

God's Purpose for Marriage

**This lesson will guide you and your fiancé in a discussion
regarding the purpose of marriage.**

An understanding of God's original purpose for marriage will help you to walk in greater victory in your own covenant relationship with your spouse. As you gain perspective on all God has intended, your marriage can become all that God has intended it to be.

Pray Together

“Lord, please soften our hearts and open our minds to have Your desires as we learn about marriage. We want to give up any pre-conceived worldly ideas about marriage and our personal goals for ‘changing’ our marriage partner. Lord, give us the willingness and desire to learn, to have unselfish motives, and the obedience to apply these truths in our marriage.”

Why Marriage?

These verses lay the Biblical foundation for marriage. Read them out loud and discuss what you learn and fill in the questions prompts.

Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

We should have a high view of marriage because it was created to _____ God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

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How does marriage glorify God?

- Marriage was _____ by God.
Genesis 2:18, 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Ephesians 5:31
- Marriage is _____ by God.
Psalm 105:8
- Marriage points _____ to God.
Revelation 21

From the those verses, we learn many Biblical truths. Below are a few:

- Marriage is designed to bring oneness on multiple levels — spiritual, emotional, physical, and social.
- Christian marriage is between a man and a woman.
- Marriage is to reflect the image and the glory of God as God created men and women in His image. It should display the character of God and the nature of His relationship within you.
- God created man and woman for relationship with Him and each other.
- God designed marriage for children to be a blessing.
- God calls us to advance His Kingdom within marriage.

God's Purpose for Partnership

God wants to give us great joy through marriage. He also wants to develop a deep and rewarding holiness of character in both marriage partners!

Marriage helps us accomplish 1 Corinthians 3:18:

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Discuss the below points: How many of them are reasons why you've decided to get married? Be honest.

Marriage...

- is about holiness more than happiness
- is an analogy of God's union with us
- teaches us to love
- teaches us to respect others
- fosters a regular and biblical prayer life
- exposes our sin
- builds perseverance
- embraces difficulty to build character
- teaches us to forgive
- builds in us a servant's heart
- makes us more aware of God's presence
- contains sexuality, which can provide spiritual insight and character development
- is part of our calling, mission, and purpose (unless a person is called to be single, which is equally important in God's eyes — Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7)

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The journey you are about to embark on should include all of these reasons and will be a lifelong learning adventure.

It is important that we seek God to develop these things in our own lives through marriage, and also that we pray for them to be developed in our spouse.

Pray Together

“Lord, we ask You to give us the desire to give one another joy in our marriage through a development of holy character in each of us. Help us be devoted to our own character development as well as our spouse’s by praying for Your holiness to be worked in us each day of our marriage.”

Answer Key

glorify God
designed by God
remembered by God
people to God

Roles in Marriage

This lesson will guide you and your fiancé in a discussion regarding roles in marriage.

A proper understanding of the roles of men and women in marriage will help you and your fiancé to honor one another as unique yet equal partners and to represent Jesus and His church to the world around us in a powerful way.

Pray Together

“Lord, we ask that you help us to know our identity in you and to honor our spouses role in our marriage. We know that you have created us male and female in your image and desire to see you represented well through our marriage to the world around us.”

Roles of Men and Women

We learn in the below passages that both men and women were created in the image of God. They are different but equal.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 5:2

Male and female He created them, and He blessed them and named them man when they were created.

Look up the listed verses and read them out loud. Then discuss the following questions.

Husband and Wife Share Roles:

- Ephesians 5:21-23 — Submit themselves to one another

The Husband’s Role:

- Ephesians 5:25-28 — Sacrificial love
- Ephesians 5:29 — Nourish and cherish wife, provide for and protect her
- 1 Peter 3:7 — Endeavoring to understand his wife

The Wife’s Role:

- Genesis 2:18 — Helpmate and co-laborer
- Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18 — Submission to husband’s leadership
- Ephesians 5:33 — Respect her husband

1. What does it mean to submit to one another?

2. What does it mean when the husband is called the “head”?

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3. How should husbands and wives make decisions?

Work Roles:

In Genesis 2:15, we are called to work so this is a natural part of your lives as a couple. **Discuss the following questions as work will affect your roles in marriage.**

- Should women work outside the home? When/ why?
- How can you see work roles possibly changing as seasons of marriage and life change?
- If both spouses work without compromising child-rearing, how do you see this playing out in your marriage? Is it wrong for the wife to work more or make more?

Roles in the Home:

It is good to talk through some specific roles in the home before you go into marriage as it lays the foundation for clear expectations.

Read through the following list to discuss and mark who will be responsible to...

Husband	Wife	Both	
_____	_____	_____	reconcile the finances?
_____	_____	_____	pay the bills?
_____	_____	_____	take out the trash?
_____	_____	_____	wash the car?
_____	_____	_____	fix breakfast?
_____	_____	_____	fix lunch?
_____	_____	_____	fix dinner?
_____	_____	_____	change the baby's diapers?
_____	_____	_____	carry out discipline of children?
_____	_____	_____	do laundry?
_____	_____	_____	fold and put away clothes?
_____	_____	_____	maintain lawn?
_____	_____	_____	wash and put away dishes?
_____	_____	_____	maintain vehicles?

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Can you think of any more household jobs to talk about?

Now, briefly discuss these same questions according to how the responsibilities in this list were handled by your parents. Often times what we observe in our parents' lives will influence our perspective. How do you believe your parents' roles have influenced you?

Pray Together

"Lord, we really want to honor You in our marriage roles, while blessing one another. Help us be unselfish in our service of each other and our marriage, and let all we do in our roles glorify and honor You."

Communication

Communication creates the pathway for greater intimacy. Walk through this lesson together to discuss how to have productive communication.

Learning to communicate in a healthy and loving way that blesses and builds up your spouse is one of the most challenging aspects of almost every marriage. It is one of the most refining and “holiness-creating” parts of a healthy, God-honoring marriage relationship. It is certainly worth a life-long pursuit!

Pray Together

“Lord, we desire to honor you with every word from our mouths. Speak to us in this lesson about how we can be committed to lovingly communicate with one another. Rid us of any unhealthy or unloving habits as we want to be made more and more into your image.”

The Do's and Don'ts of Communication

Read the following statements together. Tomorrow, read the scriptures as part of your Facetime.

Don't... Simply try to win.

Do... Listen to your spouse. Really listen.

Scripture reference: Proverbs 18:2

Don't... Speak harsh, hasty words, or uncontrolled anger. It is hard for anyone to respond well to a mean voice!

Do... Think first. Don't be hasty in your words. Speak in a kind voice, in a way that your spouse can receive and understand your words.

Scripture reference: Proverbs 15:1; 14:29; 29:11; 29:20; James 1:19

Don't... Go to bed angry, in the middle of uncontrolled emotion.

Do... Each day, clear the offenses of the day. Apologize, and ask for forgiveness. Speak forgiveness.

(It is not always possible to go to bed “feeling” perfectly fine. But make the effort to speak forgiveness for the days offenses.)

Scripture reference: Ephesians 4:26

Don't... Use silence to frustrate your spouse.

Do... Explain why you may hesitate to talk at this time.

Scripture reference: Proverbs 10:19; 15:28

Don't... Refuse to admit you are wrong.

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Do... When you realize you are wrong, say it out loud, ask for forgiveness if you need to, and then ask how you can change.

Scripture reference: Proverbs 12:15; 16:2; James 5:16

Don't... Hold on to a confessed matter, or bring it up again to your spouse, to others, or to yourself. (Obviously, there may be times where it is appropriate and needful to discuss it with the person who disciplines you – but this is for the purpose of processing and moving on, not for proving you are right!)

Do... Tell your spouse you forgive them when they confess a wrong to you.

Scripture reference: Luke 17:3,4; Proverbs 17:9; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

Don't... Nag about something, continuing to make offhand comments with a point.

Do... Speak the truth in love after praying about whether an offense is worth addressing.

Scripture reference: Ephesians 4:15; Proverbs 10:19; 21:19; 27:15

Respond and Discuss:

What do and don't is the hardest for you to do or not do?

Wait on the Lord and ask Him why. Now, share with your fiancé.

Resolving Conflict

Conflict is inevitable. It is not wrong or a sin (as long as we walk through it in a loving, healthy way). Conflict is healthy when done in a good spirit.

Take turns reading aloud the guidelines for conflict resolution and look up the scripture references to gain greater Biblical understanding:

1. Make it your goal to understand your spouse rather than merely to be understood yourself.

- Have an inquiring, caring spirit about how your spouse is feeling.
- Ask good questions; rephrase your spouse's feelings back to him or her.
- Humility is the key attitude to understanding.
- Scripture reference: Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:41-42

2. Realize honestly that you will almost always FEEL that you are right and in command of the true facts.

- Discipline yourself to avoid shifting blame, changing the subject to one of your spouse's issues, or "time traveling" (digging up past issues).
- Scripture reference: Proverbs 21:2

3. When you can, make the choice to forbear or cover your mate's sin.

- This does not mean to suppress or stuff sin issues that need to be brought into the light.
- Some matters are simply not significant enough to mention when God gives grace to overlook them.
- Jesus came to forgive the world, not condemn it. It doesn't help for us to simply point out everything wrong in them.
- Take it to God in prayer. Ask Him what is worth talking about.
- Scripture reference: Proverbs 17:9; Colossians 3:12-14

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4. Ask and give forgiveness from the heart, and not a head level.

- If we choose to remember offenses and hurts with our mind, we will always feel justified in holding onto them and refusing to forgive. We must forgive with our heart, knowing that we too have sinned and offended our spouse.
- Scripture reference: Proverbs 18:12

5. Know that the devil is the real source of disunity and not your spouse.

- Satan's workers are our enemy; not our spouse. Agree with your spouse that you are fighting in the same corner against a common enemy, rather than against each other.
- Scripture reference: Ephesians 6:12

6. Set healthy boundaries for conflict.

- Agree with your spouse to control your responses, and to take a break if either of you get too heated.
- Avoid extreme, accusing words... "you always," "you never," as well as calling each other names.
- Physical violence, and threatening divorce, are absolutely never acceptable.
- Scripture reference: 1 Peter 3:9

Conflict Resolution Covenant

Read the following conflict resolution aloud and place your initials in the space following the responsibilities you agree to in the Conflict Resolution Covenant. Pause and discuss along the way.

Both of us must be clear about our expectations, responsibilities, and ways of handling our differences so we can minimize our misunderstandings and doubts after marriage and uphold our covenant to be open, honest, faithful and permanent. Thus we agree to the following:

1. I understand that we will differ on many things, and I agree to respect your opinions and feelings. ___ ___
2. I agree to be open and honest about my thoughts and feelings. ___ ___
3. I agree that when we fight, we will come to a resolution as soon as possible. ___ ___
4. I agree never to use physical force. ___ ___
5. I agree never to call names. ___ ___
6. I agree never to say, "I don't love you." ___ ___
7. I agree that from time to time I may hate the things you do, but I'll never hate you. ___ ___
8. I agree to take responsibility for my words/actions ("someone" will hold me accountable)
___ ___

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9. I agree that if for any reason we come to a problem we cannot resolve, I will go with you and get help. _____

I agree to this Conflict Resolution Covenant because I love and respect you and want only the best for us in our marriage relationship.

Her signature: _____

His signature: _____

Pray Together

“Lord, please help us to be committed to blessing one another by listening well, respecting each other’s opinion, and committing to having a loving attitude in all our communication. We ask you to help us do our best to speak and listen in patience and respect, to the best of our ability, and to grow in our communication for the rest of our marriage.”

Finances in Marriage

This lesson will help prepare you and your fiancé to honor God financially in your marriage.

Honoring God in your finances is a key component of a healthy and God-centered marriage. It is important to understand each other's history financially and to develop a Bible-based perspective in order to thrive financially for the rest of your lives together.

Pray Together

“Lord, we desire to live in a God-honoring way in our finances and to become those who are faithful with earthly possessions. Give us your understanding and put in our heart a deeper longing to store up our treasures in heaven, where we will spend eternity with you.”

Financial Keys for Beginning Your Marriage

Past Spending Habits

Know each other's past spending habits whether they were spontaneous or planned, frugal or extravagant.

In order to discover and provide clarification on your personal financial views, answer the following questions without the help of your fiancé. Once you answer the question prompts independently, come together and share your answers.

- How were finances handled in your house growing up?
- Will you have joint or separate checking accounts? _____
- Who will do the bookkeeping? _____
- Who will write the checks when paying bills? _____
- Will you buy or rent a house? If renting, how soon do you expect to buy? _____
- How often will you go out to dinner? ___ How much will you spend? _____
- Who will maintain your monthly budget? _____
- Will you use credit cards or borrow money? _____
- Will you buy a car with borrowed money? _____
- Will you both work after marriage? ___ After the children are born? _____
- Will you tithe and give offerings? _____
- Who managed the money at your home? (mother/father) _____
- Do you plan to save money each month? ___ If so, how much? _____
- Who will be responsible to make out a will and living will? _____
- How much freedom would you like to purchase items without your spouse's approval? _____
- Do you have insurance (life, health, household, car)? Do you plan on having it? If so, what kinds and how much do you need? _____
- Are you a spender or a saver? _____
- What is “fun money” to you? How much will you allot to use each month? _____

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- If you have debt, is it in your budget to reduce it? How can you restructure your finances to eliminate debt as quickly as possible? _____
- Who (friend, lifegroup member) will periodically help keep you and your spouse accountable with your finances? _____
- If you run into a problem and are either not agreeing, or not sure what to do, what action will you take to get outside help? _____

Debt

It is important to agree on what you believe.

Look up the below verses regarding debt and fill in the blanks:

Romans 13:8 — Let _____ debt remain outstanding.

Proverbs 22:7 — The borrower is _____ to the lender.

Budget

Develop a budget and reevaluate it regularly.

Set a time (2 or 3 hours) in your upcoming schedule to develop a budget as a couple. Also, decide on a regular time to reevaluate it whether monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Some things to consider while developing your budget.

- Determine a level of giving (including tithe) that you will set in your budget.
- Establish monthly saving and how you will use it.
- Seek counsel with someone who you respect in their marriage regarding finances and ask them for advice.

You can find additional financial resources at the end of this lesson.

Lifestyle of Giving

Read aloud the below verses regarding finances:

Matthew 6:11 *“Give us our daily bread.”*

Acts 2:45 *“And they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.”*

Acts 20:35 *“It is more blessed to give than receive.”*

Ephesians 4:28 *“Let him who steals, steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.”*

From these verses, we learn that God’s perspective towards finances is eternal, spiritual, based on His character. The Lord expresses His perspective through scripture and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Share with your fiancé your own personal journey of living a lifestyle of giving. What have been the challenging parts?

Read aloud the below verses regarding tithe and offering:

Leviticus 27:32

“Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the Lord.”

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Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

Malachi 3:8

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings.”

From these verses, what do you learn is the difference between tithe and offering?

Are we committed to tithing as a couple?

What date will we begin tithing as a couple?

Pray Together

“Thank you, Lord, that you have a plan for our marriage financially. Continue to show us the way forward and help us to walk in wisdom and unity as we seek to store up our treasures in heaven.”

Answer Key

Let no debt remain outstanding.

The borrower is slave to the lender.

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Premarital Discipleship Lesson 4

Priorities and Money

Below are listed some items which may be a financial priority for you and your fiancé. Each line to the right of the items represents how much importance you and your fiancé give to the item when it comes to making decisions about spending your money. Rate the following items and then discuss your answers with your fiancé.

	<i>Low Priority</i>					<i>High Priority</i>				
Automobiles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Buying a house	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Charities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Church	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Club membership	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Education	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Food	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Furniture	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gifts for family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Having children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Health care	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Helping family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hobbies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Insurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Investments	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mission trips	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Missionary support	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Recreation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reducing debt	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Retirement	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Savings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Vacations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Adapted from Getting Ready for Marriage by Jerry Hardin and Dianne Sloan

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Premarital Discipleship Lesson 4

Financial Goals

Describe what you see as healthy financial goals for your marriage. Decide together what your goals will be.

Examples:

Purchase a home

Pay all bills on time

Excellent maintenance of all vehicles and possessions (stewardship mindset)

Consistent monthly savings

Live within our means, stay out of debt

Have sufficient margin to enable us to give to others as needs arise

Be quick to consult God about all expenditures

In the space below, list your top 5-10 financial goals as a couple:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Intimacy in Marriage

This lesson will help you and your fiancé to understand and pursue deeper intimacy in your marriage.

Unlike our current entertainment culture which depicts only the beginning of a relationship as the climax of intimacy, a God ordained marriage should continue to grow in intimacy and depth throughout the course of our lives together. In other words, “The best is ALWAYS ahead in marriage.”

Pray Together

“Lord, we acknowledge that all intimacy begins and ends with you. Teach us to be those who continue to hunger for an ever increasing closeness with you and show us how to pursue one another in intimacy in the way that you originally intended when you created mankind in your image.”

Pursing Intimacy

Growing Closer: Take some time right now to discuss how you saw intimacy increase or not exist in your own parents relationship and how that may affect your view of intimacy entering into this marriage.

Preferring One Another: Discuss how love and respect should play out in a marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

Ephesians 5:33 “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Knowing your Spouse’s Love Language: Discuss with your spouse to the five love languages and what they are for each of you.

Encouraging Words

- Building one another up through edifying and encouraging words (I Corinthians 8:1)
- One way of expressing love is by building up others through verbal encouragement.

Acts of Service

- Deeds out of the ordinary that the other person will appreciate (I John 3:18).
- That is another way of communicating love – through sincere acts of service. This means doing something special for another person that you know he or she is going to appreciate.

Gift Giving

- Simple, impromptu gifts that say, “When we are apart, I was thinking of you” (Ephesians 5:25).
- Gift giving is a third way of saying, “I love you.” Although often a simple gesture, it packs great meaning because of what it represents.

Quality Time

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- An activity that promotes communicating and sharing. This does not include most entertainment activities. It promotes two-way conversation (Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37; 9:2; 13:3; 14:33; Luke 9:28).
- The gospel record provides insights into the quality time Jesus had with His heavenly Father and with the men He disciplined. Although His goal was to train His disciples for ministry service, He recognized that they needed to spend personal time with Him. That time with the Master brought conformity to their thinking.

Physical Touch and Closeness

- Hand-holding, a hug, or just being close, even without conversation, communicates love. Just knowing the other person is right there is enough to confirm a partner's affection and care. (Mark 10:13-16).
- Think of what it would have been like to have been one of the children described in Mark 10:13-16 who Jesus held and used as an example. Physical touch and closeness is a special way of saying "I love you." Holding hands, putting your arm around your spouse's shoulder, or just standing close to each other sends a special love message.

My fiancé's two primary love languages are _____.

How can you regularly "speak love" to your spouse regarding these highest two love languages?

What I Believe About Intimacy in Marriage

Express briefly, in your own words, what each of the following scriptures reveals concerning attitude, reproduction, communication, and sexual pleasure within the boundaries of marriage. Then share with your fiancé.

Genesis 2:24-25: What will leaving parents and being united to our spouse bring forth?

Genesis 1:28, Deuteronomy 7:13-14, Psalm 127:3-5, 139:13-15: What is the blessing that physical oneness produces between a husband and wife?

Song of Solomon 4:1-12, Proverbs 5:15-21, I Corinthians 7:2-5: How is sexual pleasure a part of God's purpose for marriage?

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Hebrews 13:4; I Corinthians 6:12: Are there any limitations on sexual pleasure for a married couple? _____

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability with one another:

- Can you recall the source from which you first heard about sexual reproduction? If so, explain.
- What experiences may you have had that have damaged you in the sexual area? Take time to pray over these and ask God to heal you.
- After marriage, how do you expect to communicate your desire for sexual intimacy with your spouse?
- Does anything worry or preoccupy you regarding your future sexual relationship?
- How often do you expect to engage in sexual intimacy with your spouse per week or month?
- Do you and your fiancé agree on whether you will use birth control or what form of birth control?

Sexual Intimacy Boundaries Before Marriage

As the process of premarital counseling begins, it is important to consider your sexual boundaries. Many engaged couples express that they will not be involved in sexual intercourse, but have not taken the time to communicate beyond this point. The following exercise, to be completed individually, will challenge you to know where your sexual boundaries are. Consequently, you will know when you are approaching the limit you have set for yourself and your fiancé. Below is an example of physical progression of intimacy in a relationship.

1. Holding hands
2. Arm around shoulder/waist
3. Embracing
4. Kissing on the cheek
5. Kissing on the lips
6. French kissing
7. Fondling sexual areas
8. Sexual intercourse

Take time to write your individual responses to the following questions:

1. As an engaged couple, have you discussed your physical boundaries? Yes No
2. Write about physical boundaries as you and your fiancé interpret them.

3. Have you moved beyond these boundaries in your relationship? Yes No
4. Are you currently living together or have you been involved in cohabitation in the past?

5. My definition for fornication is ...

6. Discuss the negative impact fornication may have on your relationship.

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7. Are there places that should be "off limits" for you as a couple?

8. Are there times you and your fiancé should not be alone together?

9. First Thessalonians 4:1-8 states God's will for you concerning sexual areas. What is His will?

10. Read Ephesians 5:3-11. How does this Scripture relate to sexual boundaries?

11. How can you relate First Timothy 5:1-2 to your relationship with your fiancé?

12. List the specific steps you can take to prevent sexual impurity.

13. Developing a key word or phrase to speak to one another that indicates you are approaching your physical boundaries would be helpful. Jot down some possible key words or phrases.

Now that you have completed this exercise, make a commitment to communicate with your fiancé and your premarital counselors about your personal boundaries. Ask your disciplers to help hold you as a couple accountable in the area of sexual intimacy.

Discuss together the following benefits and blessings of maintaining biblical sexual boundaries.

- You will be obeying God and will have His blessing.
- You will build trust toward intimacy within your relationship.
- Maintaining appropriate sexual boundaries affirms the worth of one another. You are showing that you care more about his person than your sexual needs or desires.
- You become an example to your elders and your peers, and will one day have a testimony to share with your children and your grandchildren.
- Waiting to be sexually intimate within marriage will protect you from rejection and other emotional hurts, as well as sexually transmitted diseases.
- Your sexual commitment to one another within marriage will be trust-filled because this trust was not broken before marriage.
- You will avoid a possible pregnancy.
- By waiting, your love, respect and emotions for one another will not be confused with guilt and thinking that is clouded by lust.

Pray Together

"Thank you, Lord, that you are intimately acquainted with all of our ways. May what we have learned in this lesson help us to pursue one another to the end of our days."