

Homeschooling Teen Guide:

Questions for Couples (Before Getting Married)



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Dear Reader,

Do you think you've found Mr. or Mrs. Right?

Choosing a life partner is a serious commitment. It's certainly not like an impulse purchase at the mall that you can take back if you're not satisfied. You should never, ever get married on a whim. But how can you be sure you're making the right decision?

As with many things in life, a little extra effort up front can go a long way toward determining your happiness and success in the long run. You may think that you and your betrothed have talked about everything... but you'd be surprised how many couples fail to ask each other critical questions before marrying. For instance, you obviously need to agree on whether or not you want to have children and if that's a deal breaker or not.

It's often the day-to-day stuff that becomes the most frustrating when a husband and wife have different expectations. It would be better to find this out sooner rather than later (after it becomes a point of contention). For example, financial matters are extremely important – and money issues are one of the leading causes of divorce.

A lack of communication leads to many problems and misunderstandings that could have been prevented, even when it comes to the littlest things. Have you discussed all of the factors that will make your marriage work, and that will enable you to live happily-ever-after?

We've compiled a collection of questions that should be considered by couples of any age who are engaged, courting, or seriously dating. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive checklist – and there are no right or wrong answers – but it would be a good idea to start giving these questions some careful thought.

Of course, not everyone will have the exact same opinions about everything, but it will be comforting to know that the two of you are compatible when it comes to what really matters. And if you don't fully agree with all of each other's views, how respectful of your differences are you going to be?

Whatever you do, please don't run down this list as if it's a formal interrogation, giving your partner the third degree! (It's equally meant for you!) Just keep these questions in mind to fit into conversations as the opportunity arises. Some of them you can answer simply by being observant, and you may already know the answers to others. Good for you, because that means the two of you have a close relationship!

These questions can also be the topic of periodic conversations once you do get married, just to make sure that you and your significant other are still on the same page, since your opinions and circumstances may change.

Wishing you the very best as you begin to plan your lives together. :)

~Homeschooling Teen

MARRIAGE

1. What is your motive for marrying? Do you have the blessing of both parents?
2. What type of wedding do you envision? What time of year? How much will it cost?
3. Do you want to have a religious wedding or a civil ceremony? Do you view marriage as a sacred covenant ordained by God, or as a civil contract that can be broken?
4. Are you ready for marriage, or in what ways do you think you might need to grow first?
5. Do you feel fully confident in each other's commitment to marriage and believe that your bond can survive whatever challenges you may face?
6. Do you feel like your partner is an important part of your existence, a perfect complement to you, so that together you feel complete?
7. Are the two of you compatible as is, without one hoping to be able to change the other?
8. How will you make your marriage work and what will you contribute to keep it going strong? What are your expectations of your partner's role in your marriage?
9. What have you learned about marriage from your parents, and how does that shape your own expectations? What aspects of their relationship do you NOT want to emulate?
10. Under what circumstances do you feel is it okay to divorce?

VALUES & MORAL STANDARDS

1. Do you both share the same worldview?
2. What are your guiding principles? How do you live out those principles?
3. What basic values are important to you? Are your values compatible so that you can be supportive of each other and live a harmonious life together?
4. What are your views on: Gambling? Gun control? Alcohol? Drugs? Birth control? Abortion? Pornography? Evolution/Creation? Climate change? Same-sex marriage? Tattoos? Body piercings? Modesty?
5. Which ethnic communities do you feel allegiance to? How important is it to embrace your cultural roots?
6. Do you believe there are certain universal truths that are not dependant on race, language, social status, or religion?
7. Do you believe there are absolute standards of right and wrong against which moral questions can be judged?
8. Do you think it's important to follow The Golden Rule? (The principle of treating others as you would want to be treated.)
9. Do you think it's important to obey The Ten Commandments? (Don't lie, steal, murder, covet, or commit adultery. Honor God, His name, your father/mother, and the Sabbath.)

10. As far as you know, has your partner ever been in trouble with the law?
11. Have you ever heard any offensive or blasphemous language from your partner?
12. What are your partner's standards regarding TV, movies, literature, music?

LIFESTYLE

1. What kind of lifestyle appeals to you? What sort of careers do you need to support your desired lifestyle?
2. Do you identify more with rural acreage, a middle-class suburban neighborhood, upscale gated community, or downtown apartment complex?
3. Do you enjoy getting out and going places, or would you rather stay at home and do things around the house?
4. Do you like to have lots of company or would you rather be left alone?
5. Would you like to save up and buy a house? Or are you fine with renting?
6. Do you want to have pets? Farm animals? A garden? Small business? What are the steps that you would need to take in order to do this?
7. Do you tend to live frugally or lavishly? Is it okay to buy used clothes, furniture, and cars, or does everything have to be brand new?
8. How important is it to keep up with the latest music and fashion?
9. Do you participate in any expensive leisure activities or hobbies (e.g. skiing, scuba diving, sailing, horseback riding, model railroading, art or antiques)?
10. How many vehicles would you like to own? What make and model?

LOCATION

1. Do you prefer to live in a city, suburbs, town, country, farm, seaside, mountains, desert?
2. What are your preferences in regard to an area's size, climate, standard of living, etc.?
3. What types of places can you see yourselves possibly living in?
4. Where would you absolutely NOT want to live?
5. What are some locations that you might be willing to compromise on?
6. How close/far do you want to live from family?
7. What if one of you was offered a great job across the country, how would you feel about moving away from friends and family?
8. Are you willing to move often, or would you rather settle down in one place?

HOME

1. What do you want your home to look like? A ranch in the country? A suburban neighborhood? A master-planned development with lots of amenities? A gated community? A townhome or apartment?
2. Do you want the size of your home to be large or small? Big yard? Small yard? No yard?
3. What percentage of your income are you prepared to spend on rent, or to purchase and maintain your home on a monthly basis?
4. How do you feel about paying HOA fees?
5. What is your decorating preference: are you a minimalist who thinks less is more, are you okay with a little clutter, or are you a hoarder?
6. Do you care if your space is messy and unorganized, or does it have to be kept neat and clean at all times?
7. What colors can you envision your home being decorated in, and which colors would you definitely NOT want to use in your home décor?
8. Are you high-tech, old-fashioned, or a little of both?
9. What style of furniture do you prefer – traditional, eclectic, or contemporary?
10. How will you make your home a reflection of the two of you and your interests?

CHILDREN

1. Do you like children? Do you want to have kids? How soon? How many? How far apart?
2. What are your views on birth control and abortion? Would you ever consider adoption?
3. If children are not in the cards, can you live without children or will you later resent your partner for depriving you of that?
4. What kind of parent do you want to be? What kind of parent do you think your partner will be?
5. Who should be the primary caregiver? How do you feel about putting children in daycare?
6. If and when you have children, will one parent quit working or work a reduced schedule, and if so for how long? Who will stay home and miss work to care for sick children?
7. What if your child has special needs, birth defects, or a serious illness?
8. What is your philosophy on parenting/child rearing? How will you discipline your kids?
9. How much time will you want to spend with your children? Do you see yourself as a hands-on mom/dad, or would you rather have someone else care for them?
10. What values, morals, and standards of behavior will you want to instill in your children?

EDUCATION

1. How do you intend to use your interests, experiences, skills, and talents?
2. Do you approve of each other's choice of degree or vocational program?
3. How close are you to reaching your educational/vocational goal?
4. Will you be supportive of your spouse going to college or taking online classes to continue their education?
5. What type of education do you visualize for your children? Would you prefer to put them in a public school, private school, or homeschool them?

WORK/CAREER

1. What are your vocational skills?
2. Where are you currently working? Do you have job stability / potential for upward mobility?
3. Are you both planning to work? If so, who will be the main breadwinner?
4. Should the wife work outside the home? Before kids? With kids at home? After kids?
5. How much time will each of you spend at work, and during what hours?
6. Would one of you be willing or able to work from home or take some time off when the kids are young? Would you be satisfied with a single income?
7. Whose career will dominate if one of you should get on an upwardly mobile track?
8. How would you handle long work hours, late shifts, working on weekends, or being on call?
9. How would you feel about your spouse regularly traveling on business or staying at the office late on a regular basis?
10. How much money do you earn now? How much do you want to be earning in one year? In five years? Ten years from now?
11. What is your ultimate financial goal regarding annual income, and when do you anticipate achieving it? By what means and through what efforts?
12. What kind of work ethic do you have? Do you tend to be lazy or a workaholic? Are you more of a leader or a follower? Are you comfortable with each other's level of ambition?
13. If either you or your partner is unemployed, and it takes a long time to find a new job, how will you deal with that?
14. What is your attitude toward having a home-based or family business?
15. What would your dream job be?

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

1. What is your view on the husband's and wife's role in the household?
2. Who should manage which household chores? (Cooking, cleaning, washing dishes, doing laundry, making the bed, car maintenance, home repairs, taking out the trash, vacuuming, yard work, feeding pets, washing windows, changing diapers, grocery shopping, bill paying ,etc.)
3. Are the two of you different in your requirements for cleanliness and organization; i.e. is one person tidy and the other tends to be messy?
4. Would you ever consider hiring a maid or cleaning service?

FINANCES

1. Do you have the financial means to support yourselves and provide for all your needs?
2. How much do you spend per month in each category? (Rent, electric, gas, water, phone, internet), trash pickup, groceries, gasoline, auto insurance, vehicle maintenance, household supplies, clothing, health insurance/out-of-pocket medical costs, life insurance, and savings for future needs and emergencies.)
3. How much money will you need to earn in order to cover all of your basic expenses?
4. How much extra do you want to be able to spend on dining out, entertainment, recreation, hobbies, gifts and donations?
5. Do you like expensive toys (boats, bikes, motorcycles, etc.)?
6. Are you comfortable with each other's spending habits?
7. What are your long term financial plans?
8. Would you like to own your own home and/or business someday? How do you plan to make that happen?
9. Do you have a clear idea of each other's financial obligations and goals?
10. Do either of you have any financial debts (student loans, cars, credit cards)?
11. Are your ideas about spending and saving in general agreement, or is one of you a saver and the other a spender?
12. What percentage of your income do you want to put aside for savings?
13. What are you saving for? A boat, a house, basic essentials, or the future?
14. Will you keep separate bank accounts?
15. Do you want to open a joint checking account?
16. If you have both joint and separate accounts, how will you allocate resources between them?

17. Who is responsible for paying what?
18. Who will be in charge of managing the money and making sure the bills are paid on time?
19. What kind of lifestyle do you want to live and how much money will you need to create that life?
20. Which purchases should you discuss together and which purchases could one make without consulting the other?
21. How do you feel about gambling? Have you ever spent money foolishly?
22. How do you feel about racking up credit card debt?
23. What is your attitude about charitable donations?
24. Do you expect to tithe or give regularly? To what church or organization?
25. How will you go about making major monetary decisions?

CHARACTER TRAITS

1. How would those who know you well describe your personal character?
2. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
3. What areas would you like to improve on?
4. What are your greatest fears?
5. Have you allowed your partner to see the “real you” – what you love, what captures your imagination, your interests, hobbies, talents, idiosyncrasies, likes and dislikes?
6. Is your partner self-centered, or is he/she willing to serve others? In what ways?
7. What are your partner’s habits regarding spending and giving? Is he/she a spendthrift, a tightwad, or reasonably frugal with money?
8. What is your partner’s attitude toward possessions? Is he/she overly materialistic?
9. How do you like to spend your spare time? Reading, writing, crafting, watching TV, surfing the internet? How about your partner?
10. Is one of you a morning person and the other an evening person? Will that be problematic?
11. Do you have a good sense of time management? Are you punctual? Productive?
12. Do you have any personal habits that might annoy others?
13. Is there anything about your partner that annoys you? If so, is it something you can live with?
14. What is your partner’s attitude toward authority figures / law enforcement?
15. Have you ever seen or heard of your partner being controlling or manipulative of others?

16. Have you ever seen or heard of your partner being mean or disrespectful to others?
17. As far as you know, has your partner ever been violent or verbally abusive?
18. What makes you angry, impatient, or frustrated?
19. How do you handle anger, frustration, or disappointment?
20. In general, how do you manage challenges and stressful situations?

PERSONAL NEEDS / SELF-IDENTITY

1. Do you take an interest in sharing all the different parts of your lives including play, work, and service?
2. Have you invited the other person into your world and have you been invited into theirs?
3. How will you maintain mutual harmony and personal sanity? Do you expect to do everything together, or do you want to be able to explore solo projects?
4. How much “togetherness” is too much? Do you want to be together all the time or have time for yourself?
5. How will you balance “me” time with spouse, family, friends, and job?
6. How will you meet each other’s needs (for conversation, time alone, etc.)? How much personal space or independence will you need to do your own thing?
7. What are your hobbies and how much time/money/space do they require?
8. If a hobby takes up large amounts of your time, is your partner going to be okay with that?
9. Do you share any hobbies that you can do together?
10. What are your personal goals and dreams? (Each of you should make a master list of things that you would like to do, learn, and be. Note which items are similar and different.)
11. Are your goals compatible with the other person’s? Are there any that would cancel each other out?
12. How can you help make each other’s dreams come true?
13. Where will compromises need to be made?
14. What are your “non-negotiables” (things you absolutely can’t live without)?
15. Would it hurt your feelings if your partner wanted to spend some time alone without you, or would you feel the same way?
16. Will they be okay with you going on a trip with your friends? Or will that be a step too far?
17. Where do you see yourself in 5 - 10 - 20 years?

18. What is your overall life purpose, i.e., how you intend to use your interests, experiences, skills, and talents for good?
19. What role would your wife and children play in your life purpose?
20. What role will your job/career play in your life purpose?

RELATIONSHIPS

1. How does your partner treat others in the course of their daily lives?
2. Is your partner's relationship with his or her mother and father honoring and obedient?
3. Does your partner have a harmonious relationship with his or her siblings?
4. Is your partner's relationship with his or her grandparents caring and respectful?
5. How do you feel about your partner's past relationships (if any)? How does he/she deal with a broken relationship?
6. How do you envision your relationship as a married couple?
7. What makes you happiest in your relationship?

FRIENDS

1. Are you satisfied with the quality and quantity of friends that you have? Is your partner comfortable around them?
2. What kinds of friends does your partner hang out with? Do you like and respect them?
3. How does your partner act when you're not around? Does he/she tend to be peer-influenced?
4. How do you feel about doing some things with friends but without your spouse?
5. How do you feel about having friends of the opposite sex?
6. What are your partner's needs for cultivating or maintaining friendships outside of your relationship? Are you supportive of that, or does the idea of it bother you in any way?
7. If one of you really likes to hang out with a certain person and the other doesn't, will that create problems?
8. What if one partner is outgoing and comfortable meeting people but the other is highly introverted, how will you deal with that?
9. How about your social calendar? If one of you wants to go out all the time, and the other is more comfortable staying at home, will this create friction in the relationship?
10. Do you have at least one wise, trustworthy friend who can provide godly counsel and help to hold you accountable regarding matters of purity, integrity, and character?

FAMILY / IN-LAWS

1. Are you comfortable with each other's families?
2. Do you have a good relationship with your own parents/siblings/grandparents?
3. Do you each value and respect the other's parents and siblings?
4. What role will your families play in your own married life? Do you see any potential for either rejection or dependency?
5. How protective are you of each other? Will you stand up for yourselves even against criticisms from extended family members?
6. Will you put each other first and support each other, even if it means not siding with a parent?
7. How close do you want to live to family? Would you be okay with either of your parents being next door or down the street?
8. If you are geographically close to family, what kinds of boundaries will you set about visits and interference? And who will set those boundaries?
9. How often do you want to get together? At what point would familial visits become too frequent?
10. If and when you have children, what kind of relationship do you hope your parents will have with their grandchildren? How much time will they spend together?
11. What lessons have you learned from your parents? What family traditions do you want to bring forward, and what do you want to leave behind?
12. How far are you willing to go to care for either of your parents when they are older?

HOLIDAYS

1. What holidays do you like to celebrate and why?
2. What holidays don't you care to celebrate and why not?
3. What are your family's holiday traditions, and which ones do you want to continue?
4. What new traditions would you like to start?
5. How will you decide whose relatives to visit for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter?

ENTERTAINMENT

1. What do you like to do in your spare time? What do you consider an ideal way to spend an evening? A weekend?
2. How much money do you spend on entertainment?

3. How often do you like to eat out, and where?
4. Do you watch television? Go to movies? Play computer games? How do you decide what is appropriate to view and what is not? What will your guidelines be for the kids?
5. What is your involvement in sports? Do you participate, attend games, watch on TV? To what extent?

RECREATION / TRAVEL

1. Do you want to be able to travel? Where to?
2. What kinds of vacations do you like? Would you rather be hiking in the wilderness, going to theme parks, seeing historic sites, visiting relatives, or relaxing on a beach?
3. Do you like taking long vacations, short weekend getaways, or both? How often?
4. How much time are you able to take off from work or school?
5. Do you tend to be an in-season or off-season traveler, and what about your partner?
6. Do you like to be around other people or would you prefer being by yourselves?
7. How adventurous are you? Are you a thrill-seeker or a scaredy-cat?
8. Would you be comfortable staying in a tent? Cabin? RV? Budget motel? Resort hotel?
9. How do you feel about air travel? Rail travel? Road trips? Would you ever want to go on a cruise or travel internationally?
10. If money were no object, what would be your dream vacation?
11. Where would you like to spend your honeymoon?
12. Do either of you have passports? Will you need to get one?

HEALTH

1. Do you have any physical or mental disabilities or diseases that your partner needs to know about? Prior or current health problems?
2. Do you understand your partner's health needs (allergies, asthma, diabetic, etc.)?
3. Do you have any bad habits, addictions, or other issues that could adversely affect your health (smoking, drinking, eating disorders, poor diet)?
4. Are you both satisfied with each other's approach to health, nutrition, and wellness?
5. How physically active are you? What is your preferred type of exercise? Do you share any common athletic interests or fitness goals?
6. Is each of you fine with the time the other wants to spend pursuing health and exercise-related activities?

7. What are your views on vegetarianism/veganism, food additives, organic foods, vaccinations, Ritalin, alternative medicine, divine healing?
8. Will you keep alcohol in the house? How many drinks do you think are too many?
9. Would you be comfortable with having a gun in the house? Will you keep it locked in a safe (especially important if you have kids)?
10. What if one of you became seriously ill or disabled? How would you want to be cared for?

LOVE

1. What does love mean to you, and how do you show your love?
2. Are you selflessly seeking to do what's genuinely best for the other person, or are you mainly interested in serving your own self-centered desires?
3. Do you think of yourselves as best friends who respect, affirm, complement each other?
4. What do you need to feel loved, respected, and needed... and is your partner affectionate to the degree that you would like?
5. Are you paying attention to the "little things" that might bless your partner? And is your partner picking up on the love signals that you send their way?

COMMUNICATION

1. How long have you known each other and in what capacity?
2. Have you observed each other in real-life settings?
3. Do you know each other well enough to be able to share some observations about each others' character, personality, strengths and weaknesses?
4. Is one of you extroverted (likes to talk) and the other introverted (the silent type)? How does that affect your ability to communicate? Are you comfortable with each other's way of communicating?
5. Do you actively listen to each other while carefully and fairly considering one another's ideas and complaints?
6. Do you have any habits or personality traits that annoy each other? Can anything be done about that?
7. Have you ever had a disagreement, and how did you handle it?
8. Did you know that the way your parents fought when you were growing up influences how you fight? Do you want to try harder to do better? How will you handle arguments?
9. How do you act when you feel hurt or angry; how would you like your partner to react?
10. How would you feel about seeking help from friends or counselors?

POLITICS & RELIGION

1. What are your political leanings? What is your general attitude toward civil government?
2. Are your political and religious philosophies compatible with those of your partner?
3. Do either of you have any tendencies toward prejudice or racism?
4. What was your religious upbringing like?
5. What does each of you believe on a personal level?
6. What do you understand to be the Gospel?
7. Is God the highest priority in your life – and does your partner understand that?
8. What belief structure do you want in your household?
9. How important is participation in a local church? Missionary work? Evangelism?
10. What church do you attend now and how often do you go?
11. How active are you in your church? Are you on the worship team or prayer team, in a weekly community group or Bible study? Does your partner understand your obligations?
12. What church will you attend after you're married, and how often will you go?
13. Will you tithe? How much will you give?
14. What are your habits regarding prayer? Bible study? Daily devotions?
15. What is the importance of music in life and worship?
16. What is your view of the Sabbath and the proper use of that day?
17. Do you read the Bible regularly?
18. Do you try to obey the Ten Commandments? (Don't lie, steal, murder, covet, or commit adultery. Honor God, His name, your father and mother, and the Sabbath.)
19. Have you been baptized? Why or why not?
20. What role does God play in your decision-making?
21. Are you willing to submit yourself to God's authority?
22. What is your view on the celebration of Holy Days (Christmas, Easter)?
23. How and when will your children be exposed to religious education?
24. What about your political or religious differences? How can you bridge those differences?
25. Even if you don't agree with every one of your partner's religious or political views, how respectful will you be toward the other person's opinions?