

PREMARITAL QUESTIONNAIRE

You are preparing to be married, and you have come to me for your service of marriage. I celebrate both your decision to marry and to seek God's blessing on it! There is a shared responsibility between both of you, and me to prepare as fully as possible for the commitment you are making to each other for "as long as you both shall live". A part of that preparation comes through an affirmation of who each of you are, an understanding of the experiences that have shaped your lives, and what that suggests for you individually and as a couple in marriage. This questionnaire and the work we will do with it is to help you in this preparation.

There are two parts to this questionnaire. Part One is to be completed and returned to me. This is one way I can get to know each of you better. Part Two is to be shared just with your soon-to-be spouse. Please take time to thoughtfully complete this form. Do it individually, without consulting your partner. When you have finished, share your forms and talk about your responses. You may choose to share the results of this conversation with me or not.

I hope you find this process helpful, particularly as you share with each other. Communication is vital to creating a strong marriage, this form is intended as a tool to assess and assist that communication.

God Bless,

Rev. Ian Lynch

PART ONE

Name:

Where did you live when you were growing up? If you moved during that time, list the places where you lived and the number of years in each.

List your brothers and/or sisters in the order of their ages, and indicate how many years older or younger than you each one is.

Who were the members of your family living at home with you while you were growing up?

My parents have been;

- Married once
- Separated
- Divorced

How old were you at the time of the divorce?

Did either remarry?

Mother - Yes [], No [] Father - Yes [], No []

- One or both deceased

Who? _____ How old were you at the time?

I remember my childhood as:

- Very happy
- Usually happy
- Sometimes troubled
- Very unhappy

I would describe my parents' marriage as:

- Very happy
- Usually happy
- Sometimes troubled
- Very unhappy

In my childhood, I or other family members have experienced:

- Serious illness
- Death of an immediate family member
- Prolonged unemployment
- Alcoholism
- Drug abuse or addiction
- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Legal difficulties

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In what church or religious tradition were you raised?

What aspects of your religious training seem important to you now?

What church or religious tradition do you relate to now?

How would you define religion? What does spirituality mean to you?

How would you describe your religious interest?

Strong Average Slight

How would you describe your partner's religious interest?

Strong Average Slight

What role do you expect religious faith and church participation to play in your marriage and family life?

Why is it important for you to have a religious service for your marriage?

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

If you were asked to choose the two most significant and life-changing experiences in your life, which would you choose, and why?

Have you been married before? Yes No

If "yes", what happened to end the marriage?

What did you learn from the experience of ending a marriage?

What values are important to you? What influences have shaped them?

Give a brief description of yourself. Who are you?

Give a brief description of your intended spouse. Who is he/she?

PART TWO

ROLE EXPECTATIONS

What do you expect of yourself as a wife/husband?

What do you expect of your spouse?

How will you make major decisions for your family?

Who will have primary responsibility for handling your financial affairs? Are you both comfortable with this arrangement?

Are you able to talk freely about your sexual relationship? Do you feel you understand each other's feelings and needs?

How do you usually handle disagreements or conflicts with your partner?

In what areas do you think conflicts might arise in your marriage?

If you are currently living together, how will marriage make for a difference in your relationship?

How would you describe your relationship with your prospective in-laws? Are you comfortable with them?

How does your future spouse relate to your family? Are you comfortable with their relationship?

If you could change anything about your intended spouse, what would you change?
What goals have you set for yourself (such as completing an education, becoming established in a career, etc.)?

What goals does your intended spouse have for her/himself? How do you see yourself helping her/him to accomplish those goals?

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

Please rate yourself and your intended spouse in terms of the following qualities. Use the following scale: 1 = not at all; 2 = rarely; 3 = sometimes; 4 = usually; 5 = very much.

	Myself						My Intended Spouse				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Dominating											
Submissive											
Energetic											
Honest											
Willing to change											
Happy											
Sad											
Irritable at times											
Creative											
Nervous											
Jealous											
Dependable											
Passive											
Intelligent											
Ambitious											
Sympathetic											
Forgiving											
Able to apologize											
Affectionate											
Considerate											
Sociable											
Flexible											
Domestic											

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Which questions on this inventory did you find most thought-provoking?

If there are other topics you would like to discuss with your intended spouse and/or the pastor, please make a note of them on the back of this page.

And now, for a change of pace

Draw two pictures below. In the first, show how you see your relationship now. Under the first, show how you expect your relationship to be five years from now.