

EXPECTATIONS

EXPECTATIONS:

“Uncommunicated or unrealistic _____ are leading causes of disillusionment and unresolved conflict early in marriage.”

“For I know the plan I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” — Jeremiah 29:11

Expectations are the _____ each of us makes about the things a spouse _____ or _____ do in order to have a happy marriage.

These assumptions guide the way we *treat* one another.

BASIC NEEDS OF MEN:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

BASIC NEEDS OF WOMEN:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Men, what’s at the top of your list? Women, what’s at the top of your list? Discuss.

Two important sources of expectations for marriage are:

- 1) _____ and 2) _____

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”
Genesis 2:24

Consider this 3-part process for managing your expectations:

- #1 Start by _____ your expectations clearly.
- #2 Then, _____ your views with each other.
- #3 Finally, _____ to an agreement on how to bridge the differences.

It is not necessary that you have _____ agreement on everything before you get married, but it is important that you _____ the process by revealing your expectations early.

Possible areas for discussion: How to divide chores? When will we have children? How many kids? Whose career will we follow? Will we rent or buy? Where will we live?

PAST BAGGAGE:

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” — Galatians 6:7

Emotional ‘baggage’ that you bring into a marriage are those _____ things (such as feelings, circumstances, or beliefs) that get in the way, or impede, progress and growth of your relationship.

There are many types of baggage that we can bring to our marriage:

EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE FROM PAST LIFE EXPERIENCES:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | |

What baggage tops your list? Which ones do you feel could most easily bring conflict?

Share this list with your partner. Ask yourself: “Would I be able to accept him/her if he/she never changed their mind about _____?”

In order to deal with the past you need to learn how to give and receive _____. (Mark 11:25)

Learning from the past and releasing it are never easy, but _____.

“13 I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.” — Philippians 3:13-14

HOMEWORK:

Complete and turn in the following assignments:

- Couples project

COUPLE'S PROJECT

EXPECTATIONS & PAST BAGGAGE

Please honestly and objectively review these questions over the next week. It may be helpful to seek the counsel of a trustworthy married couple to address any concerns that arise as a result of looking at them.

1. **Expectations:**

Sit down quietly at home and complete the details of your family "*portrait*." Share with your partner. Note the differences and come to a preliminary agreement on how to bridge the differences.

2. **Past Baggage:**

With your partner talk about your mom and dad, respectfully and honestly:

- a. What is one thing that your mom or dad did that you swore you would never do as a spouse?

- b. What is one thing that your mom or dad did that you swore your future spouse would never do to you or others?

Pray together: "God, I forgive (parent) for (action/attitude). And, God, please forgive me for judging (parent). God, please break this vow in my life that my marriage may honor you!"