

## TEN KEY ELEMENTS TO KNOW BEFORE MARRIAGE

**Finances**-Couples must understand and make a budget and decide, who is going to balance the checkbook, pay the bills. Couples must know each others credit history, spending habits and what their financial goals will be. Financial issues are a leading cause of divorce.

**Communication**-All couples need to learn to talk to one another, share feelings both good and bad. Couples who don't talk to one another travel a bumpy road that can lead to disaster. Learn to disagree and fight fairly, and never let the sun go down on the anger.

**Physical Intimacy**-Sexual problems are the third leading cause of divorce. Understand your mate's expectations, and talk about how love is expressed in this way and what brings pleasure.

**In-Laws**- Couples should realize they are not marrying their in-laws but it is important to get along with them. Couples should involve them in their life, but not bring them into disagreements.

**Children**- It is important to come to an agreement, before marriage, on whether you want a family and how you will raise those children. Each should share a similar philosophy on rearing children and family matters.

**Spiritual Life**- Christians should be aware of their partner's deep beliefs about God, worship practices and principles for moral living. A divided spiritual house is sure to crumble. Christ must take His rightly place in the home and the teaching of children.

**Jobs and Location**- Where you live and How you will make your living should be a critical point of agreement. What place is comfortable in terms of city and state? What careers will each pursue and how will these be balanced with home life need to be decided.

**Family Duties**- All couples should discuss the issue of what will be common household chores and family duties, of each especially in a two-income home where both will be working..

**Free Time**- How will each spend their free time? What recreational activities, hobbies, and other pleasures will be pursued by each? Are there enough shared interests? How much time will each partner be allowed to themselves or with other friends? These issues must be resolved.

**Life Goals**- Truly the key to a lasting marriage is that both share similar goals and purposes for their lives- what they want to accomplish and how they see themselves farther down the road. There must be a common vision and objectives.

SOME SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER. I Cor 13; 4-8; Eph 5:21-33; I Cor 7:1-5; Heb 13:4