



Counseling Model for Pre-Marital Couples

Counseling Ministry First Baptist Church Atlanta

We welcome you to the Counseling Ministry First Baptist Church Atlanta. Congratulations as you think about taking a step in the direction of marriage (Genesis 2:24).

Please read the following before becoming a participant in either premarital or pre (planning to become engaged)-premarital counseling. If you agree with this statement, please sign and call 770-234-8360 to schedule your testing appointment. As a couple, you need to schedule your appointments at the same time. Also, we require that the initial paperwork be scheduled at least five months before your wedding. Please bring this form with you.

The First Baptist Church Atlanta Counseling Staff desires to help prepare couples for a lasting marriage through application of scriptures focused on the marriage commitment (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6). All couples who schedule their wedding at FBA are required to satisfactorily complete Premarital Counseling. The Premarital Counseling will be provided by the pastor performing the ceremony, staff counselor or trained lay couples from the Counseling Ministry that will help equip the engaged couple in understanding the Biblical principles for a successful marriage.

The Prepare/Enrich Inventory will be used to indicate areas of compatibility and lack of compatibility in the couple's relationship. Failure to attend or complete the Premarital Counseling will result in canceling a couple's use of the church facilities.

Becoming a participant in premarital counseling involves completing intake material that includes the Prepare/Enrich Questionnaire and Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis (TJTA). **Please note that some testing results will require that a couple be counseled by a Staff counselor, and will need to be available for daytime appointments.**

The counseling will take place either here at church or in mentoring couples' homes at a time that is agreeable to all. The average number of meetings is usually 6 to 8 sessions of 1-1.5 hours in length. This can vary depending on issues that may surface during the course of the counseling.

The total cost of premarital counseling is **\$114.00** for the Prepare/Enrich Questionnaire, Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis (TJTA), and a premarital resource book. A check for **\$55.00** of this amount is to be made payable to FBA for the (TJTA) and resource book; the remainder of the fee (**\$59.00**) is to be paid online directly to Prepare/Enrich prior to taking the test.

The eligibility for marriage/remarriage counseling is based on the criteria for using FBA facilities.

1. The participants must be born-again believers (2 Corinthians 6:14-unequally yoked passage)
2. The participants may not be living together nor engaging in premarital sex. It is our experience that pre-marital sex leads to serious problems after marriage. Sex outside of marriage is a sin of fornication for the single and adultery for the married.
3. The participants, if divorced, may be remarried only if the divorce was for the following reasons:
 - A. The former spouse violated the principles laid down by Christ (Matthew 19 & Mark 10).
 - B. The former spouse, who was a non-believer, abandoned the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:15).
4. If one or both of the participants are divorced, he/she must be divorced for a minimum of 1 year before seeking pre-engagement or pre-marital counseling.

A wedding ceremony is a spiritual covenant with God. Everything pertaining to the wedding must be viewed and planned in that context in order to tie the hand and hearts of couples to Christ and His church.

The Counseling Ministry staff wishes to extend assistance to you so that your wedding will be a relaxed and sacred event exalting and glorifying God.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Pre-engagement/Pre-marital Counseling Information Sheet
Counseling Ministry First Baptist Church Atlanta

Today's Date _____ E-mail address _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Hm) _____ (Wk) _____ (Cell) _____

Employer _____ Job Title _____

Are you currently receiving counseling? ____ If yes, please give name and location of counselor:

Have you reached the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today that you would go to heaven? Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

If you checked yes, according to your beliefs, on what basis would God let you into His heaven?

Fiancé/fiancée (if engaged) _____ Age _____

Seeking counseling for Pre-engagement ____ Pre-marital ____ Wedding date _____

In order to determine eligibility for marriage/remarriage, please answer the following questions:

Is this your first marriage? ____ If not, how did the first marriage end? _____

If any of these apply, please check appropriate box:

- irreconcilable differences
- spousal adultery/ fornication
- spouse unsaved
- other: _____

Present Church Membership: _____

Wedding Location _____ Pastor (Who) _____

MARITAL STATUS:

Single	Pre Engaged	Engaged	
Married	Date(s)	Separated	Date
Widow/er	Date(s)	Divorced	Date(s)

Has divorce happened in your immediate family? _____
Who? _____

NAMES AND AGES OF YOUR CHILDREN:

1.	Age	4.	Age
2.	Age	5.	Age
3.	Age	6.	Age

Designate any of above that are stepchildren by circling the number.

FATHER'S NAME _____ Age _____ Deceased date _____
MOTHER'S NAME _____ Age _____ Deceased date _____

Pre-marital Counseling Relationship Information

Counseling Ministry First Baptist Church Atlanta

Your name _____ Date _____

1. Are you acquainted with your mate's immediate family?

2. Do you dislike any of your intended's family? If so, what do you dislike?

3. Name several reasons that led you to desire to marry your potential mate?

4. Are there any areas of your life that you find difficult to discover openly with your potential mate? If so, what are they?

5. What would you consider as grounds for divorce?

6. What would you consider biblical limitations to a physical relationship before marriage? Give specifics.

Background:

Describe your parent's marriage 1.____ 2.____ 3.____ 4.____ 5.____
Unhappy Very Happy

7. How do you expect your marriage to differ from your parents?

8. Which parent contributes the most to the strength of the marriage?

Mother _____ or Father _____

9. What do you want to bring into your marriage from your parents' marriage?

10. How did your parents handle problems between them?

11. What was your response to how they handled problems?

12. How much influence should your in-laws have on your marriage?

13. How will you handle holidays and starting your own traditions?

14. How important are certain dates (anniversary, birthday, etc.) to you?

Spiritual:

15. Do you have a relationship with God, having received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Describe your experience.

16. Describe where you are in your spiritual walk.

Infant___ Child___ Teenager ___ Adult ___

Babe ←————→ Mature

17. Are you sure your fiancé/ fiancée is a Christian? Explain.

18. Mother and father gave me a view of myself as...

19. Mother and father's relationship with each other gave me a sense that love was....

20. One unspoken message I got from my parents' relationship about love was...

21. My parents often expected me to...
