

Thinking of

Getting

Married?



This will be a very exciting time for you as a couple as with anticipation you begin to look forward to being married and spending your lives together.

This leaflet is to help you think through some very important matters at this early stage so that you might be able to avoid problems later.

1. Why are you getting married?

The answer to this might seem obvious, but ask it of each other. Do it now. Ensure that you each understand that marriage is a lifetime commitment to the other person, in the words of the marriage ceremony, 'for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death do us part.'

Ask each other -

Do you love me enough to make that commitment?

2. Are there any major differences between you?

No couple will agree on absolutely everything. Some things are going to require compromise on the part of one, or other, or indeed both. For example, one of you may be used to going to your parents every Saturday afternoon. Is that something that will have to be revised?

Ask each other:-

Are there any habits, hobbies etc. that you feel will have to change once we are married?

But there are some things about which you must agree.

1. Religious Convictions

According to scripture we must agree on our religious convictions - that is we must share the same faith. In the Bible God sets a clear restriction on whom a Christian may marry. 'Do not be yoked together with unbelievers' 2 Cor.6:14.

The scripture here recognises that faith is what motivates a person; what influences and directs their choices in every area of life. If we don't share those same convictions, we have a recipe for trouble.

Ask each other:-

Do we share the same faith? If you are a Christian, is your boyfriend/fiancee one also?

2. Lifelong Commitment

Marriage is primarily a commitment to another person, and marriage can only be what it is intended to be where each partner is secure in the knowledge of the other's commitment to them. This runs contrary to how the world thinks and acts, but then we see the sad consequences of such noncommittal in increasing divorces and all the way that affects people.

Ask each other:-

How much are you really determined that this marriage will work?

3. Mutual Respect

Marriage is not one person getting their own way all the time. Each must know they have a vital input to the life of the marriage. That means talking together. This may seem strange whenever at present you do little else when you are together - but marriage can be different.

However, there may be times when you disagree on what to do. One of you will have to be willing to

let the other take the lead and still respect them, even if it doesn't prove to be the right decision. The Bible recommends that the husband take that responsibility

Ask each other:-

Are you willing to take responsibility for the decisions we make?

Some practical matters

You might already have in mind how you want your wedding day to go. Sometimes those plans are simply because we do not know of any alternatives; we go along with what everyone else does. Often there is unnecessary expense, and I would want to encourage you as a couple to think through some alternatives.

Reception - does it have to be a hotel? Have you considered a church hall using outside caterers?

Photographs and video - Have you a friend who can take photographs? You can always get your favourite ones enlarged. Do you really need four hours of video? Could a friend not take it for you and you edit out the considerable amount of duplication that you will not want.

Flowers - Is it necessary to have any more than one or two arrangements?

Wedding party - Why not invite all your friends to the wedding? Instead of a sit-down meal, why not have a buffet style as you would in the evening.

Getting married in church

Details you should know in preparing for your wedding.

Minister:

Check dates, times with the minister before confirming any other arrangements. You will normally be required to attend pre-marriage classes (usually 4 Fridays in February). Before printing the order of service, inform the minister of the hymns you intend using. You are reminded that the wedding ceremony is a service of worship and all music, hymns, and soloist pieces ought to be chosen accordingly.

Organist:

It is your responsibility to confirm that the organist is available to play for you. You are free to invite your own organist to play at your wedding, and both minister and organist should be informed accordingly.

Caretaker:

It is your responsibility to confirm with the caretaker when you want the church opened.

Church:

The placing of flower arrangements etc. should be checked with the minister in order to avoid problems during the service and if flowers are being left in the church following the wedding, it would be helpful if the minister was informed at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

The following payments are due on the day of the wedding.

Organist	£75
Caretaker	£40

If either the bride or groom or their families already regularly contribute to the church, there is no charge for the use of the building nor need any payment be made to the minister. Otherwise

Minister	£40
Use of building	£50

Photographer:

Both video and still photography are permitted during the wedding ceremony, the only requirements being that no flash or floodlighting is used and that the photographer be discreet.

Issue of Marriage Licence

Some time prior to your wedding you should call with the Registrar of Marriages in the local Council Office to apply for your marriage licence.

You are reminded that regular attendance at this place of worship prior to your wedding is necessary to fulfil the requirements of the above form where you have requested that the minister conduct your wedding.

