

START HERE — BEFORE THE WEDDING IS THE BEST TIME

Engagement is the most important season to have the conversations most couples avoid. Couples who talk openly about money, family, conflict, faith, and expectations before they marry **enter marriage with fewer surprises, stronger trust, and tools to handle what life brings.**

■ Research shows premarital counseling reduces the risk of divorce by 30% or more. Most churches offer it free.

7 TOPICS EVERY ENGAGED COUPLE MUST DISCUSS

Topic	Why It Must Be Discussed Before the Wedding	Questions to Ask Each Other
Money & Finances	Financial conflict is the leading cause of divorce. How you each view money will shape daily life from day one.	Joint or separate accounts? How do we handle debt each brings in? What does financial security mean to each of us?
Children & Parenting	Discovering major differences after marriage creates profound conflict. This belongs before the ring is on.	Do we both want children? How many? How will we discipline? What do we want to keep or change from our own upbringings?
Roles & Expectations	Unspoken assumptions about who does what become silent resentments quickly.	Who handles which responsibilities? What does a typical week look like? What do we each expect from the other?
Faith & Spiritual Life	How faith is practiced together will affect your home, your children, and your community.	Will we attend church together? How will we raise children spiritually? How does faith shape our decisions as a couple?
Family Boundaries	In-law relationships are a top source of marital tension. Set expectations now — before habits form.	How much time do we spend with each family? Who comes first — spouse or parents? How do we handle holidays?
Conflict Style	Knowing how your partner processes arguments prevents major misreads.	Do you need space or closeness when upset? Do you shut down or speak up? What does 'resolved' look like to each of us?
Career & Ambitions	Career demands affect everything from daily schedules to long-term life direction.	Are there moves that could require relocation? How do we balance ambition with family? What does success look like?

HABITS TO BUILD & PATTERNS TO AVOID — STARTING NOW

The communication patterns you establish during engagement become the defaults of your marriage. Build good ones intentionally.

Habits to Build Now

- ✓ Practice saying 'we' and 'our' — not just 'I' and 'mine.'
- ✓ Learn your partner's love language before the wedding.
- ✓ Set a weekly time to check in — and protect it.
- ✓ Establish how you will disagree — before you disagree.
- ✓ Complete premarital counseling. Every couple benefits.
- ✓ Build a shared vision: what does your life look like in 10 years?

Patterns to Avoid Now

- ✗ Assuming your partner shares your expectations without asking.
- ✗ Letting wedding planning become the only conversation.
- ✗ Dismissing a concern because 'it will work itself out.'
- ✗ Keeping financial secrets — debt, spending habits, or income.
- ✗ Letting family members set expectations for your marriage.
- ✗ Skipping hard conversations to avoid conflict before the wedding.

OUR FOUNDATION — FILL THIS IN TOGETHER

Conversations We've Had

Topics we have talked through:

Topics we still need to discuss:

Our Shared Vision

What our home will feel like:

Our top 3 priorities as a couple:

1.

2.

3.

Our Commitments Before 'I Do'

We will complete premarital counseling:

One hard conversation we will have this month:

Our wedding date:

■ KFM MARRIAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM — Free Counseling Assistance for Couples

■ KFM MARRIAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Kingdom Family Ministry offers **free marriage and premarital counseling assistance** for eligible residents of **Montgomery County and North Harris County**. Through our trusted network of providers, we help remove financial barriers so couples can access the professional support they need — regardless of financial circumstances. Whether you are preparing for marriage, working to strengthen your relationship, or navigating challenges together, we are here to help.

Get Connected

To learn more or apply:

www.kingdomfamilyministry.org/marriagesupportprogram

✉ support@kingdomfamilyministry.org

☎ 936-280-0822

Open to eligible residents of Montgomery County and North Harris County. Financial circumstances are not a barrier to participation.

RESOURCES

Prepare/Enrich

prepare-enrich.com — The most widely used premarital assessment. Used by counselors and churches worldwide.

Focus on the Family

focusonthefamily.com — Faith-based premarital resources and counselor referrals.

The Gottman Institute

gottman.com — Research-based premarital tools and workshops.

AAMFT — Find a Therapist

aamft.org — Find a licensed premarital counselor near you.

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center

healthymarriageinfo.org — Free premarital education resources and guides.

◆ FAITH & ENCOURAGEMENT

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up." — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 (NIV)

The marriage you build will reflect the foundation you lay today. Every honest conversation before the wedding is a brick in that foundation. God designed marriage to be a covenant — not just a ceremony — and preparation is how you honor that.

My Prayer / Reflection

My Action Step This Week
