

## Some Topics for Discussion During a Courtship

### **Finances.**

- Budgets, bookkeeping, how to handle household finances
- Categories of spending in budget
- Who is responsible for what in finances?
- How to work together on bookkeeping, paperwork
- Debt
- Credit cards
- Used vs. new – cars, clothes, etc.
- Should wife ever contribute to household income through work or home business?
- Tithes, offerings, benevolence
- Savings
- Investments

### **Medical.**

- Standard medical practice vs. alternatives – chiropractic, homeopathic, etc.
- Immunizations
- What necessitates a doctor visit? What other alternatives are there?
- Insurance options
- Prenatal care and birth options
- Diet preferences – homemade, package, whole grains, etc.

### **Political.**

- Does wife vote according to husband's direction or by her own conscience after his counsel?
- What if wife disagrees with husband?
- When is resistance to government appropriate?
- What is role of government?

## **Relational.**

- Balance of job and family
- Overtime work – evenings and Saturdays
- When wife disagrees with husband – what should happen?
- Should any information be withheld from spouse? If so, what and when?
- Decision-making – What is wife’s role? What is husband’s role?
- Role of father and mother in relationship to children
- What if wife is negligent in an area of her responsibility?
- What if husband is negligent in an area of his responsibility?
- What are the basic responsibilities of wife?
- What are the basic responsibilities of husband?
- What role do in-laws play in a marriage?
- How to handle disagreements with parents or in-laws
- Care of elderly parents and grandparents
- Rest home vs. on property vs. in your home
- Holidays – with extended family or at home?
- How important is extended family?
- Ever consider moving far away from extended family? Under what conditions?
- The role of seeking counsel when making decisions
- When is it appropriate to reject the counsel of others?
- Role of female friends in wife’s life
- Role of male friends in husband’s life
- What if spouse is going against the clear teaching of Scripture and church leaders?
- How to resolve disagreements and offenses? How soon? What compromises are you willing to make? Who has the final authority in areas of disagreement?
- How much time do you want your spouse spending on activities away from home without you?
- What are specific ways that a wife can serve as a helper to her husband?

- Do you like lots of company, or do you prefer more time to yourself and alone with your family?

### **Traditions.**

- Holidays
- Birthdays
- Foods
- Activities on the Lord's Day
- Gifts
- Money spent on Christmas
- Division of responsibility in home – i.e. emptying garbage, keeping car clean, yard work, housework, cooking, shopping, etc.

### **Children.**

- How many?
- Birth control or as God grants them?
- Discipline – Observe situations or make up hypothetical situations. How would you handle them?
- When to use spanking?
- Who disciplines the children when both parents are present?
- Should grandparents discipline their grandchildren?
- Goals for children
- Sports involvement
- What to do when one spouse disagrees with decision or discipline of other spouse
- How should daughters be raised?
- How should sons be raised?
- What if older children disagree with some of your beliefs?
- How much should family be away from home when young, when older?
- Ideas about memorizing Scripture, catechizing, family worship
- Dresses vs. pants on little girls, older girls
- Standards that govern relationships with those of opposite sex

**Education.**

- Schooling options – only homeschooling?
- What are the goals you seek to reach as you school your children?
- What subjects are most important?
- Would you consider having others teach your children certain subjects?
- Schooling methods
- Music education
- Scriptural instruction – how and when
- Is college an option for older homeschooled children?
- Would you put high school age children into a community college program?
- Would you accept free benefits from the government school system?
- Would you report your homeschooling to the government school authorities?
- What is the father's role in homeschooling?
- What is the mother's role in homeschooling?

**Church.**

- Infant baptism
- Church vs. family – is one higher priority than other?
- Time commitment to church vs. family
- What about mid-week activities and meetings?
- When and what would lead to leaving or changing churches?
- How to handle disagreements with church leadership
- Age-segregated church classes and events
- Youth groups and youth activities without families
- Church attendance

**Time.**

- Morning person or night person?
- Schedule or not?
- How flexible?
- Arrive early or late to commitments?
- How much time for work vs. how much time for play?

**Use of leisure time:**

- What are appropriate uses of leisure time?
- Reading materials
- Regarding movies, games, etc.
- TV?
- Vacations – What makes a good vacation? How often? What are inexpensive alternatives for young families?
- Date times for young parents
- How much leisure time vs. work time in day, on weekend, etc.?
- Musical preferences
- Background music or quiet?

**Dreams.**

- Desired accomplishments – Writing? Business? Music? Etc.
- Travel – when, where, how much
- Family
- Home
- Estate
- Vocation
- Education

**Other:**

- Musical standards
- Clothing standards
- Traffic laws
- Gardens
- Pets
- Livestock for meat