

PATH2PROMISE MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Conversations to Have Before "I Do"

Thoughtful questions for building a strong foundation

Marriage brings together two people, two histories, and two sets of expectations. Honest conversations before the wedding can help couples understand one another more deeply, identify areas that need attention, and make thoughtful decisions about the life they are building together.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Choose one or two topics at a time rather than trying to discuss everything in one conversation.

- Select a time when you can talk without distractions.
- Take turns speaking and listening.
- Ask questions with curiosity rather than judgment.
- Be honest about expectations, concerns, and uncertainties.
- Pause and return to a topic if the conversation becomes unproductive.
- Identify questions that may benefit from additional guidance.

Begin the Conversation

Listen for understanding. The purpose is to learn how each of you thinks, feels, and hopes to approach married life.

SHARED VISION AND EXPECTATIONS

- What does a successful marriage look like to each of us?
- What are we most looking forward to about married life?
- What expectations are we bringing from our families or past experiences?
- What goals would we like to accomplish during our first few years together?

COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT

- How do we each respond when we feel hurt, frustrated, or misunderstood?
- What helps each of us feel heard and respected?
- How will we handle disagreements without becoming dismissive or disrespectful?
- Are there subjects we tend to avoid, and why?

FINANCES AND DECISION-MAKING

- What are our current financial responsibilities, debts, savings, and spending habits?
- Will we combine finances, keep separate accounts, or use a combination?
- How will we create a budget and make significant financial decisions?
- What are our short-term and long-term financial priorities?

FAMILY, CHILDREN, AND TRADITIONS

- Do we both want children, and what are our expectations about timing and parenting?
- How involved do we expect our extended families to be in our marriage?
- How will we divide holidays and maintain important family traditions?
- What boundaries may be needed to protect our relationship?

Continue With Care and Curiosity

Different answers do not automatically mean something is wrong. They can show where more conversation, compromise, or support may be helpful.

FAITH, VALUES, AND BELIEFS

- What personal values will guide our marriage and household?
- What role will faith or spiritual practices have in our life together?
- How will we handle differences in beliefs or traditions?
- How do we want our values to influence future decisions and family life?

HOME, CAREERS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Where do we hope to live, and what type of home fits our plans?
- How might career goals, work schedules, or relocation affect our relationship?
- How will we divide household responsibilities?
- What does a fair partnership look like to each of us?

AFFECTION, INTIMACY, AND CONNECTION

- What helps each of us feel loved, valued, and emotionally connected?
- How comfortable are we discussing affection, intimacy, and personal needs?
- How will we protect time for our relationship when life becomes busy?
- What actions help us reconnect after stress or disagreement?

HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND UNEXPECTED CHANGES

- How will we support one another's physical, emotional, and mental well-being?
- Are there health concerns or family medical histories we should discuss?
- How do we respond to stress, grief, illness, or major life changes?
- When would we seek professional, pastoral, or community support?

AFTER THE CONVERSATION

- Where are we already aligned?
- Which expectations need more conversation?
- Where may compromise be necessary?
- What decisions should we make before the wedding?
- What topics would benefit from premarital coaching or additional support?

A HELPFUL REMINDER

The goal is not to have identical answers. The goal is to understand one another, communicate honestly, and develop healthy ways to make decisions together.

READY FOR A DEEPER CONVERSATION?

Path2Promise premarital coaching offers couples a supportive setting for deeper conversations, thoughtful guidance, and practical tools as they prepare for marriage.