

Questions to Ask When Dating

Marriage is incredible and we want you to experience it in the fullness of how God intended it. It is great that you are seeking guidance to be as informed as possible in your dating relationship. Our hope for you in the future is that you'd be able to confidently walk down the aisle knowing that the person you are marrying is who God wants you to marry. These questions can help you as you prayerfully consider this big decision.

Instructions:

Review these questions as a couple, or see if a mentor can walk them through with you. For each question, ask them for yourself and for the person you are dating. Our hope is that you will get to know yourself and your partner better through this. That way you can be more informed about whether to take steps towards marriage building your bond, or whether you need to take steps out of the relationship to protect your heart from bonding further to someone you won't marry.

For questions that are big for you two, where you get stuck and/or flags arise, don't hesitate to bring in marriage mentors or a counsellor to guide you through it.

Spiritual Connection

When we build spiritual intimacy with our partner then we draw closer to God and to each other.

Questions:

- Do you both share a relationship with God and a commitment to grow in it?

- What is the quality of your relationship with God? What about your boyfriend/girlfriend and their relationship with God?
- What are you each doing to develop your relationship with Jesus?
- How has your relationship with Jesus changed since you started dating?
- How do you serve God with your time, money, spiritual gifts? How does your boyfriend/girlfriend?

Emotional Connection

When we can share everything that is going on in our heart and mind with our spouse then we develop deeper vulnerability, which leads to deeper connection. When we are emotionally connected with our partner, we feel loved and supported and this can fuel us to do more than we may be able to do on our own (to be more like Christ to carry out the work He has for us). When we are emotionally disconnected with our boyfriend/girlfriend then we often function at a lower capacity than people who aren't in a relationship.

Questions:

- It is important to weigh the impact of the past. Have they come from a family where divorce or significant loss was present? (This isn't a reason to end it, it is something to consider. If they are aware, they've processed through the impact, and educated them self in how to operate differently than it is typically not a problem.)

- How well will they “leave and cleave” (move towards prioritizing you as their spouse)? How attached are they to their family?
- What did conflict look like in their family growing up? How do they view conflict now?
- How well does your boyfriend/girlfriend listen?
- How do they manage their emotions? (eg. stuff, blow up, process, etc.). Have they ever been physical with you or a previous partner or family member?
- Where are they on the rational-emotional scale? Where are you? Can they respect your rationality or emotionality and vice-versa? Can they be emotionally vulnerable?
- What have their previous romantic relationships looked like? What led to them not being together? Is there a pattern that could show up in your relationship? Commitment issues?
- How connected are you with your boyfriend/girlfriend? What is getting in the way? Is it something in them or you?
- What have you shared with them? How vulnerable have you been? Are there topics that you avoid bringing up? How come? Are they someone that you could trust to share this with?

- How responsive are they to you when you need them to talk or just be with you? Can you count on them to be there for you?
- In what ways do your personalities complement each other? In what ways do your personalities cause conflict?

Physical Connection

Sex is incredible and sacred. God designed it for us to share exclusively with our spouse, because it is very powerful. It includes both sexual and non-sexual touch and closeness.

Questions:

- Are you currently having sex?
- Have you set physical boundaries? If not, how come?
- Does he/she agree with and respect your physical boundaries to protect your purity?
- What is your boyfriend/girlfriend's involvement with pornography and lust? Have you talked about this?
- Do you or your boyfriend/girlfriend have a history of sexual abuse or a significant sexual history? (This doesn't cancel out the possibility of a healthy physical relationship, but if it hasn't been processed through then it may lead to struggles physically)

If you go through these questions and you know God is telling you to continue dating the person you are with, then work on developing spiritual, emotional, and physical intimacy with appropriate boundaries. Seek ways to keep growing in your relationship with God and to glorify Him in all that you do. Encourage your boyfriend/girlfriend to do the same. When you are ready to make the significant commitment of marriage then take our Preparing for Marriage course and seek good counsel about taking the next step.