? (Please complete the statements)

"I expect to get . . . (a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

"I expect to give . . . (a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

3. Do your parents know of your engagement? _____

4. Do your parents approve of your engagement/marriage? _____

5. What do you believe is the husband's role in marriage? (Priest, Provider, Protector)

6. What do you believe is the wife's role in marriage? (Nurture, Invest, Encourage)

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The Lord's Concept of Marriage

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

Ephesians 4:26 When Angry

Colossians 3:18-21 Running the Christian Home

1 Peter 3: 1-7 Submission

Ephesians 5:22-33 Wives and Husbands

ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

1. How long have you known your fiancé? _____
2. How long have you been dating each other? _____
3. How long have you been engaged? _____
4. Have you and your fiancé ever lived together? _____
5. Have you ever had disagreements? _____
6. Have disagreements turned into physical fighting? _____
7. How do you plan on resolving future disputes? _____

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COMMUNICATION

1. What subjects have you and your fiancé discussed? (Please check all that apply)

- Communication _____
- Children _____
- Education _____
- Expectations _____
- Goals for Self _____
- Roles / Responsibilities _____
- Finances _____
- Family _____
- Mutual Goals _____
- Sex _____
- Goals _____
- Needs _____
- Occupations _____
- Resolving Arguments _____
- Other _____

2. Which of these topics have produced the most stress / tension in your relationship?

3. Who does the majority of the talking when you are alone together?

4. How do you communicate to your finance when you are angry?

5. Describe your behavior / action / attitude when you are angry or upset

6. How does your finance communicate to you those areas that bother him/her about your behavior or lifestyle?

7. What is the primary way your fiancé expresses his/her love or affection to you?

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8. How do you express your love or affection to your fiancée?

SEX

1. Do you know of any reason why you are unable to have a normal sex life or unable to have children?

2. Please state any fears you have concerning sexual intimacy:

3. Is there any event in your past that might hinder your sexual relationship with your fiancée?

4. Have you discussed sex with your fiancée?

5. What areas do you have questions concerning sex?

6. What are your views on pre-marital sexual relations?

7. Have you been or are you now sexually active in this present relationship?

CHILDREN

1. Do you each want children?

2. How many?

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3. Will you have them christened?

4. Is the sex of the child important?

5. Have you discussed names?

6. Is a college education important for your children?

7. If so, how will you plan for that?

8. Who will raise the child-stay home in the early months?

9. Do you both agree on child care-what type and at what age?

10. How will the duties of childcare be split (night feedings, diapers, bathing, feeding, nighttime rituals and homework)?

11. Are there any pets? Will there be a problem caring for it together?

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MONEY AND FINANCES

(YOU MUST LIVE OFF ONE SALARY AND SAVE THE OTHER)

1. Will you have a joint checking account?

2. Who will take care of the joint bills?

3. Will both partners work?

4. How will the income be dispersed?

5. How much spending money should each partner have for the week?

6. How will taxes be paid?

7. Do you want to purchase a home?

8. How will it be financed?

9. How is your credit report at this time-Have you shown each other your credit status?

10. Will there be a limit on credit card spending?

11. How much money per week should be allocated for a date/night/entertainment/travel?

12. When will you begin living off one income and begin saving the other? _____

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IN-LAWS

1. How do you currently get along with each other's parents?

2. Is there currently any stress, and why?

3. Do one set of parents get overly involved in your daily activities as a couple?

4. What if they meddle in your important decisions?

5. Can you put your marital relationship first above your parental relationship?

6. How much time will you give to your parents/week/month?

7. Where will you spend what holidays?

8. What is the protocol on gifts for holidays and birthdays?

9. Would you ever borrow money from your in-laws; if so, how would it be handled?

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BLENDING of FAMILIES

1. If there are children from prior relationships, are there special issues that need to be addressed. Who is the disciplinarian over whose children?

2. How will affection be expressed?

3. Are the children happy about the impending marriage-or showing signs of distress and jealousy (anger, acting-out, withdrawing, whining, clinging, and fighting with future siblings)?

4. Where will the new family live-are the children losing space in their territory (bedroom) by needing to share?

5. What will the new purchases be to start a new life together?

6. Are you willing to enter into family counseling if the children are having trouble adjusting?

RELIGION

1. Will you both attend Promised Land Ministries?

2. How often will you attend religious services?

3. What are your plans for Jesus Christ in the lives of your children?

4. Will you both attend Sunday school and Bible class?

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SUMMARY

Are there any questions or concerns you have regarding these issues or marriage in general?

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Have you set a tentative date for getting married? _____

If yes, when (date and time?) _____

2. Do you plan on having the ceremony here at Promised Land Ministries Church? _____

If not, where? _____

We want to share in the excitement and your personal growth as an engaged couple and work together with you to make your engagement period and wedding preparations run as smoothly as possible.

Therefore, we believe it is essential for you both to submit yourselves to the will God's Word as a couple entering into counseling with the pastor who will further assist you in knowing God's wonderful plan for your married life.

NO WEDDINGS PERFORMED WITHOUT COMPLETION OF COUNCELING

The performance of marriage ceremonies is a service to the body, not an obligation. It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling sessions is NOT an agreement of approval to be married. After the completion of pre-marital counseling and only after, is permission given by the pastor to be married at Promised Land Ministries; the church is NOT obligated to meet any wedding date set prior to counseling. All dates are tentative.

If you have read the above note and thoroughly understand Promised Land Ministries position concerning the wedding ceremony, please sign and date below.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

Pastor Lenon Smith