

## Frequently Asked Questions by Engaged Couples

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### **How do I know if I'm ready to marry?**

- Is God calling you to marriage? Have you prayed and discerned about this?
- Do most people consider you emotionally mature, able to compromise, communicate well, share your feelings, and handle anger constructively?
- Are you marrying out of strength (I know who I am and am happy with myself) rather than weakness (I need someone to fill the gaps in my personality)?
- Have you developed strong friendships that have lasted over time?
- Are you able to keep commitments?

### **How do I know if this is the right person?**

- Is God calling you to marriage with this person? Have you prayed and discerned about this?
- Do you share similar basic values about respecting human life, fidelity, commitment, what is right and wrong, honesty, life goals, and lifestyle?
- Does your significant other bring out the best in you, and you in him or her?
- Are you physically attracted to this person?
- Can you imagine growing old together?
- Do your trusted family members and friends support your relationship and affirm that it is healthy and respectful?

### **Is it necessary to feel “chemistry” between us for this to be the right person to marry?**

Chemistry, or feeling like you “click” with another person, is a natural part of a deepening relationship, and a wonderful part of falling in love, but unfortunately, chemistry is sometimes confused with infatuation, which can be fleeting.

In the good sense, chemistry means you feel a strong physical and emotional attraction to the other person and want to become closer to him or her. You feel happy in his or her presence and enjoy your time together. This sense of unity and joy at the other's presence can be a great foundation for a happy marriage.

### **Why should I attend a marriage preparation program? We've known each other for a long time and can't imagine we'd learn anything new.**

You do not have to discover all the things that make a marriage work by trial and error. Others have done some of that work for you. At a marriage preparation program course, you get a glimpse into other couples' marriages so you can have a more realistic sense of what's normal and what's not, and you can get solid advice on how to have a happy, holy marriage.

Although every marriage relationship is unique, there are many tips experienced couples can share that will help you when you face bumps in your own marriage. Marriage preparation programs also give you an opportunity to talk with each other about the wide spectrum of conversations before marriage. Most likely you will find that you gain confidence in your decision to marry as a result of attending a marriage preparation program. Occasionally, attending a marriage preparation program can make you realize that it isn't the right time to marry, or that this may not be the right person. That's okay, because engagement is a time to discern marriage actively and intentionally.

### **How much income should we have between us to marry?**

Many couples, especially younger ones, start their married lives together without a large income, and possibly with debt. This can be a challenge, but it should not necessarily delay marriage. There is no magic number when it comes to the income and financial assets a couple should have before marrying, and bride and groom promise to be faithful "for richer" or "for poorer." At the same time, it is important to realize that financial hardship can cause conflict in a marriage, and to talk with each other about your plan for meeting your basic needs. Do not be afraid to seek wise counsel such as financial planners, etc.

### **How much does a typical wedding cost?**

The price has been rising as to what is considered "typical" for a wedding and remember simplicity can be elegant. Consider having a smaller wedding if cost is a major concern, or researching inexpensive do-it-yourself alternatives. Don't let the perceived cost of weddings keep you from saying "I do." And remember, a wedding is a day; a marriage is a lifetime. Be wise about expenses and enjoy planning your wedding day.

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