



PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE COUNSELING COVENANT

Midland Evangelical Free Church's goal in pre-marital counseling is to produce spiritually maturing marriages. The purpose of our premarital counseling is to teach and model for each couple God's plan for marriage. We desire to study God's design for marriage in Scripture. We want to help each couple know one another as thoroughly as possible prior to marriage. We want to help each couple affirm that marriage is God's desire for them. Entering pre-marital counseling does not guarantee the wedding.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Preparing for Marriage ministry of Midland Evangelical Free Church is an important and exciting ministry. Through this ministry God has guided couples into His will for their lives and has deepened their walk with Him. It is our desire that each couple realize God's will for their lives through this ministry. In order to begin a healthy relationship, there are several matters that will directly contribute to the well-being of couples seeking counseling.

1. Pre-marital counseling through Midland Evangelical Free Church is a requirement to be married by any pastor of the church. If a date is set before the couple begins pre-marital counseling, the couple must be willing to postpone the date if a significant issue surfaces in the course of counseling. If this pre-marital counseling is not done through Midland Evangelical Free Church (out of town), the counseling must be approved in advance by the officiating pastor. We will inquire about the testing, topics, and books covered in the off-site counseling.
2. Pre-marital counseling must be established on a proper relational foundation. **Therefore, the couple must not be living together and must not be involved in pre-marital sex. Any couple who are sexually active must take a vow of purity before any wedding plans can be approved. If a couple breaks their vow of purity – it is the officiating pastor's discretion terminate the wedding plans.**
3. Pre-marital counseling and the services of a pastor from Midland Evangelical Free Church are available only to those who are being married for the first time, or who were divorced on biblical grounds. Midland Evangelical Free Church sees scripture allowing divorce on the grounds of adultery (Matthew 5:32) or abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15). If questions still exist, the couple should discuss their specific circumstances with the pastor who will be performing their ceremony.
4. Pre-marital counseling may surface concerns about the relationship. The pre-marital counselor/mentor couple/pastor may suggest that the couple postpone or cancel a specific date. If a couple is determined to be married on a certain date regardless of the outcome of counseling, they may need to solicit another pastor and location as a backup.
5. The signers do hereby give permission for the dissemination of pertinent information and concerns among officiating pastor, mentoring couples, and pre-marital class leaders.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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