

Enlightened Psychotherapy

525 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Suite 360D

Houston, TX, 77060

Tel: 832.329.8500

www.enlightenedpsychotherapy.com

Getting Married

Getting married is an exciting time in life and I am very happy to guide you through the process of how. Cheryl Ivory can be a part of your great day, and help shape the marriage that follows.

Cheryl Ivory is committed to helping couples enter marriage in a committed and Biblical way. It is my desire to help couples create a solid foundation that will make a lasting covenant.

STEP 1 – Select a Pastor/Elder to Officiate your Ceremony. You can contact Cheryl Ivory by phone by calling 832.661.1118

STEP 2 – Complete A Wedding Questionnaire. Each person getting married must complete a, "Wedding Questionnaire," attached.

STEP 3 – Secure the Date & Location of the Wedding.

STEP 4 – All are asked to participate in a premarital counseling process. The typical process for this is through Pre-Marriage Mentoring

STEP 5 – Plan the Wedding.

Please Note:

It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling is NOT an agreement of approval to be married by Cheryl Ivory. Cheryl Ivory is NOT obligated to meet any wedding date set prior to the completion of counseling.

Be sure you thoroughly understand my 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

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General Information

Have you set a tentative date for your wedding? _____ If yes, when? _____

Personal Information

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fiancé's Name: _____ Age: _____

Marital Status

Have you been married before? ____ Are you: Divorced ____ Widowed ____ Separated ____

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

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 officially engaged? _____

(Cheryl Ivory requires that you have been dating seriously for at least eight months before she will begin counseling)

Religious Background

Are you a Born Again Christian? _____ Briefly describe what it means to be Born Again:

Do you attend a Church? ____ Which one? _____ For how long? _____

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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) Bride and groom are *each* to answer the questions separately in writing ***without discussing your answer with your partner.***

2) Send a copy of your answers to me at least 2 weeks before your first premarital counseling session. (You will discuss your answers during your sessions. Be sure to keep a copy for you and your partner.)

1. Name two characteristics which you admire in your mate.

2. Name two characteristics or weaknesses which you least appreciate in your mate.

3. Give three reasons for wanting to marry your mate (aside from love).

a.

b.

c.

4. How long have you known each other?

5. Does your family approve completely of your choice of a mate?

6. What would you consider grounds for divorce or "Deal Breakers" in a marriage?

7. Is there anything which makes you jealous of your mate?

8. What are your goals or aims in life? Have you discussed these with your mate?

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9. Give a brief physical history of your family.

10. What are two activities (recreation, social, etc.) which you have in common?

11. Do you dislike any of your mate's family or friends?

12. Should each of you be permitted one night a week for your own interests?

13. Do you think that certain dates (anniversary, birthdays, etc.) should be remembered by your mate?

14. Has divorce occurred in your family? Who?

15. Do you plan to live with your family or your mate's family?

16. What is your thinking regarding the matter of "in-laws"?

17. How many children would you like to have? Boys or girls?

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18. Who is to be the head of your home?

19. What is your plan for settling family problems?

20. Who is to exercise the discipline of children?

21. Should your mate ever keep anything a secret from you? If so, what?

22. Is the husband/wife in this family going to work? After children?

23. Who will be responsible for the family finances, distribution of money, and paying of bills?

24. Will you have separate bank accounts or a single joint account?

25. Can you honestly say that you believe that your mate is a Christian?

26. How will you worship as a family?

27. How will you grow in the faith together as husband and wife?

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28. How will you handle it if your mate does not share your faith?

29. How much money do you think you will need to operate your household?

30. How much money should your mate have for personal expenses (jewelry, athletics)?

31 How often should a family eat out?

32. What part of your family income should be given to the Lord?

33. Do you plan to buy or rent a dwelling?

34. What is your opinion of buying on credit?

35. How much money should be spent on recreational activities?

36. Have you planned any kind of a budget? Will? An insurance program?

37. If she does work and become pregnant, how will the family adjust to the lower income?

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38. Do you bring debt into this marriage? If so, how much? Do you have a plan to get out of debt before the wedding? If so, what is the plan?

39. Have you ever participated in a homosexual relationship? Has this lifestyle ended?

40. Do you think your knowledge of sexual and physical relations is excellent, good, fair, or poor? _____

41. Do you think sex is very important in marriage? For your mate? For yourself?

42. What if your spouse becomes unable to perform sexual duties, how will this affect your marriage?

43. Do you think your mate is sexually adjusted and ready for marriage?

Part II: Premarital Counseling (Some questions may be repeated from Part I)

The time of engagement is an important time to prepare for your marriage. Besides meeting with me to plan your ceremony, you will also have the opportunity to participate in two sessions of premarital counseling before your wedding. These sessions will help you to gain a better understanding of yourselves as husband and wife and prepare you for your upcoming marriage.

Topic: Money Matters

- 1) Have you ever had a savings account? If so, how old were you when you opened your first one? For what purpose would you put money into a savings account?
- 2) Do you invest in the stock market? If so, how much of your income do you normally invest? How would you describe your portfolio (conservative, risky, balanced)?
- 3) Do you have other financial investments?

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- 4) What amount and kinds of investments would you like to make after your marriage?
- 5) Do you balance your checking account every month?
- 6) What are the things over which you believe are worth going into debt? (Home, furniture, home improvements, car, education, vacation, art?)
- 7) Do you regularly use credit cards? If so, how much do you pay on your balance each month? (For example, do you pay them off each month, just pay the interest, interest plus principal?)
- 8) What are your current debts? (Include credit cards, college loans, home, auto, etc.)
- 9) What are your thoughts regarding tithing/giving to your faith community? Do you give regularly? How much do you now give? How much do you want to give after you are married?
- 11) Do you give to other causes/charities regularly? How much do you now give? How much do you want to give after you are married?
- 12) Do you see yourself more as a saver or a spender? How about your spouse?
- 13) How much do you feel you should have on hand in case of emergency?
- 14) Do you now have a monthly and/or annual budget?
- 15) Who should organize the finances—you, your partner or both?

Topic: Communication & Resolving Conflict

- 1) Do you easily talk about your feelings? If so, are there any exceptions? If not, why not?
- 2) Does your partner easily talk about his/her feelings? If so, are there any exceptions? If not, how do you deal with it?
- 3) Have you noticed that there are times when it is difficult to communicate with your partner? If so, when are those times?
- 4) How do you and your partner resolve conflicts or disagreements?
- 5) Have you had any major fights so far? If so, what were they about?
- 6) Would you be in favor of seeking professional counseling as a help to your communication skills? If so, when would you do this? If not, why not?
- 7) Who would you talk to if you were having a major conflict with your spouse?
- 8) Are there currently any unresolved issues in your relationship?
- 9) Given the high divorce rate, do you think you have more of a chance than others to remain married for the rest of your lives? Why or why not?
- 10) Do you feel safe expressing your feelings to your partner?
- 11) Are you comfortable with the way your partner expresses anger?
- 12) How would you describe your ability to communicate with your parents: When you were a child? When you were a teenager? Now?

Topic: Attitudes & Expectations Regarding Your New Family

- 1) Do you believe that there are roles a person has simply because of gender?
- 2) How many children would you like to have?
- 3) What are your views on discipline?

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- 4) How often do you expect to go on vacation as a family?
- 5) What is your ideal vacation?
- 6) Would you consider going on a vacation without your spouse?
- 7) How do you expect to spend your weekends?
- 8) How many nights each week would you like your family to be at home?
- 9) How would you describe your ideal home? (Include location, type of building, rooms, yard, etc.)
- 10) Do you hope to have pets? How many? What kind?
- 11) How often would you like to make love with your spouse?
- 12) What kind of things do you hope to continue doing to keep the romance in your relationship?
- 13) How would you describe "quality time" with your spouse?
- 14) What is your idea of a great date?
- 15) Do you have any fears about marriage in general? If so, what are they?