



PERSONAL HISTORY WORKSHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

Take your time and answer each question as thoroughly as possible (you can write on the back if needed), **then** meet with your fiancé to share your answers. Upon completion, **please return both copies of the completed Personal History Worksheet to Christina Zahniser** at Coram Deo Bible Church, 3800 E. 53rd St., Davenport, IA 52807 or to ChristinaZ@cdbible.org. Copies of your Personal History Worksheet will be given to your premarital teachers and will be held in confidence. Upon receiving and reviewing your worksheets, they may schedule an appointment with you and your fiancé to discuss any questions or concerns they have before the class begins.

SECTION ONE: BASIC INFORMATION

Name _____ DOB _____

Cell phone _____ Home or work phone _____

Email address _____

Mailing address _____

Fiancé's Name _____

Your current occupation _____

Are you a member of Coram Deo? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, how long? _____

Date engaged _____ Anticipated Wedding Date _____

SECTION TWO: YOUR RELATIONSHIP HISTORY

The past shapes all of us. Your past influences your behavior, your personality, your emotions, your opinions, and your convictions. You and your fiancé have probably not attempted to conceal your background from each other; however, you may not have taken the time needed to adequately examine how your past may influence your future. One of the most underestimated influences on your new marriage is your family. When most couples marry today, they assume that their marriage is between two people who want to become one. In reality, it is two people and *two families* that are coming together. You will leave your father and mother so that you can cleave and become one. However, as you will see in the years ahead, your family's impact on your new family must not be minimized, but rather understood and planned for.

Your Family

1. What was your family's socioeconomic background as you were growing up? What is it now?

2. How would you describe the emotional environment of the home you grew up in?

3. Did you experience any type of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) as you grew up? Please explain.

4. What, if any, traumatic events or financial hardships did your family experience?

5. As you look back over your family history, do you see any patterns that have been passed from one generation to the next? (Example: one family might pass on a legacy of trusting God in tough circumstances, while another family might pass on a tendency toward turning to alcohol/drugs to numb their problems)

6. What words would you use to describe your parents' marriage? Tell why you chose each descriptive word.

7. As parents, what did they do well?

Dad

Mom

8. As parents, what do you wish they would have done differently?

Dad

Mom

9. Describe the most significant impact your parents have had on you (positive or negative).

Dad

Mom

10. What roles did your parents assume in the household (leader, provider, disciplinarian, etc.)?

11. How did they make decisions?

12. Choose 3-5 adjectives to describe your relationship with your father and tell why you chose them.

13. Choose 3-5 adjectives to describe your relationship with your mother and tell why you chose them.

14. In what ways are you similar to each of your parents?

15. In what ways are you different?

16. Are there any unresolved issues between you and your parents? Yes No If yes, please explain:

17. Do you have your parents' blessing on your engagement and future marriage? Yes No
Please explain your response.

18. Describe any special or significant relationships you have with other relatives, whether positive or negative (siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins).

Your Friendships and Past Dating Relationships

19. Who are your best friends besides your fiancé?

20. How do they influence your life today, whether positive or negative?

21. Who do you know best at Coram Deo (if anyone)?

22. Describe their influence in your life.

23. Describe a serious dating relationship from the past. Briefly state how it began, progressed, and ended.

24. Can you identify any patterns that seem to be present in your relationships with the opposite sex? (For example: "My tendency is to fall hard and fast, then get hurt," or "I am generally the more committed one in a relationship.")

If you have been previously married, please complete the following section:

25. How many times have you been previously: married? _____ divorced? _____ widowed? _____

26. How long have you most recently been divorced/widowed? _____

27. Has your most recent spouse remarried? _____ Yes _____ No

28. If you are divorced, what were your reasons for divorcing?

29. Have you sought reconciliation with your former spouse? If so, how? If no, why not?

30. In what ways do you have interaction with your former spouse and how often?

31. Have you discussed with a pastor or biblical counselor whether you are free to remarry from a biblical standpoint? What was their counsel, and your response to their counsel?

32. Give three reasons you are confident you have gotten over your previous marriage and are ready to marry again.

33. If you are unsure, explain why.

34. Do you have any children from this previous marriage? Yes No

If so, what are their names and ages? _____

If dependents, where will they live when you are married? _____

35. Is there a good working relationship for all parties concerned? Why or why not?

Your Current Relationship Story

36. When and how did you meet your fiancé?

37. How long did you date before you got engaged? _____

38. What attracted you to him/her?

39. What are your shared hobbies and interests, if any?

40. How much quality time have you been able to spend together? What does that usually look like?

48. Do you serve at church? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, in what ministry(ies) do you serve?

49. Describe your prayer life.

50. Finish this sentence: "The Bible is

_____."

51. How frequently do you read the Bible? (circle one)
Daily Often Occasionally Never

52. Who is Jesus to you?

53. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that you would go to heaven if you were to die? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Uncertain

54. Suppose you were to die today and God asked you: "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?

55. Explain any *recent* changes in your religious life, if any:

56. If you have children, describe your spiritual relationship with them, and their other parent(s):

57. What part has Christ played in your relationship together? And, what part do you expect Him to play in your marriage?

Personal Testimony

If applicable, please share with us how you received Christ:

BEFORE I received Christ, I lived and thought this way...

HOW I received Christ...

NOW, with Christ in my life, as I trust Him, I live and think this way...

SECTION FOUR: MORAL GUIDELINES

As couples grow closer to each other emotionally and spiritually, a natural response is to move closer to each other physically. God intends this area of our lives to be enjoyed to the fullest, but within the context of marriage (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). In fact, we devote an entire session of the course to this topic. We understand that some of these questions may be sensitive, but please know that Coram Deo wants to best help you prepare for a God-honoring marriage. Your premarital teachers will be able to help talk through these questions with you.

58. Why do you think God would design sex to be enjoyed only within the context of marriage? Do you see any benefits to waiting?

59. Have you been sexually pure in your relationship together? Please explain:

60. What are your current intentions going forward?

Because the Scriptures are our authority and blueprint, and because of the powerful sexual pressures you may face, we will ask you at different times in the weeks ahead about how you are doing in this area. We sincerely want you to experience God's protection and victory and build a strong foundation for your marriage.

61. How do you feel about this?

62. Are you currently living with your fiancé or planning to do so before your wedding date? ____ Yes ____ No

63. Are you willing to abstain from sexual intercourse until your marriage? ____ Yes ____ No

64. Has your relationship been honoring to God? Please explain:

SECTION FIVE: MISCELLANEOUS

65. What are your strengths and weaknesses in handling money?

66. What type of debt do you currently have (if any)? Approximately how much?

67. What types of health issues have you had in the past, or currently? (physical, mental, etc.)

68. What do you think are the top 2-3 issues currently in your relationship?

69. Is there anything else we should know about you that has not been asked? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

Many of these questions are adapted from *Preparing for Marriage – Discover God’s Plan for a Lifetime of Love*, editor Dennis Rainey