

# Pre-Marriage Basics

## Reasons to marry

- Relationship (Song of Solomon; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)  
[“One man and one woman, for life” (Genesis 2)]
- Joy (Psalm 127)
- Children (Psalm 127) [Legacy (Ecclesiastes); Help in old age (1 Timothy 5:4)]
- Sex (avoid fornication) (1 Corinthians 7:1-9)

## Responsibilities which must be accepted

### *Man*

- Leave father and mother (Genesis 2)
- Cleave/Cling to his wife (Genesis 2)
- Provide for needs (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Lead (Ephesians 5:23-33)
- Love (Ephesians 5:23-33)
- Dwell with her in an understanding way, treating her as a fragile vase (1 Peter 3:7)

### *Woman*

- Submit to the husband “as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:1; Titus 2:5)  
*Obvious exception:* If he were to expect something against God’s will. Acts 5:29
- Respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33)
- Love her husband (Titus 2:4)
- Be a homemaker (Titus 2:5)

### *Both*

- Become one flesh (Genesis 2; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9)
- Be faithful (Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:1-9)

## Axioms

1. Each person’s life is a progression, changing over time, so any relationship between *two people* will change over time.
2. You cannot control the other person (i.e., guarantee their future faithfulness to you or to the Lord), but you can *influence* him/her.

## Myths about Marriage

**Myth:** “There is only one right person for me.”

*Fact:* Many *arranged* marriages have been *successful* marriages.

**Myth:** “Having a *longer* relationship *before* marriage helps ensure a longer marriage.”

*Fact:* Successful marriages have been started after very brief courtships. Also, long courtships (and especially *engagements*) *increase* sexual temptation and strain the relationship.

**Myth:** “Sex before marriage helps ensure compatibility.”

*Fact:* As long as both people are healthy, they will be compatible physically. Research shows that sex before marriage – aside from the potential health risks – makes it less likely that the people will make a permanent commitment. Besides, if they have sex outside of marriage *before* marriage, what’s to stop them from having sex outside of marriage *afterwards*?

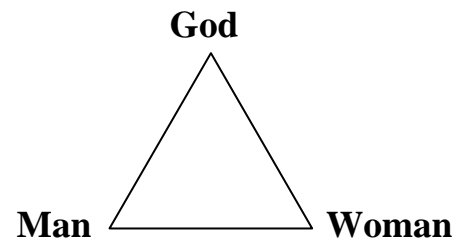
## The formula for a successful marriage:

*Both people must have....*

1) **The right to marry:** a) Never married before, OR b) Widowed (Romans 7:1-3), OR c) Divorced because of the other person’s sexual immorality (Matthew 19:1-12; See also 1 Corinthians 7:10-13, 39; Compare Ezra chapters 9 & 10 for a case where men had to put away wives whom they had no right to marry in the first place.)

2) **The proper foundation**, namely, a solid relationship with the Lord (Ecclesiastes 4:12; Matthew 7:24-25)

*Illustration:* The “marriage triangle.” The closer each person draws to God, the closer they draw to each other.



And 3) **The right mind-set:** A priority on growth/increased maturity and togetherness. Divorce must not even be considered to be an option. (See Malachi 2:13-16)