

“Things to Consider Before Saying “I Do”

“Use wisdom and understanding to establish your home; let good sense fill the rooms with priceless treasures. Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power. Battles are won by listening to advice and making a lot of plans.” - Proverbs 24:3-6 (CEV)

Too many marriages fail before they officially begin!

What Do You Believe About Love?

Please check the appropriate column

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. “Love at first sight” occurs between some people. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. It is easy to distinguish real love from infatuation. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. People who sincerely love each other will not fight or argue. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 4. God selects <i>one</i> particular person for each of us to marry, and He will guide us together. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 5. If a man and woman genuinely love each other, then hardships and troubles will have little or no effect on their relationship. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 6. It is better to marry the wrong person than to remain single and lonely. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 7. It is not harmful to have sexual intercourse before marriage if the couple has a meaningful relationship. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 8. If a couple is genuinely in love, that condition is permanent – lasting a lifetime. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 9. Short courtships (six months or less) are best. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 10. Teenagers are more capable of genuine love than are older people. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

Things to Consider Before Saying “I Do”:

1. “Am I the right person?”

- Marriage is more than *finding* the right person, it is *being* the right person.

2. “What is my friend’s family background?”

- People get married before they know each other and divorced when they do.

Background Checklist:

- (1) Childhood happiness
- (2) Parent happiness
- (3) Relationship between the person and the parents
- (4) Home discipline (boundaries/rules)
- (5) Family history – physical abuse / substance abuse, etc.
- (6) Positive attitudes
- (7) Sense of security in the home

3. “Am I emotionally prepared?”

Emotional preparation means...

- (1) I’m not rushing into the marriage
- (2) My selfishness is under control
- (3) My love is based on commitment, not emotions

4. “Am I financially prepared?”

- Don’t marry for money. You can borrow it cheaper.

5. “Am I morally prepared?”

How to Keep Morally Pure

1. Commit yourself to a Biblical perspective.

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. ² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honour— ⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and His ways. ⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. ⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NLT)

2. Don't date early.

Age to start dating.	% Having Sex Before H.S. Graduation
12	91%
13	66%
14	53%
15	40%
16	20%

3. Establish a personal standard of purity.

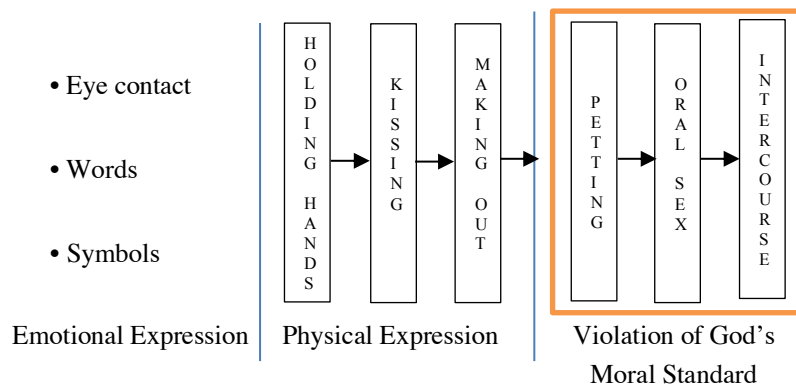
The Law of Differences:

- Girls respond emotionally
- Boys respond physically
- Girls play at sex for what they fundamentally want, love.
- Boys play at love for what they fundamentally want, sex.

The Law of Progression:

- The more you do, the more you want to do.
- The more you do, the more it takes to satisfy you.

A Sexual Progression Chart



4. Know the reasons why you say "No".

"History shows that when a generation fails to know 'why' they believe what they believe, their convictions are in danger of being undermined." – Josh McDowell

Single people not knowing *why* they say "no" will lack moral conviction. They will not be able to resist when alone and challenged.

Two principles inherent in every negative command from God:

1. Protection
2. Provision

Protection From:

1. Sin against my body
2. Addiction
3. Sexually transmitted diseases
4. Unwanted pregnancy
5. God's judgment
6. Hindering my relationship with God
7. Comparison with others
8. Guilt
9. Hardship of breaking up
10. Struggle with purity after marriage

Provision For:

1. Beauty in a marriage relationship
2. Trust (waiting builds trust)
3. Development of maturity
4. Clear conscience
5. Specialness in marriage

6. "Am I spiritually prepared?"

- The only Biblical command directly related to the selection of a marriage partner is in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16:

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Satan]? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God."

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

“Things to Consider Before Saying ‘I Do’”

“Use wisdom and understanding to establish your home; let good sense fill the rooms with priceless treasures. Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power. Battles are won by listening to advice and making a lot of plans.” - Proverbs 24:3-6 (CEV)

Too many marriages fail before they officially begin!

What Do You Believe About Love?

Please check the appropriate column

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. “Love at first sight” occurs between some people. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 2. It is easy to distinguish real love from infatuation. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 3. People who sincerely love each other will not fight or argue. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 4. God selects <i>one</i> particular person for each of us to marry, and He will guide us together. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 5. If a man and woman genuinely love each other, then hardships and troubles will have little or no effect on their relationship. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 6. It is better to marry the wrong person than to remain single and lonely. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 7. It is not harmful to have sexual intercourse before marriage if the couple has a meaningful relationship. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 8. If a couple is genuinely in love, that condition is permanent – lasting a lifetime. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 9. Short courtships (six months or less) are best. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |
| 10. Teenagers are more capable of genuine love than are older people. | <input type="checkbox"/> True | <input type="checkbox"/> False |

Things to Consider Before Saying ‘I Do’:

1. “Am I the _____?”

- Marriage is more than *finding* the right person, it is *being* the right person.

2. “What is my friend’s family _____?”

- People get married before they know each other and divorced when they do.

Background Checklist:

- (1) Childhood _____
- (2) _____ happiness
- (3) Relationship between the person and the parents
- (4) Home _____ (boundaries/rules)
- (5) Family _____ – physical abuse / substance abuse, etc.
- (6) Positive attitudes
- (7) Sense of _____ in the home

3. “Am I _____ prepared?”

Emotional preparation means...

- (1) I’m not _____ into the marriage
- (2) My _____ is under control
- (3) My love is based on _____, not emotions

4. “Am I _____ prepared?”

- Don’t marry for money. You can borrow it cheaper.

5. “Am I _____ prepared?”

How to Keep Morally Pure

1. Commit yourself to a _____ perspective.

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. ² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honour— ⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and His ways. ⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. ⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NLT)

2. Don't _____ early.

Age to start dating.	% Having Sex Before H.S. Graduation
12	91%
13	66%
14	53%
15	40%
16	20%

3. Establish a personal standard of _____.

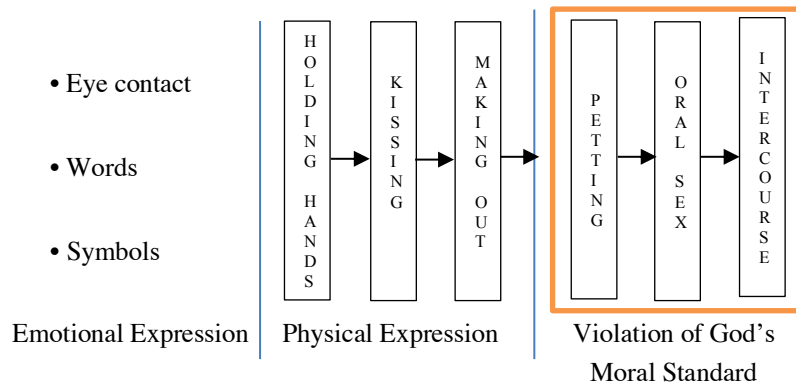
The Law of Differences:

- Girls respond _____
- Boys respond _____
- Girls play at _____ for what they fundamentally want, _____.
- Boys play at _____ for what they fundamentally want, _____.

The Law of Progression:

- The more you do, the more you _____ to do.
- The more you do, the more it takes to _____ you.

A Sexual Progression Chart



4. Know the _____ why you say “No”.

“History shows that when a generation fails to know ‘why’ they believe what they believe, their convictions are in danger of being undermined.” – Josh McDowell

Single people not knowing *why* they say “no” will lack moral conviction. They will not be able to resist when alone and challenged.

Two principles inherent in every negative command from God:

1. _____
2. _____

Protection From:

1. Sin against my body
2. Addiction
3. Sexually transmitted diseases
4. Unwanted pregnancy
5. God’s judgment
6. Hindering my relationship with God
7. Comparison with others
8. Guilt
9. Hardship of breaking up
10. Struggle with purity after marriage

Provision For:

1. Beauty in a marriage relationship
2. Trust (waiting builds trust)
3. Development of maturity
4. Clear conscience
5. Specialness in marriage

6. “Am I _____ prepared?”

- The only Biblical command directly related to the selection of a marriage partner is in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16:

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Satan]? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.”

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16