

*Toolkit*



*Make A  
Wedding  
Happen Day*



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# Pastor's Section



Rev. Bryan L. Carter  
Senior Pastor

## Letter from the Pastor

As a Pastor, my heart for couples that were cohabitating in our church and our community, led me to begin exploring options in terms of how to deal with this ever growing situation. I began to pray and seek God about how we can best address this issue. Ultimately, through research, prayer, and discovery, God allowed us to challenge couples that live together to get married. It was in that context which led me to preach an entire series on the subject matter; however, I discovered that would be too heavy or weighty. So, I designed one message, built around helping couples that were living together understand the Biblical implications of this matter and to help stem the tide that our culture promotes so avidly.

The message I preached on that Sunday in September 2009, was entitled, "Let's Just Live Together" (Heb. 14:3). In that message, my main goal was to help people get a clear picture of the whole issue of cohabitation from a Biblical perspective. Many cohabitating couples that may desire to be married, don't do so for financial reasons or they procrastinate which leads to a greater level of uncertainty. Therefore, goal of the message was to remove any excuses...remove any barriers that they may be facing. At the conclusion of the message, I invited cohabitating couples that wanted to make this commitment, to meet with me after church to assist them in beginning the process of having them married in less than 30 days. It's with that in mind we began this journey of inviting couples to become wed.

As a part of the invitation to begin the journey I made it a point to remove any barriers that might have existed that would prohibit couples from taking part in this opportunity to live as husband and wife. The barriers eliminated and thus paid for by the church were:

- Bridal Gown
- Grooms Tux
- Bouquet
- Boutoniere
- Bride and Groom Rings
- Cakes
- Video of Ceremony
- Photography
- Make up
- Hair Stylist
- Jewlery
- Invitations

On that Sunday afternoon we had 30 couples that actually expressed interest. When everything was said and done, ultimately we ended up with 18 couples that decided to marry. Some have asked; "What happened to the other 12?" Well, we know that marriage counseling is designed to help couples make the right decision for their future, and some of those made the decision not to get married once they began going through the counseling. Others decided they still needed more time to work through other issues before making a lifelong commitment.

The goal of this program is that it gives the church a Biblically healthy way to deal with this epidemic that the churches are facing. We were able to balance the love of God with the standards of God, and it worked extremely well for us. I encourage you as a Pastor and a church leader to consider implementing this in your own church. The Bible is a redemptive book, and it talks about redemption at the heart of scripture. We were able to witness these couples become redeemed through this process. Of those 18 couples, five of them joined our church. Helping these couples also led many of them to become highly involved in the life of our church. We are so grateful for the tremendous connection between these new families and the church.

In His Service,

Rev. Bryan Carter, Senior Pastor  
Concord Church, Dallas, TX

# Statistical Data

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The number of opposite-sex couples who live together, less than a million 30 years, hit 6.4 million in 2007, show federal data released Monday. Cohabiting couples now make up almost 10% of all opposite-sex U.S. couples, married and unmarried.

(AFP) – July 14, 2009

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Couples living together before marrying have a higher chance of getting divorced than those who wait until they were engaged or married, according to research out Tuesday in the *Journal of Family Psychology*.

The study, carried out by researchers from the University of Denver, also found that couples who lived together before marrying reported lower marriage satisfaction.

"We think that some couples who move in together without a clear commitment to marriage may wind up sliding into marriage partly because they are cohabiting," said senior researcher and study co-author Galena Rhoades.

"It seems wise to talk about commitment and what living together might mean for the future of the relationship before moving in together, especially

because cohabiting likely makes it harder to break up compared to dating," said another researcher, Scott Stanley.

More than 70 percent of couples in the United States live together before marrying, according to the article.

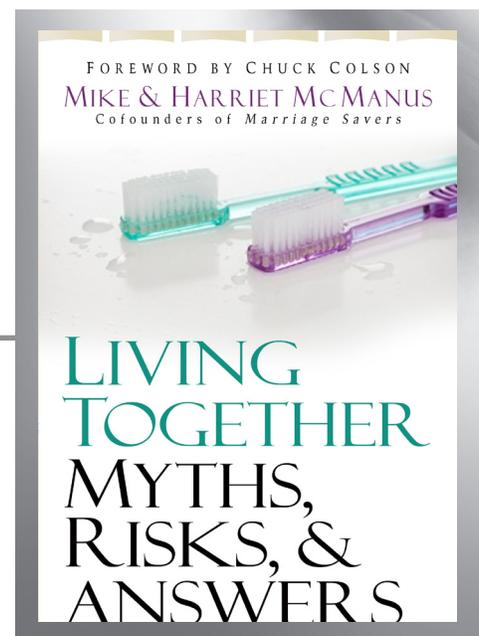
Yet the researchers "have found evidence that cohabiting before engagement, even only with one's future spouse, is associated with lower marital quality and higher divorce potential," the article read. In a separate study that appeared in the *Journal of Family Issues*, the researchers studied the reasons why couples chose to live together.

The most common answer was because they wanted to spend more time together, followed by convenience, and followed by testing the relationship. Earlier research suggested that people cohabited before marrying because they wanted to test their relationship.

"Cohabiting to test a relationship turns out to be associated with the most problems in relationships," said Rhoades.

## Recommended Resource

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# Testimonials

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I would like to thank Rev. Bryan Carter for a wonderful experience on my wedding day. I don't think things could have been better. I really didn't take my wife serious, because I had been married before and promised myself I wouldn't do this again, unless GOD told me to. I was very surprise. As she proposed the challenge that Pastor gave us, we talked about it again. I took a couple of days to really think about. By that next Sunday I had decided to do the right thing, since we were living together. I want to thank everybody who took part in our wedding, the concord church for being a blessing to me and my wife. It was a wonderful experience. Thank You.

-Mr. John Jefferson

My wedding experience was phenomenal. I was served with extraordinary service. I had everything I could have asked for, personal assistance, personal photographer, and personal makeup consultant. All I had to do was show up. I have never been married before and have always said that when I got married it would have to be an act of GOD, and it would be to death do us part. Since we were currently living together, we had discussed it but financially couldn't afford it. When pastor challenged couples to make a commitment and he would take care of all the expenses including the rings, dress and tuxedo, I thought Lord is this you. As I traveled home I was praying that my husband would accept the challenge, but really didn't know if he would take me serious. Well as I expected he didn't believe me. He said to me, I didn't expect for you to come home with something like this. I stated we just never know what GOD has in store for us. So throughout the week, before the next Sunday. My husband said Baby we are going to do this. Since then, until this day forward my husband has been going to church every Sunday and has since joined!!! Thanks Concord so much for being such a great church and a Pastor after GODS heart.

-Mrs. Sherry Jefferson

Our wedding experience was truly one to remember. Starting with Pastor Carter's series on Celebrating Singles to that Sunday when he challenged the cohabitating couples to meet him after church to going through the counseling to picking out rings and gowns and tuxedos to standing before our friends and families and not to mention making Channel 8 news!!! LaPrie and I are truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church. We were already planning to marry but did not have the money. So not only did Pastor Carter challenge us to live according to the will of God but he gave us the resources to do it! We are so grateful for the entire Concord staff and all the vendors that participated. Even though there were 17 other couples standing with us on October 25, 2009; it was OUR day and since that day life has been nothing short of a roller coaster ride, but everyday our prayer is that we honor God in our marriage.

-The Townsends

We are thankful for the vision that God shared with Pastor Carter to stand up against what the world had to say about marriage and relationships and share the good news about what God has to say. We were wondering how we were going to have a wedding but God worked it out. It felt personal and intimate. Thank you Concord for allowing God to use you to make a difference in our lives. Because of the experience we are able to share with other couples that when you build your relationship on how God designed it to be marriage is so much easier.

-William & Shamondra Lane







# Event Planning

# Planning Checklist

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- PASTOR SHARES HIS VISION
- PASTOR APPOINTS CHURCH WEDDING COORDINATOR
- CHURCH WEDDING COORDINATOR

**DESCRIPTION:** This person(s) will act as the liaison between the church and couples.

- Schedule an informal meeting with interested couples
  - *Provide wedding information/schedule to the couples*
  - *Answer any questions and/or concerns*
- Access each couples needs
- Coordinate with wedding team and business partners
- Establish budget for each wedding component - *The budget will be based on the amount of funds the church is willing to invest and/or the cost it would take to provide each couple with, but not limited to, the following items:*
  - Bridal Gown & Grooms Tux
  - Bouquet & Boutonniere
  - Rings (Bride & Groom)
  - Ceremony Video (1 per couple)
  - Ceremony Photos
  - Invitations

- COUNSELING BEGIN W/COUPLES (MARRIAGE LICENSE WAIVER)

**DESCRIPTION:** The person(s) will make sure that all couples are enrolled in a marriage counseling program to meet requirement for the State waiver. *(See appendix)*

- ESTABLISH WEDDING TEAM

- WEDDING COORDINATORS (PREFERABLY @ NO COST)

**DESCRIPTION:** This team will aid in the planning of the wedding & reception.

- Provide décor inventory to be used for the wedding ceremony
  - Using the décor inventory of the Business Owners the cost to provide desired aesthetics is limited and/or reduced.
- Provide directives for the ceremony and reception (if applicable).
- FLORAL DESIGNERS (PREFERABLY @ NO COST)

**DESCRIPTION:** This team will aid in the floral design and arrangements for the wedding & reception.
- Design floral bouquets and boutonnieres for the couples.
  - Using the décor inventory of the Business Owners the cost to provide desired aesthetics is limited and/or reduced also in the category.

- PHOTOGRAPHERS (PREFERABLY @ NO COST)
  - DESCRIPTION:** This team will provide photography for the wedding & reception.
    - Assign photographers to specific duties (One photographer per location)
      - Brides entrance
      - Bride and Groom w/Pastor
      - Bride & Groom Only
      - Reception Photo (Cake/Family Photo)
    - Ask Photographers to provide all photos on a disc and give disc to the church
    - Church will provide all photos on a website for access for all couple to view
- VIDEOGRAPHERS (PREFERABLY @ NO COST)
  - DESCRIPTION:** This team records the ceremony and reception.
    - Edit footage and provide a copy of the finished recording to the church.
      - Each couple will receive (1) one copy of the video
- MAKE-UP ARTIST (PREFERABLY @ NO COST)
  - DESCRIPTION:** Assist each bride with wedding day look at bride's request.
- HAIR STYLIST
  - DESCRIPTION:** Assist each bride with wedding day look at bride's request.
- MARKETING (WEDDING INVITATIONS/PROGRAMS)
  - DESCRIPTION:** Design and provide each couple with invitations to be given to invited guest. Design program to be distributed during the ceremony. We (The Concord Church) was able to provide this service because we have in-house printing capabilities.
- CATERER (*RECEPTION ~ IF APPLICABLE*)
- BAKERY (*RECEPTION ~ IF APPLICABLE*)
- EXPLORE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
  - BRIDAL SHOPS (RENTAL)
    - DESCRIPTION:** Partner with a local bridal shop that will allow the brides to rent their bridal gowns for one (1) set rate. This rate will be a line item for sponsored couples.
  - TUXEDO SHOPS (RENTAL)
    - DESCRIPTION:** Partner with a local tuxedo shop will allow the groom to rent their tuxedo attire for one (1) set rate. This rate will be a line item for sponsored couples.
  - FLORIST
    - DESCRIPTION:** This partnership will allow the wedding coordinators and event planners to purchase floral at wholesale cost (if applicable)

# Planning Checklist Cont.

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- LOCAL JEWELER
  - DESCRIPTION:** This partnership will allow the wedding coordinators and event planners to purchase wedding bands at a reduced rate. Keep in mind that some couples could already have their rings and this information will be disclosed during the couples assessment.
- CHURCH PARTICIPATION
  - SPONSORSHIP
    - DESCRIPTION:** To encourage the membership to be a part of the Pastor's vision by inviting them to sponsor a couple. Please refer to our (The Concord Church) sample sponsor worship guide insert.
  - VOLUNTEERS
    - PRAYER MINISTRY
      - DESCRIPTION:** Serve as Prayer Warriors for couples and their commitment to honor God in their new obedience to Him.
    - WOMENS MINISTRY (BRIDAL ASSISTANTS)
      - DESCRIPTION:** This woman serves her assigned bride beginning the week leading up to the ceremony; contacting her to assist with any pre-wedding day arrangements. She will assist the bride at wedding rehearsal and the day of the wedding (i.e. getting dressed, presentation of bouquet, etc.)
    - MENS MINISTRY (GROOM ASSISTANTS)
      - DESCRIPTION:** This man serves his assigned groom beginning the week leading up to the ceremony; praying with him and assisting as needed.
    - DEACON/ELDERS (COMMUNION ~ IF APPLICABLE)
    - SETUP
      - DESCRIPTION:** Church membership will assist wedding coordinators as needed to prepare for the wedding ceremony and reception (if applicable)
    - CLEANUP
      - DESCRIPTION:** Church membership will assist wedding coordinators as needed to post wedding ceremony and reception (if applicable)

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- COUPLES INTERVIEW (DETERMINE THE NEEDS)
    - GOWN
    - TUX
    - BOUQUET
    - BOUTONNIERE
    - RINGS
    - JEWELRY
    - CAKES (*RECEPTION ~ IF APPLICABLE*)
- 

#### RECEPTION (IF APPLICABLE)

- TABLE & CHAIRS
  - BRIDE & GROOM
  - GUEST
- CAKES CUTTING & TOAST
  - BRIDE & GROOM
- CATERING
  - FOOD & BEVERAGE
- MUSIC
  - FIRST DANCE
- PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

# Couple Assessment (Sample)

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	<u>BRIDE/GROOM</u>	<u>WEDDING/RECEPTION ITEMS</u>	<u>COUPLES NEEDS</u>
<b>COUPLE 1</b>	XXXX & XXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BRIDAL GOWN</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GROOMS TUX</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BOUQUET</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BOUTONNIERE</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ RINGS</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BRIDES SIZE</li> </ul>	<b>SIZE 6 1/2</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GROOMS SIZE</li> </ul>	<b>SIZE 11</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CAKES</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ VIDEOGRAPHY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PHOTOGRAPHY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MAKE UP</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ HAIR STYLIST</li> </ul>	<b>WILL MAKE APPOINTMENT</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ JEWELRY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ INVITATIONS</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
<b>COUPLE 2</b>	XXXX & XXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BRIDAL GOWN</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ GROOMS TUX</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BOUQUET</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BOUTONNIERE</li> </ul>	YES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ RINGS</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BRIDES SIZE</li> </ul>	<b>RINGS NOT NEEDED</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GROOMS SIZE</li> </ul>	<b>RINGS NOT NEEDED</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CAKES</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ VIDEOGRAPHY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ PHOTOGRAPHY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MAKE UP</li> </ul>	NOT NEEDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ HAIR STYLIST</li> </ul>	NOT NEEDED
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ JEWELRY</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ INVITATIONS</li> </ul>	CHURCH TO PROVIDE

# Timeline

		<b>ORDER OF SERVICE:</b>	<b>ACTION TO TAKE PLACE:</b>	<b>TASK ASSIGNMENT:</b>
4:30			● BRIDES & GROOMS DRESSED	
4:45			● BRIDES & GROOMS LINE-UP	
4:30	5:00	PRELUDE	● SOFT MUSIC PLAYED	AV TEAM
5:00	5:04	SONG	● CD TRACK	
5:05	5:10	ENTRANCE OF PASTOR & GROOMS	● PASTOR WILL ENTER WITH GROOMS; ALL WILL TAKE THEIR POSITION FOR THE CEREMONY	WEDDING COORDINATOR
5:11	5:14	DANCE	<i>(IF APPLICABLE)</i>	
5:15	5:25	PRESENTATION OF BRIDES	● CD TRACKS (MEDLEY OF SONGS) <i>(BRIDES WILL ENTER TO MEET THEIR GROOMS)</i>	
5:26	5:30	PRAYER		PASTOR
5:30	5:33	EXCHANGE OF VOWS		PASTOR
5:33	5:35	EXCHANGE OF RINGS	● EACH GROOM WILL HAVE THEIR BOTH OF THEIR WEDDING BANDS <i>(PASTOR WILL HAVE A PROP RING FOR SYMBOLISM)</i>	PASTOR
5:40	5:45	COMMUNION	● COUPLES WILL TAKE COMMUNION	PASTOR
5:45	6:05	PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE	● PASTOR WILL ALLOW THE GROOMS TO SALUTE THEIR BRIDES  <b><i>(PASTOR WILL START PRONOUNCEMENT OF EACH COUPLE)</i></b>	PASTOR
		CD TRACK TO BE PLAYED		
6:30		DISMISSAL OF GUEST	● PASTOR TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR RECEPTION (IF APPLICABLE)	PASTOR
6:35		PICTURES OF COUPLE	● CEREMONY BRIDE/GROOM/PASTOR	
			● RECEPTION (IF APPLICABLE) BRIDE & GROOM CAKE/TOAST	WEDDING COORDINATOR
			● RECEPTION (IF APPLICABLE) BRIDE & GROOM 1ST DANCE	WEDDING COORDINATOR
<u>7:00</u>		FOOD PRESENTATION	● COORDINATOR TO PROVIDE DIRECTIONS FOR SERVING THE GUEST	WEDDING COORDINATOR
			REMARKS FROM THE PASTOR	
			FRIENDS AND FAMILY MAY CONGRATULATE COUPLES	

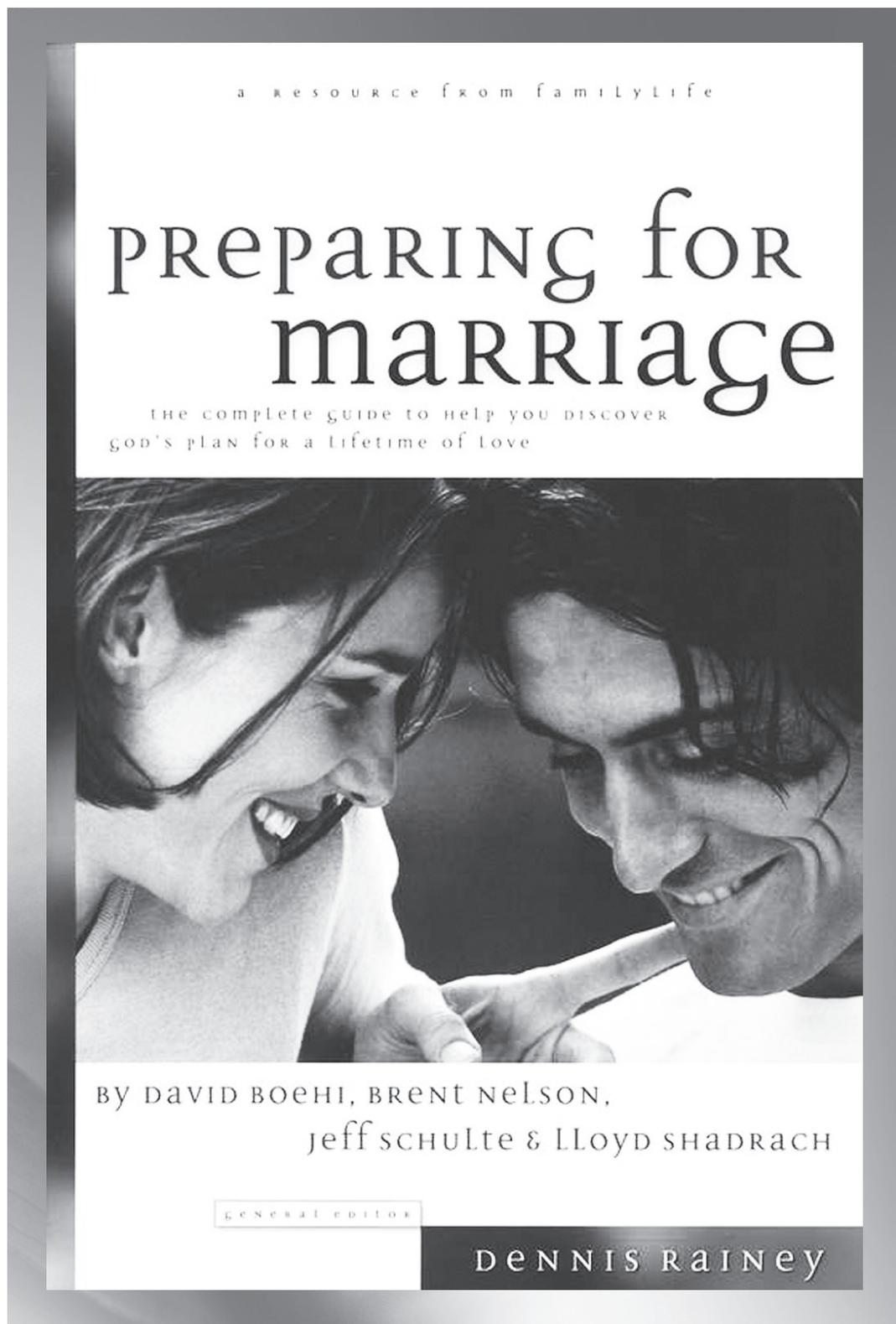




# Pre-Marital Counseling

# Recommended Resources

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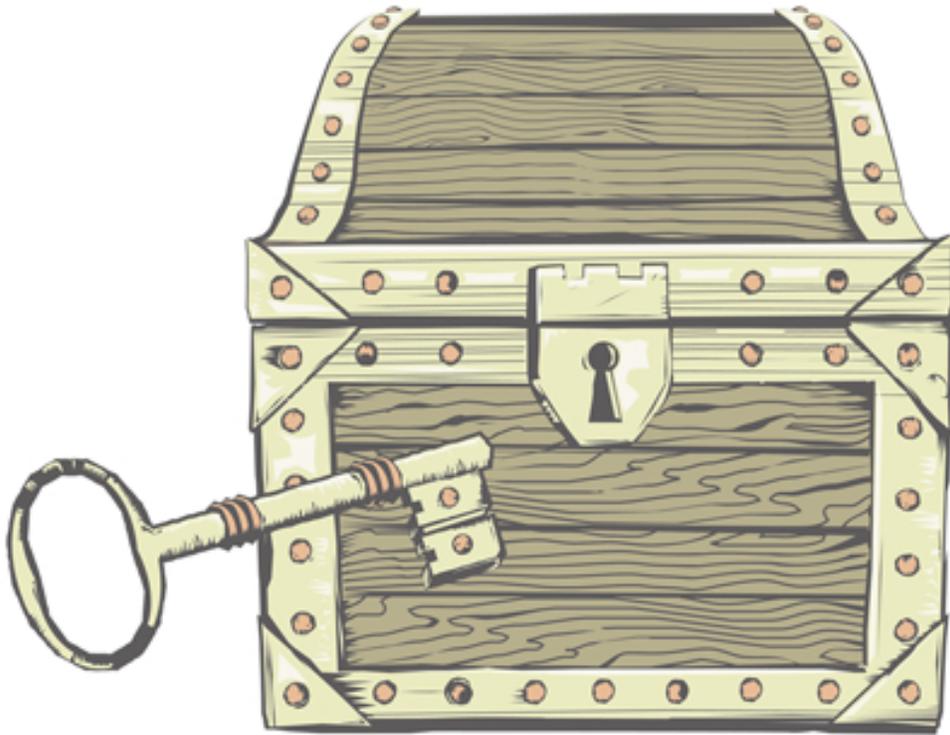
# CSI

**Couples Seriously Interested**



**Specimen Kit**

# Personalities



Understanding the  
Hidden Treasures

**PERSONAL STYLE SURVEY****Directions: Circle one word in each row that you feel describes you best:**

#	A	B	C	D
1	Restrained	Forceful	Factual	Expressive
2	Pioneering	Correct	Exciting	Satisfied
3	Willing	Animated	Bold	Precise
4	Argumentative	Doubting	Indecisive	Unpredictable
5	Deliberate	Outgoing	Patient	Daring
6	Persuasive	Self-reliant	Logical	Gentle
7	Cautious	Even-tempered	Decisive	Life of the party
8	Entertaining	Assertive	Perfectionist	Generous
9	Colorful	Modest	Easy-going	Unyielding
10	Systematic	Optimistic	Persistent	Accommodating
11	Relentless	Humble	Neighborly	Talkative
12	Friendly	Observant	Playful	Strong-willed
13	Charming	Adventurous	Self-disciplined	Respectful
14	Careful	Steady	Aggressive	Attractive
15	Enthusiastic	Analytical	Sympathetic	Determined
16	Demanding	Impulsive	Slow-paced	Critical
17	Thorough	Direct	Lively	Consistent
18	Influential	Kind	Independent	Orderly
19	Idealistic	Popular	Pleasant	Outspoken
20	Impatient	Serious	Procrastinator	Emotional
21	Competitive	Spontaneous	Loyal	Thoughtful
22	Self-sacrificing	Considerate	Convincing	Courageous
23	Indirect	Giddy	Inflexible	Pushy
24	Tolerant	Conventional	Stimulating	Directing

**PERSONAL STYLE SURVEY**  
**Scoring Sheet**

#				
1	B	D	A	C
2	A	C	D	B
3	C	B	A	D
4	A	D	C	B
5	D	B	C	A
6	B	A	D	C
7	C	D	B	A
8	B	A	D	C
9	D	A	C	B
10	C	B	D	A
11	A	D	C	B
12	D	C	A	B
13	B	A	D	C
14	C	D	B	A
15	D	A	C	B
16	A	B	C	D
17	B	C	D	A
18	C	A	B	D
19	D	B	C	A
20	A	D	C	B
21	A	B	C	D
22	D	C	B	A
23	D	B	A	C
24	D	C	A	B
Totals				
My two highest scores are under the letters:				
1		2		

## AT A GLANCE

### "D" BEHAVIOR:

**Descriptions:** Domineering, Dictate, Difficult, Determined

**Basic Motivation:** Defiance and Domination

**Desires:** Freedom from control • Authority • Varied activities • Difficult assignments • Opportunities for advancement • Choices, rather than ultimatums

**Responds Best to Leader Who:** Provides direct answers • Sticks to tasks • Gets to the point • Provides pressure • Allows freedom for personal accomplishments

**Needs to Learn:** You need people • Relaxation is not a crime • Some controls are needed • Everyone has a boss • Self Control is most important • To focus on finishing well is important • Sensitivity to people's feelings is wise

**Biblical Advice:** BE GENTLE/NOT BOSSY - Wisdom from above is ...gentle, James 3:17 • CONTROL YOUR FEELINGS AND ACTIONS - Be angry and sin not, Eph. 4:26 • FOCUS ON ONE THING AT A TIME -This ONE thing I do, Phil. 3:13 • HAVE A SERVANT'S ATTITUDE - By love, serve one another, Gal. 5:13

### "I" BEHAVIOR:

**Descriptions:** Inspirational, Influence, Instill, Invoke

**Basic Motivation:** Acknowledgement and Acceptance

**Desires:** Prestige • Friendly relationships • Freedom from details • Opportunities to help others • Opportunities to motivate others • Chance to verbalize ideas

**Responds Best to Leader Who:** Is fair and also a friend • Provides social involvement • Provides recognition of abilities • Offers rewards for risk-taking

**Needs to Learn:** Time must be managed • Deadlines are important • Too much optimism can be dangerous • Being responsible is more important than being popular • Listening better will improve one's influence

**Biblical Advice:** BE HUMBLE/AVOID PRIDE - Humble yourself in the SIGHT of God, James 3:17 • CONTROL YOUR SPEECH - Be quick to hear, slow to speak, James 1:19 • BE MORE ORGANIZED - Do all things decently and in order, 1 Cor. 14:40 • BE PATIENT - The fruit of the spirit is....longsuffering, Gal. 5:23

### "C" BEHAVIOR:

**Descriptions:** Capable, Conforming, Careful, Cunning

**Basic Motivation:** Excellence and Exactness

**Desires:** Clearly defined tasks • Details • Limited risks • Assignments that require precision and planning • Time to think

**Responds Best to Leader Who:** Provides reassurance • Spells out detailed operating procedures • Provides resources to do task correctly • Listens to suggestions

**Needs to Learn:** Total support is not always possible • Thorough explanation is not everything • Deadlines must be met • More optimism will lead to greater success

**Biblical Advice:** BE MORE POSITIVE - Whatsoever things are lovely, of good report...think on these things, Phil. 4:8 • AVOID A BITTER AND CRITICAL SPIRIT - Let all bitterness....be put away from you, Eph. 4:31 • BE JOYFUL - The fruit of the Spirit is....joy, Gal. 5:22 • DON'T WORRY - Fret not, Psa. 37:1

### "S" BEHAVIOR:

**Descriptions:** Subservient, Solid, Settled, Safeguarded

**Basic Motivation:** Steadiness and Backing

**Desires:** An area of specialization • Identification with a group • Established work patterns • Security of situation • Consistent familiar environment

**Responds Best to Leader Who:** Is relaxed and friendly • Allows time to adjust to changes • Allows to work at own pace • Give personal support

**Needs to Learn:** Change provides opportunity • Friendship isn't everything • Discipline is good • Boldness and taking risks is sometimes necessary

**Biblical Advice:** BE BOLD AND STONG - Only be strong and very courageous, Joshua 1:6 • BE CONFIDENT AND FEARLESS - God has not given you the spirit of fear, 2 Tim. 1:7 • BE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC - Whatsoever you do, do it HEARTILY as unto the Lord, Col. 3:23

????



Understanding Yourself

## Attributes

### “D”

#### STRENGTHS:

- Accomplishes things
  - Unrelenting
  - Takes command
  - Embrace opposition
- Makes fast determinations  
Independent  
Diligent worker  
Resolves issues

#### WEAKNESSES:

- Unfeeling toward others
  - Takes chances without consideration
  - Overly extends oneself
  - Intolerant
- Too strict of others  
Adamant and determined
- Not thorough  
Offended by limits

### “I”

#### STRENGTHS

- Hopeful
  - Pleasant
  - Well spoken
  - Sociable and familiar
- Excited  
Influential  
Enjoyable  
Leaves a lasting impression

#### WEAKNESSES:

- Absence of follow –up skills
  - Very chatty
  - Spontaneous
  - Extends oneself too much
- Miscalculates ones skills
- High expectations for outcome  
Makes determination without facts  
Verbally persuasive

## Attributes

### “S”

#### STRENGTHS:

- Encouraging
- Trustworthy
- Dependable
- Steadfast
- Pleasant
- Servant
- Attentive
- Good interaction with others

#### WEAKNESSES:

- Oppose variation
- Excessively patient
- Unsure
- Not direct with others
- Difficulty with deadlines
- Quick to postpone
- Shuns discord
- Doesn't take initiative

### “C”

#### STRENGTHS

- Methodical
- Self-control
- Detailed
- Investigative
- Knowledgeable
- Exact
- Negotiator
- Committed to excellence

#### WEAKNESSES:

- Overly guarded
- Too firm
- Lacks impulsiveness
- Sensitive to disapproval
- Too particular
- Uncomplimentary
- Distrustful
- Cynical



## SUMMARY

	D	I	S	C
Strong Suit	Initiates Change	Creates Enthusiasm	Builds Relationships	Pursues Excellence
Motivations	Results Oriented	Loves Recognition	Values Relationships appreciation and service	Desires Accuracy quality and excellence
Time Management	Focus: NOW efficient use of time, likes to get to the point	Focus: FUTURE likes to rush to the next exciting thing	Focus: PRESENT enjoys spending time in personal interaction	Focus: PAST likes to work more slowly to ensure accuracy
Communicating	One-way, not a good listener, better at initiating communication	Enthusiastic, stimulating, often one-way, can inspire others	Two-way flow, a good listener, personable	Good listener, especially in relation to task details
Emotional Response	Detached independent	Highs and lows, excitable	Warm, friendly	Sensitive careful
Making Decisions	DECISIVE Quick, action-oriented, always has a goal in mind	INTUITIVE Opportunistic, lots of wins and losses	INTERACTIVE Seeks the input of others, builds consensus	DELIBERATE Takes time to gather facts, thorough
When pressured	AUTOCRATIC	ATTACKS	ACQUIESCES	AVOIDS
Would Improve Effectiveness by	Listening	Pausing	Initiating	Adapting

A black silhouette of a man and a woman in profile, facing each other and kissing. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. The background is white.

# Understanding Your Mate

## HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCES

### "D" BEHAVIOR:

**Under Pressure:** Becomes dictatorial, domineering, demanding, angry, intense, forceful, direct, bossy

**Sources of Irritation:** Weakness, indecisiveness, laziness, lack of - discipline, plan, purpose, direction, authority, control challenge

**Needs to:** Back off, seek peace, relax, think before reacting, control self, be-patient, loving, friendly, loyal, kind, sensitive

### "I" BEHAVIOR:

**Under Pressure:** Becomes hyper, overly optimistic, immature, emotional, irrational, silly, wordy, selfish

**Sources of Irritation:** Disinterest, slowness, pessimism, details, time restraints, antagonism, doubt, structure, lack of-enthusiasm, team participation

**Needs to:** Listen, count the cost, control emotions, be-humble, strong, disciplined, punctual, careful with words, conscientious

### "C" BEHAVIOR:

**Under Pressure:** Becomes moody, critical, contemptive, negative, worrisome

**Sources of Irritation:** Incompetence, disorganization, foolishness, dishonesty, inaccuracy, wastefulness, inconsistency, blind faith, false impressions

**Needs to:** Loosen up, communicate, be-joyful positive, tolerant, compromising, open, trusting, enthusiastic

### "S" BEHAVIOR:

**Under Pressure:** Becomes subservient, insecure, fearful, weak-willed, withdrawn, sympathizer, sucker

**Sources of Irritation:** Pushiness, instability, inflexibility, anger, disloyalty, insensitivity, pride, discrimination, unfairness

**Needs to:** Be-strong, courageous, challenging, aggressive, assertive, confrontational, enthusiastic, outgoing, expressive, cautious, bold

## EXPECTATIONS OF ONE ANOTHER

1) Differences in personal style contribute to \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage.

1 Corinthians 12: 20-21

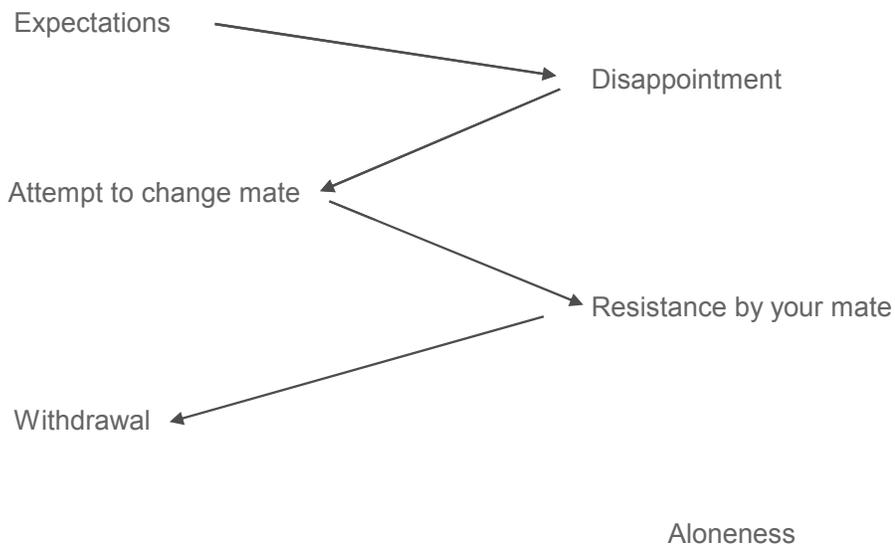
2) \_\_\_\_\_ arise in a marriage when these misunderstandings are not dealt with properly.

Proverbs 15: 1, 18

## ALONENESS CYCLE

You Initiate:

You Experience:



## VERSATILITY

Being willing and able to adapt your personal style to meet the needs of your mate.

Step 1: See your mate's style as a blessing in your life.

Step 2: Focus on your mate's relational needs

Step 3: Develop a positive attitude toward your mate.

Step 4: Identify how your style can cause tension for your mate.

Step 5: Practice versatility with your mate daily.

## ANXIETY AREAS

We tend to cause anxiety for one another.

If you are a(n):	And your mate is a (n):			
	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>D</b>	You want to control a situation may limit their freedom and ability to control their situation	Your interest for results accompanied by no interest for a motivational environment	Your not taking time to listen. Your priority of time over relationships	Your tendency to be decisive without being thorough
<b>I</b>	Your lack of results orientation. Your being too emotional and talkative	Your desire for visibility, especially if it reduces their visibility	The lack of depth in some of your relationships Your quickness	Your lack of attention to detail. Your impulsive tendencies
<b>S</b>	Your reluctance to change and your tendency to be indecisive	Your slower pace and lack of enthusiasm	Your lack of initiative, especially if it means they have to initiate	Your priority of relationships over task details
<b>C</b>	Your slower and more methodical pace. Your low risk orientation	Your attention to detail and lack of spontaneity	Your tendency not to let them know how you "feel"	Your desire to be more right or correct than they are

## FOCUS ON ONE ANOTHER'S RELATIONAL NEEDS

If your Mate is a(n): You need to:

- D** Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be brief, quick and to the point
  - Give conclusions first, then provide details
  - Be decisive and action-oriented
  - Focus on his/her goals and objectives
- I** Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be positive and friendly
  - Provide praise and encouragement
  - Get excited about his/her ideas
  - Be a motivated listener
- S** Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be warm and personable
  - Be patient and easy-going
  - Avoid being critical or pushy
  - Give your mate time to respond to change
- C** Be \_\_\_\_\_
- Be specific and precise
  - Praise your mate's commitment to excellence
  - Use logic rather than emotion
  - Allow your mate time to be alone

WIFE:

My value to our marriage team

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I am motivated by

---

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How I use time

---

---

How I communicate

---

---

My emotional response

---

---

How I make decisions

---

---

How I behave under tension

---

---

I would improve my effectiveness by

---

---

## HUSBAND:

My value to our marriage team

---

---

I am motivated by

---

---

How I use time

---

---

How I communicate

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---

My emotional response

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How I make decisions

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How I behave under tension

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---

I would improve my effectiveness by

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Session One  
Orientation  
Introductions  
Course Expectations and Guidelines

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Ice breaker
- III. Introduction of class facilitators
  - A. Names
  - B. How long married
  - C. Marriage testimony
- IV. Couples introduction
  - A. Names
  - B. How they met
  - C. How long dating
  - D. What they want to get out of class
- V. Class outline
- VI. Personality Profile Assessment---Pastor G. Laine Robinson

\*\*\*\* HOMEWORK:

All Couples: Complete pages 61-72 in the course workbook, Preparing for Marriage.

Previously Married Couples: Complete pages 77-78 also.

## Session Two Why Marriage

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Ice breaker centered around marriage
- III. Lesson
- IV. Prayer request and Closing prayer

### \*\*\*\* HOMEWORK:

All Couples: Complete the section entitled Great Expectations, pages 37-53.

Previously Married Couples: Complete pages 54-57 also.

## Session Three Great Expectations

Purpose: To allow participants to voice their expectations and needs. Subsequent sessions will present God's standards for each area of marriage thereby allowing participants to bring their expectations in line with God's standards.

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Ice breaker centered around marriage
- III. Lesson

### \*\*\*\* HOMEWORK

All Couples: Complete pages 89-107.

Previously Married Couples: Complete pages 108-110 also.

## Session Four God's Equation for Marriage

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Ice breaker centered around marriage
- III. Lesson
- IV. Prayer request and closing prayer

### \*\*\*HOMEWORK

All Couples: Complete pages 139-154.

Previously Married Couples: also complete pages 155-156.

## Session Five Authentic Communication

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Ice Breaker centered around marriage
- III. Lesson
- IV. Prayer request and closing prayer

### \*\*\*\* HOMEWORK

All Couples: Complete the Love Language and Love Bank lesson. The lesson is located in the supplement.

Session Six  
Love Languages and Love Bank

At the heart of mankind's  
existence is the desire to be  
intimate and to be loved by another.  
Marriage is designed to meet that need for intimacy and love.

1. Write your own definition of love.
2. Read I Corinthians 13:1-13. Which aspects of love found in these verses are the most important to you? Why?
3. What does it mean to "fall in love"?
4. What are some things that happen to cause us to say we are no longer "in love"?

## *What is Your Love Language?*

Do you know your spouse's love language?

Within each group, rate the sentence 1 to 5 according to what would make you feel most appreciated and loved by your spouse. The number 5 represents what you most appreciate, number 1, in contrast, is what you least appreciate in each group. (No individual grouping can have a number represented twice.) Please note that some questions distinguish between male and female. Answer those appropriately, according to your gender.

### Group One

- A. \_\_\_ Your spouse says: "You really did a great job on that. I appreciate it."
- B. \_\_\_ Your spouse unexpectedly does something in or around the house, or your room, that you appreciate.
- C. \_\_\_ Your spouse brings you home a surprise treat from the store.
- D. \_\_\_ Your spouse invites you to go on a walk, leisurely, just to chat.
- E. \_\_\_ Your spouse makes a point to embrace and kiss you before leaving the house.

### Group Two

- A. \_\_\_ Your spouse tells you how much he or she appreciates you.
- B. \_\_\_ Your spouse (Male) volunteers to do the dishes and encourages you to relax.  
Your spouse (Female) volunteers to wash your car and encourages you to relax.
- C. \_\_\_ Your spouse (Male) brings you flowers, just because he cares.  
Your spouse (Female) brings you home a special dessert treat from the local bakery.
- D. \_\_\_ Your spouse invites you to sit down and talk about your day.

E. \_\_\_ Your spouse gives you a hug, even when you're just passing by from room to room.

#### Group Three

A. \_\_\_ Your spouse during a party, shares about a recent success you had.

B. \_\_\_ Your spouse cleans out your car.

C. \_\_\_ Your spouse surprises you with an unexpected gift.

D. \_\_\_ Your spouse surprises you with a special afternoon trip.

E. \_\_\_ Your spouse holds your hand as you walk through the mall or stands by your side with an arm around your shoulder at a public event.

#### Group Four

A. \_\_\_ Your spouse praises you about one of your special qualities.

B. \_\_\_ Your spouse brings you breakfast in bed.

C. \_\_\_ Your spouse surprises you with a membership to something you've always wanted

D. \_\_\_ Your spouse plans a special night out for the two of you.

E. \_\_\_ Your spouse personally drives you to an event, instead of you having to go on the old crowded bus with the team.

#### Group Five

A. \_\_\_ Your spouse tells you how much his or her friends appreciate you.

B. \_\_\_ Your spouse takes the time to fill out the long complicated applications that you had hoped to get to this evening.

C. \_\_\_ Your spouse sends you something special through the email.

D. \_\_\_ Your spouse kidnaps you for lunch and takes you to your

favorite restaurant.

E. \_\_\_\_ Your spouse gives you a "massage of love".

### Score Sheet

(Transfer your scores from your test questions to this scoring profile)

	Encouraging Words	Acts of Service	Gift Giving	Quality Time	Physical Touch
Group 1	A. _____	B. _____	C. _____	D. _____	E. _____
Group 2	A. _____	B. _____	C. _____	D. _____	E. _____
Group 3	A. _____	B. _____	C. _____	D. _____	E. _____
Group 4	A. _____	B. _____	C. _____	D. _____	E. _____
Group 5	A. _____	B. _____	C. _____	D. _____	E. _____

Compare your scores with your spouse's scores. Write down the love languages of your spouse from the greatest to the least.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Start to speak each other's
3. \_\_\_\_\_ primary "Love Language"
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Chapman in his book, *The Five Love Languages*, tells us that we can recognize the in-love experience for what it was – a temporary emotional high – and now pursue "real love" with our spouse. That kind of love is emotional in nature but not obsessional. It is a love that unites reason and emotion. It involves an act of the will and requires discipline, and it recognizes the need for personal growth. Our most basic emotional need is not to fall in love but to be genuinely loved by another, to know a love that grows out of reason and choice, not instinct. I need to be loved by someone who chooses to love me; who sees in me something worth loving.

Learning to speak your fiancée's love language is the first step in meeting their basic emotional need to be loved. The five love languages are:

- I. Words of Affirmation
- II. Quality Time
- III. Receiving Gifts
- IV. Acts of Service
- V. Physical Touch

Love Bank:

In each of us is a Love Bank. It is the means by which we keep track of the way people treat us.

1. Who has an account in my love bank? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Deposits = \_\_\_\_\_
3. Withdrawals = \_\_\_\_\_
4. What would happen over a period of one week if your fiancé made the same number of deposits and withdrawals in your love bank?
5. Since every one you know has an account in your love bank what are the implications of this dealing with people of the other sex?
6. Share with your fiancé five things that will earn at least a 500 unit deposit into your love bank.

**Record them below:**

**My Account**

**Specific Deposit**

**Value**


**My Fiance's Account**

**Specific Deposit**

**Value**








# Appendix

# 18 couples tie the knot in joint ceremony in Oak Cliff church

Continued from Page 1B

And that culminated in a challenge: If you aren't honoring God by your behavior, move out. And if you want to get married, get married — the church will pay for it all, the gowns, tuxedos, rings, even the wedding cakes.

"I told them, 'We've already made arrangements, and we'll have you married in 30 days,'" Carter said of that Sunday morning. "I said, 'Meet me at the church at 3 o'clock and we'll provide more details.'"

Carter admitted he was a little apprehensive. What if no one came? Turns out, that wasn't a problem.

"We ended up having about 30 couples. We interviewed and assessed each one, we did eight hours of counseling. The goal was to get people awakened, to see if they were really that compatible. And we ended up with 18 couples."

Among them were Raymond Adams and his fiancée, Heidi Mathis-Bayley.

"We were planning to get married next August," Adams said before the ceremonies, "and we still plan to have something for families and friends. But the economy caused a situation for us to move in together."

"We were struggling with the morality of that. And Pastor's sermon was incredible — very thought-provoking, very convicting. He said we had a choice we had to make: whether or not to be obedient to God's law."

As the couple left church and crossed the parking lot, each had the same question: "Did you hear the sermon?"

"My fiancée said, 'We're



OSCAR DURAND/Staff Photographer

**Michelle Muldrow** led a procession of brides down the aisle on Sunday at Concord Church in Oak Cliff. More than 1,000 people attended the ceremony.

"When God presented this opportunity, we knew we had to take it."

**Denise James**, who married her fiancé, LaPrié Townsend

the decision to live the way God wants you to live."

And that's what the crowd of families and friends wanted, too.

When Carter spoke of a lifetime commitment, the crowd cheered. When he prayed for protection against divorce, they cheered even louder. And when he introduced each couple at the end of the ceremony, everyone in the sanctuary more than

thankful to God for the opportunity."

"Marriage was definitely in the works for us," she said, "but it just wasn't financially feasible."

"But when God presented this opportunity, we knew we had to take it."

The marriages cost the church about \$8,000, Carter said. But he was thrilled to be a part of something no one at Concord had seen before

wrong with it," he said. "The only things that did surprise were the demographics of the couples, who were both young and older."

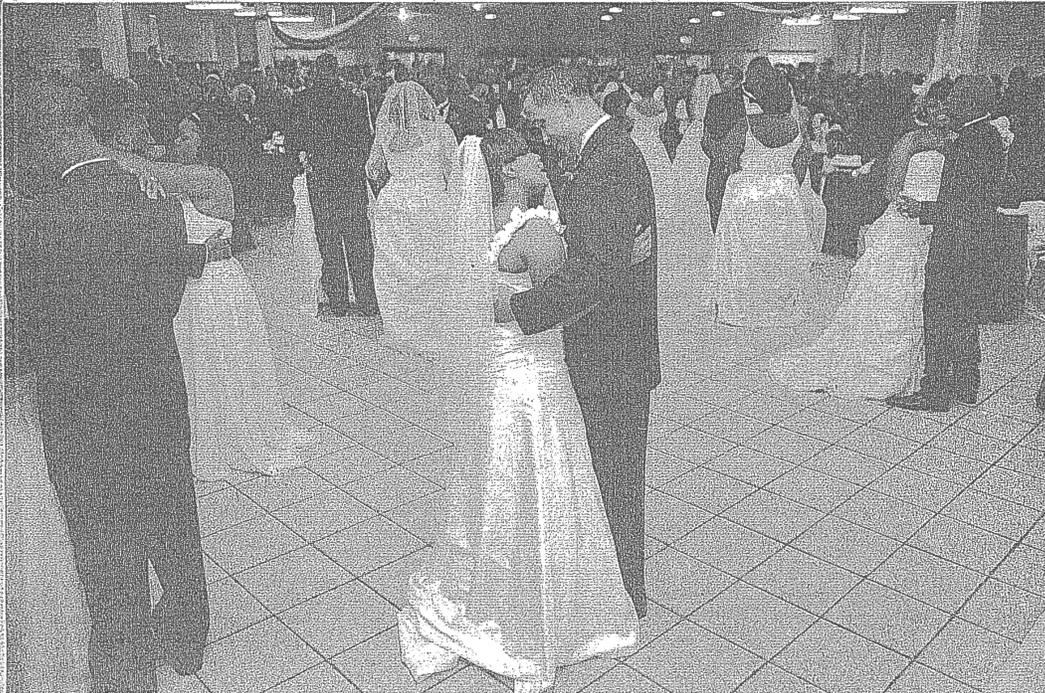
Most were 20- or 30-somethings, but others were considerably older. One couple, a widow and a widower, started out as friends and ended up a part of this grand wedding.

Some of the couples weren't even members of Concord. They were guests, and that was fine with Carter, too.

"We were using this as an outreach," he said.

But the response was

## OAK CLIFF



Photos by OSCAR DURAND/Staff Photographer

Denise James and LaPrie Townsend (center) shared the dance floor with 17 other couples after a mass wedding ceremony on Sunday at Concord Church in Dallas. The church paid for it all — the gowns, tuxedos, rings, even the wedding cakes.

# Sharing their vows

## Church teachings lead 18 couples to tie the knot in joint ceremony

By MICHAEL E. YOUNG  
Staff Writer  
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Down the long aisle at Concord Church, set off this Sunday by a soft, white border draped from pew to pew, the bride walked with stately deliberation, the crowd's applause ringing out as she glided toward her groom.

And behind her, at a proper distance, came another bride, then another and another, until there were 18 in all, taking the walk many must have dreamed about as little girls.

But few could have imagined this.

The 18 simultaneous marriages in Oak Cliff sprang from a six-week teaching series for couples called "The Real Flava of Love," led by Concord Senior Pastor Bryan L. Carter.

"We described it as six weeks to discover God's plan for singles and how to really maximize the season of singleness," Carter said. "The last lesson was 'Let's Just Live Together,' which led me to deal with the whole issue of cohabitation, so prominent these days."



Marguerite Jernigan, 77, of Grand Prairie says a prayer before her wedding. The 18 marriages sprang from a church series that involved the morality of cohabitation.

See 18 COUPLES Page 3B







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