



Pre-Marital Counseling Requirements and Questionnaire

What We Believe

Marriage is one of the most important commitments a person can make. Second only to your decision to follow Christ, marriage will have a great impact on your life, your family, your friends, and your future. We all know the sad fact that many marriages are failing in our time. One reason is because far too many churches have failed to recognize their responsibility to properly equip people to enter marriage. We want, with God's help, to help you as much as we can to be ready to marry. Performing wedding ceremonies is our choice; it is not something we are obligated to do. This means if we feel you and your fiancé are not ready, or should not be married for any reason, we will decline to perform your wedding. In Christian marriage, you are making a vow to God to fulfill all that He requires for marriage as outlined in the Bible. Because of the great significance and importance of the marriage vows, all parties should approach marriage prayerfully, patiently, and honestly. Because we love the Lord and you, we want His best and your best.

What We Require

There are two situations in which we will automatically refuse to perform your wedding or begin pre-marriage counseling.

The first: If one member is not a born again Christian. The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to be unequally yoked with an unbeliever. (2 Corinthians 6:14) (We will consider performing a wedding of two unbelievers who submit to all of the requirements listed.)

The second: If the two of you are currently living together. Even if you are only living "under the same roof", the Bible tells us to "abstain from all appearance of evil". (1 Thessalonians 5:22) We believe it is much more important to counsel you as to how to get out of either of these situations than to move ahead with your wedding plans. Living in sin and wanting God's blessing on your marriage is an act of hypocrisy we will not condone.

The following is a list of requirements that must be met before we will agree to perform your marriage. We will strictly adhere to these requirements without exception.

1. Each couple must complete the attached Pre-Marital Questionnaire before counseling will be scheduled.
2. After you have submitted your questionnaire, an appointment will be made to meet with a pastor, in order to determine whether we will continue with the process.

3. Before a final date is set, the couple must complete a minimum of five pre-marital counseling sessions with one of the ICF Leaders.
4. The pastors providing the counseling must approve of the wedding before we will agree to continue with plans such as the final date, rehearsal time, etc.
5. Even if you are a Christian, don't expect your marriage to automatically be without problems or difficulty. You must seek God's blessing, walk in the Spirit, and obey Him before, during, and long after the wedding.
6. A Christian wedding is a sacred event. Therefore, the entire ceremony must be conducted with reverence, and centered on Jesus Christ. All parties must be appropriately dressed, and the entire program glorifying to God. (We suggest that alcohol not be served in your wedding party. Sadly, this good gift of God is widely misused and its presence may distort the Christian message you seek to share.)
7. You are responsible to make the arrangements for the proper legal recognition of your marriage in your home country(s). Our services and ceremony are intended for spiritual blessing and benefit of your married life.

This questionnaire must be filled out completely and returned to ICF. After being reviewed, an appointment will be made to meet with a pastor; at this time we will determine whether or not to begin the pre-marriage counseling.

NOTE: We reserve the right to discontinue the counseling and planning process at any time, at our discretion.

Both you and your fiancé need to complete a questionnaire.

General Information

Have you set a tentative date for your wedding? _____

If yes, when? _____

Personal Information

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Fiancé's Name: _____ Age: _____

Reference (someone we can contact to learn more about you)

Name_____

Address_____

Phone _____

Email_____

Marital Status

Have you been married before? _____ If yes, how many times? _____

For how long? _____

Are you: Divorced _____ Widowed _____ Separated _____

Is your divorce final? _____ If not, when? _____

Did you try reconciling? _____ What was the result? _____

Do you have children from a previous marriage? _____ If yes, how many? _____

What are their ages? _____

If you are divorced, what is your custody arrangement?

If divorced, why was your previous marriage terminated?

Engagement Period

How long have you known each other? _____

How long have you been going together? _____

How long have you been engaged? _____

Family Background

Very briefly, describe your family of origin. (E.g. Relationship of parents and your upbringing).

General Questions:

1. What are the career plans for each of you once you are married?

2. What are some of the challenges you are facing in relation to friends and family members in regard to your marriage?

3. Have you or are you living together?

4. Are you or have you been sexually active together? _____

5. What is your commitment as a couple to reading the Bible and praying together?

6. In regards to having and raising children, what are the goals you have discussed together?

7. How are disagreements and conflict best resolved between you and your fiancée?
(Briefly describe)

8. In discussing your sexual expectations with one another, what, if any, are your concerns?

9. What type of specific plan have the two of you discussed for how to manage your finances?

10. What are your views of the roles and responsibilities of the husband and of the wife respectively?

11. As you approach marriage, what would be the greatest challenge that you believe you will be facing as husband and wife?

Religious Background

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

Are you a Born Again Christian? _____

Briefly describe what it means to be Born Again: _____

Do you regularly attend ICF? _____ For how long? _____

What church (if any) did you attend before ICF?

Pastor's Name and Contacts _____

How long did you attend? _____

Why did you leave?

Please answer the following questions as completely yet as briefly as possible. Remember that our goal is to help you prepare for marriage. Therefore be honest with your responses. Don't simply write the answers you think we expect.

1. Write a definition of “Love”.

2. How do you know you “love” your fiancé?

3. How have you prepared for marriage?

Have you read Christian books? _____

If so, please list them. _____

Have you listened to audio/video teachings on Christian marriage? _____

If so, please list them. _____

Have you attended any classes about marriage? _____

If yes, please describe them. _____

4. What do you expect from marriage that you cannot have staying single?

5. Give some reasons why you want to marry your fiancé.

6. What do you see as your role in the marriage?

7. What do you see as your mates' role in marriage?

8. With so many marriages failing today, why do you think yours will succeed?

9. How do other members of your family feel about your fiancé?

10. How do your best friends feel about your fiancé?

Performance of marriage ceremonies is NOT our obligation. It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling is NOT an agreement of approval to be married by ICF or by one of its pastors. ICF is NOT obligated to meet any wedding date set prior to the completion of counseling. We are not, nor do we claim to be "Professional" Counselors. Our counsel is based solely on God's Word, the Bible. We are entering into this discussion with you because we love you and want God's best for you. Be sure you thoroughly understand our position, before signing below:

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above, and that all of the information filled in is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ / _____ / _____ Date