

IV. Engagement

Time Spent

Avoid temptation and keep in mind that you are not married yet.

Topics Discussed

Your future sex life – Don't spend significant time this. Do talk clearly about boundaries, do put clear methods in place to help you adhere to these boundaries, but don't spend time fantasizing about your future sexual relationship.

Prepare for marriage

Get solid, biblical marriage counseling, either from the pastor who will be conducting the wedding service or from some other person who is mature in the faith and in marriage.

Find and read a good marriage book together.

Finally, talk about things that you think might be sources of conflict during your marriage.

Prepare for the Wedding

A wedding is a *worship service* before God. Keep this in mind as you plan the music, preaching, and other aspects of your wedding service.

My other advice: keep it simple. This means less money, less stress, less time (and therefore less temptation).

Accountability

The temptation may well get more intense at this stage. Stay firm! Keep good accountability!

Equip—Singleness & Dating **Class 4: Moving Towards Engagement**



The Intermediate Stage

The Key Question:

What do I need to know to decide to marry this person?

I. Communicating Where You Are

Are any clear obstacles in terms of beliefs, affections, goals, or personalities to the two of you getting married?

Be clear. Be honest. Be deliberate.

II. Areas to Consider and Discuss

Goals in Life

Gender Roles

Past Sin

When should a dating couple have this conversation?

How should a dating couple have this conversation?

-Seeing through a gospel lens

-The importance of community

Others

- Theology
- Worship & Devotion
- Husband & Wife Relationship
- Children
- Lifestyle
- Entertainment
- Conflict
- Work
- Health
- Family
- Emotional Issues
- Significant Past Events

III. Accountability

IV. Food for thought

- What stage is your current relationship in?
- Have you been deliberate in establishing intentions and clarifying where the relationship is going?
- What do you need to know before committing to marry someone?
- Are you dangerously spending too much time alone or in private settings (like lots of time on a couch behind closed doors)?
- How have the discussion topics changed and progressed in the relationship?
- Are your accountability partners asking more intrusive questions?

Proposal and Engagement

I. What are you looking for?

Hopefully the core characteristics you looked for in a date are the same that you are looking for in a husband or wife (Proverbs 31, I Peter 3, Titus 1, I Timothy 3, Ephesians 5).

II. Making the decision

First, look at the purpose that God has for your life. Will you be able, generally speaking, to serve God better together than apart?

Second, look at Ephesians 5:22-33 as not just principles, but a specific person.

Third, value good counsel.

Lastly, if your relationship leads you into sin (physically or otherwise); if it dulls your interest in your church or your walk with the Lord; if you are less eager to learn, study, grow, and pray because of the influence of or interactions with your partner, why in the world would you consider making that relationship permanent? Cf. Eph 5:1-14

III. Popular Myths that Hurt the Decision-making Process

1. “I need to have more (or maybe perfect) information!” – No amount of information will make a marriage easy.
2. “I need to keep my options open.” – Remember that commitment is part of biblical love.
3. “I need to make sure we have fantastic romance and chemistry.” – Romance and attraction are not unimportant, but some things are best discovered in marriage.
4. “I just want to be companions and put off deciding to marry.” – At this point you are either moving forward or moving out of your relationship.

If you believe that you are called to be married, and you believe you have found the person you want to marry, then get married.

It’s unwise to have a three-year engagement or an inappropriate relationship because the logistics of getting married aren’t perfect.