

# Topics for Discussion for Courting Couples

## Faith:

1. How might the priorities of church and family manifest in time commitments to each?
2. What are your views on midweek activities and meetings? Are the mid-week prayer meetings and Bible studies a high priority for you? Are they on the same level as Sunday worship?
3. When and what would lead to leaving or changing churches?
4. How should disagreements with church leadership be handled?
5. What are your views on age-segregated church classes and events (Age-segregated Sunday school; Youth Group; church-provided nursery services; etc)
6. What views do you have concerning church membership? Is it important to seek membership in a local church? What does church membership mean to you?
7. Is it acceptable to miss the gatherings of the church on the Lord's Day to participate in worldly events (races, competitions, vacations, family reunions, etc)?
8. How will you prioritize church attendance?
9. What do you believe about honoring the Sabbath and keeping it holy?
10. What activities are not acceptable on the Lord's Day?
11. What is your view on infant baptism?
12. What do you think about the use of head coverings?
13. Is the church a higher priority than the family or vice versa?
14. Some professing believers reference Christian allegories that include mysticism, magic, witches, and wizards ("good" and bad) to illustrate principles in God's Word. How do you feel about that? Is it ok to mix mysticism and the worship of God? (ex. The Chronicles of Narnia)
15. What does it mean to worship God in Spirit and truth?
16. How important are the methods we use in our worship of God?
17. What do you think about the regulative principle of worship (<https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/rpot/regulative-principle-of-the-church-waldransam>)?
18. What does worship as a family during the week look like for your current family? What do you intend to do for your own family?
19. Do you spend time reading God's Word regularly? Do you spend time in prayer regularly? Do you meditate on God's Word? What does your personal worship time look like for you?
20. Do you believe in election or "free will" in salvation?
21. What role does our will play in salvation?
22. What do you understand God's Word to say about modesty and how we cover our bodies? How important is this issue to God? How important is this issue to you?
23. How does God's Word govern your involvement in things that include immodesty? How does other people's immodesty affect you? How might the way you cover your own body affect others? How does God's Word govern this matter (what we do affecting others)?

## Relationships:

1. What is the purpose of marriage?

2. What does the relationship between husband and wife represent? What is the significance of this relationship?
3. Under what circumstances is it acceptable to prevent having children? Under what circumstances is it acceptable to limit the marital physical union?
4. Do you intend to prevent children? If so, for how long? If your prevention measures fail resulting in a pregnancy, how will you respond? Will that change your plans?
5. How will you balance family time with vocation, hobbies, etc?
6. If working overtime becomes necessary, how do you intend to balance that with the needs of your family?
7. When the wife disagrees with her husband, what should happen?
8. Should spouses withhold any information from each other? If so, what and when?
9. What is the wife's role in making decisions that affect the family? What is the husband's role?
10. How are the roles of father and mother different concerning the rearing of children?
11. What should happen if the wife is negligent in an area of her responsibility?
12. What should happen if the husband is negligent in an area of his responsibility?
13. What are the primary responsibilities of the wife?
14. What are the primary responsibilities of a husband?
15. What role do "in-laws" play in a marriage?
16. How do you intend to handle disagreements with parents or "in-laws?"
17. Have you considered the care of elderly parents and grandparents? How do you hope to handle this?
18. How important is extended family to you? What does "extended family" mean to you?
19. Have you ever considered moving far away from your family? Under what conditions would you move away?
20. What is the role of seeking counsel when making decisions?
21. When is it appropriate to reject the counsel of others?
22. How do you see the role of female friends in the wife's life? How about male friends?
23. How do you see the role of male friends in the husband's life? How about female friends?
24. How should a spouse going against the clear teaching of Scripture and church leaders be handled?
25. How should disagreements and offenses be resolved? How soon? What compromises are you willing to make? Who has the final authority in areas of disagreement?
26. What are specific ways that a wife can serve as a help-meet for her husband's needs?
27. How do you communicate? (talkative/not talkative, loud/quiet, to the point/sensitive)
28. Do you like lots of company or prefer more time to yourself and alone with your family?
29. What role do signs (ie. "signs from God") have in decision-making?
30. Who professes to have the new birth in your family's home?
31. What character trait(s) do you struggle with the most?
32. How long would you be ok with your spouse doing away-from-home activities?
33. How is your relationship with your parents?
34. How is your relationship with your siblings?
35. What things do you hope to emulate from your own family?
36. What things do you hope to do differently than your family when you have your own family?
37. How should the division of responsibilities be handled in the home such as emptying garbage, keeping vehicles clean, yard work, housework, cooking, shopping, etc.?

## Health:

1. Do you prefer standard medical practice or alternative health practices like chiropractic care, homeopathy, herbalism, etc.?
2. What are your beliefs regarding immunizations? If ever acceptable, what sort of immunizations are acceptable? What type of immunizations are not acceptable?
3. What necessitates a doctor visit? What other alternatives are there?
4. What are your plans for health insurance?
5. What are your plans regarding prenatal care and birth options?
6. What are your diet preferences (homemade, packaged, whole grains, etc.)?
7. Have you considered doctors' visits for children? Do you plan on taking children to all of the standard medical practice's recommended "well child" visits?
8. Do you have any allergies?
9. Do you have any health issues that may be a factor as you age or that may affect your life together with a spouse?

## Children:

1. How many children do you hope to have?
2. Do you intend to give your children "Bible" names or names based on something else?
3. Do you plan on limiting the amount of children or welcoming them as God grants them?
4. How do you plan to "train up" your children?
5. When do you think parents should use corporal punishment?
6. Is it acceptable for parents to argue in front of their children?
7. Who disciplines the children when both parents are present?
8. Should grandparents discipline their grandchildren?
9. What goals do you have for your children?
10. Do you plan to encourage involvement in organized sports?
11. What should happen when one spouse disagrees with the decision or discipline of the other spouse?
12. How should daughters be raised?
13. How should sons be raised?
14. What if older children disagree with some of your beliefs?
15. How much should the family be away from home when young; when older?
16. What ideas do you have about memorizing scripture, catechizing, and family worship?
17. How do you hope to dress your girls (ie. dresses vs. pants on little girls, older girls, etc.)?
18. What standards will govern your children's relationships with children of the opposite gender?
19. What does God's Word say about children in the context of family and marriage?

## Finances:

1. How do you envision handling household finances?
2. What are some of the categories you intend to include in your budget?
3. Who is responsible for what in finances?
4. How do you hope to work together on bookkeeping, paperwork, paying bills, and records?
5. What does God's Word say about debt? When and what kind of debt is acceptable?

6. How do you feel about used vs. new cars, clothes, etc.?
7. Should the wife ever contribute to household income through work or home business?
8. What do you believe about tithes, offerings, and benevolence?
9. Would you rather spend more money on nicer things or less on passable items?
10. How do you plan on handling savings and emergency funds?
11. What type of jobs do you hope to hold (9-5 employee, self-owned business, remote work, traveling work)? How do you envision that to change throughout your life?
12. What are your plans regarding investments?

## **Traditions:**

1. How do you feel about holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Valentine's, 4th of July, etc.)? Are there any holidays observed in our country that you do not intend to celebrate? Are there any holidays not normally celebrated in our country that you plan on celebrating?
2. Do you hope to observe holidays with extended family or at home with only immediate family?
3. What are your favorite holidays?
4. How important are birthday celebrations?
5. Are there any foods that are important to have for specific celebrations?
6. How important is the exchange of gifts for different events (how many, what events)?

## **Education:**

1. What schooling options do you plan on using for your children?
2. What goals do you seek to reach as you school your children?
3. What subjects are most important?
4. How much formal schooling time do you think children need on school days?
5. How old until a child needs to know how to read?
6. Would you consider having others teach your children certain subjects?
7. Is it important for either or both parents to have a college degree?
8. Do you want to give your children music education?
9. How will you handle scriptural instruction?
10. Is college an option for older homeschooled children?
11. Would you put high school-age children into a community college program?
12. Would you accept free benefits from the government school system?
13. Would you report your homeschooling to the government school authorities?
14. What is the father's role in homeschooling?
15. What is the mother's role in homeschooling?

## **Political:**

1. Does the wife vote according to her husband's direction or by her own conscience after his counsel?
2. How should political disagreements between husband and wife be handled?
3. When is resistance to government appropriate?
4. What is the role of government?
5. Have you ever had to go to court?

## Time:

1. Are you a morning person or night person?
2. Do you like keeping to a schedule?
3. If you like schedules, how flexible should they be?
4. Is it acceptable to arrive early or late to commitments?
5. How much time do you hope to devote to work vs. play during the week? How about during the weekends?
6. What are appropriate uses of leisure time?
7. What reading materials are acceptable? What magazines do you enjoy reading? Do you have any subscriptions to any magazines currently? Do you hope to have any subscriptions when you're married?
8. Is it acceptable to play video games during down time?
9. Do you watch television? What things do you watch? Do you plan on your family having a television?
10. What kind of music do you listen to? Is explicit language acceptable in music or in other media you expose yourself or your family to?
11. What makes a good vacation? How often do you hope to take vacations with your family? What are inexpensive alternatives for young families?
12. How might young parents handle date times?
13. What do you do most with your free time right now?

## Dreams:

1. What things do you hope to accomplish in your life (writing, business, music, etc.)?
2. When, where, and how much do you hope to (or hope not to) travel?
3. How do you imagine your future life to look?
  - a. Family
  - b. Home
  - c. Estate
4. What dreams do you have for your vocation?
5. What plans do you have for your education?

## Other:

1. What are the top things you think I should know about you?
2. How much do you follow traffic laws?
3. Do you hope to have a garden?
4. Do you want pets? If so, what kind of pets do you want? Is it acceptable for pets to be inside?
5. Do you prefer rural or urban environments? What experience do you have in each?
6. What types of housing are you ok with (living with parents, apartments, townhomes, with siblings, single-family homes, mobile homes, travel trailers, etc)?
7. What kind of dwelling do you hope to live in as a couple? In what kind of environment do you hope to raise children? What experiences influence your answers?
8. Do you have any long-lost relatives?
9. What thing(s) concern you the most about our present-day?

10. What is your favorite type of ethnic food?
11. Is eating in other areas of the house (living room, bedrooms, toy rooms) ok? If it's not normally ok, when would you be good with it?
12. What would a whole-house cleaning look like for you?
13. What tendencies do you think you could have toward viewing other races differently?
14. Do you prefer leather or cloth for furniture and vehicle upholstery?
15. Have you ever taken the "16 personalities" test?
16. How do you feel about cosmetics (makeup, jewelry, nice clothes, etc.)?
17. Do you have a sweet tooth?
18. Did you have any cavities or filled teeth?
19. What things do you hope to use to clean the house (bleach, vinegar, other cleaners)?
20. How important are table manners?