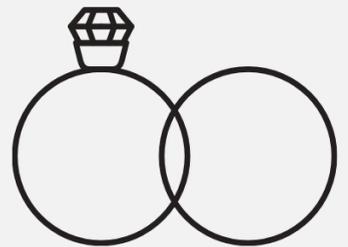


*The 52 Most  
Important  
Questions  
to Ask  
Before  
You Get Married*



A DIY PREMARITAL COUNSELING COURSE BY  
CHAPLAIN SCOTT SHUBERT  
Lt., USN, (Ret.)

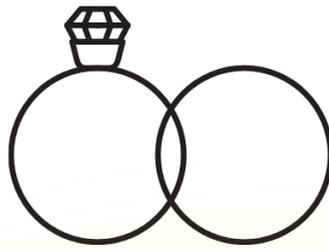
# *Premarital Counseling*

- Saves \$25 Off Your FL Marriage License
- Waives 3-Day Waiting Period



*"Chaplain Scott"*

Lt., USN, (Ret.)



*Congratulations!*

You're getting married, how exciting!  
You're about to start an incredible journey and learn so much about each other with this course. I ask that throughout this course, you thoroughly answer all the questions together and don't sweep anything 'under the rug.' I promise, everything in this course is useful and will truly prove to the both of you if you're ready to make the lifelong commitment of marriage!

**TALK** through these questions. Spend at least 4 hours discussing these questions, 60 minutes per section. **You do not have to write out your answers.** Just talk to each other. This is a DIY course and it is in your honor. If you've already talked through some of these questions, you may count that time toward completion.

Communication is the key to a successful relationship. These questions can help you determine your compatibility, encourage open discussion, and tackle tough issues before they become emotionally charged. There is no right or wrong; your answers are a guide for the relationship you want. Don't argue if your answer is different from your partners. Hear what is being said and absorb it. If you reach an impasse, take a break and come back to the question later. You might not want to address certain issues; think through why

Don't rush. Pick a question, discuss it and when you exhaust the topic move on to the next question. You may cover several sections at once or spread them out over time. Have fun! If you will always talk to each other about what you're thinking and feeling, there's no difficulty you can't defeat, no obstacle you can't overcome and no challenge you can't change.

Section 1 Work (60 Minutes of discussion -  
Seek to Understand your partner, first)

1. How will you decide who is responsible for which chores? When the workload gets lopsided, how will you address the issues? Are you willing or able to hire an outside person to help?
2. What schedules or rules do you plan to have for the children? For example: limits on certain foods or TV
3. How do you decide whether your children will have a public or private education?
4. What are your expectations for your partner's career success? How does her or his level of ambition differ from yours?
5. If your partner asks you to give up one of your interests, what would you say? Which of your partner's interests might you adopt?
6. What do you most like to do in your free time? How much private time and space do you need?
7. How will you decide which chores you do separately versus which ones you do together?
8. How will you balance competing time demands of work and family? How will you balance who deals with home and family needs during work hours? During non-work hours?
9. What reasons might there be for one or both of you to cut back on work hours or not work for money?
10. What are the determining factors for who will take care of dependents? (Children, parents, pets). How do you feel about utilizing childcare, daycare, nannies, nursing homes, etc.?
11. What aspects of childcare are important to you? If one of you decides to be a full-time caregiver, what value does this contribute toward the household and finances?
12. If something happened to one or both of you what are the arrangements for the care of your children, pets, possessions, etc.?
13. What would you do if one of you required intensive care taking in the future? What are you willing to do? What are you not willing to do?

Section 2 Romance (60 Minutes of discussion -  
Be courageous and share honestly)

1. What does loving each other mean to you? And in what ways does your partner demonstrate love for you?
2. What made you decide to get married? What reasons might there be not to get married? What do you expect will change when you get married?
3. What feelings and thoughts come to you when you know you're going to spend time together?
4. In what ways do you operate well as a team? And what ways could you improve?
5. What are two of your partner's deepest hopes, aspirations, or dreams?
6. In disagreements, does one of you usually give in? Explain why you think this.
7. When do you most feel heard or listened to? Least? What are you afraid to tell your partner?
8. What traits or habits would you like to change about your partner (even though you probably can't)? How would you feel if she or he can't or won't change these?
9. What are some of your partner's quirks? What do you like about each other's humor? What do you dislike?
10. How much of each other's sexual histories have you shared? How do you deal with each other's past? What aspects of sex make you uncomfortable?
11. What are your views about having children? Pets? How strong are your positions about this? What, if anything, would change your mind?
12. Describe your vision - rituals, values, logistics - for your marriage ceremony. Who will plan it? Who will pay for it?
13. How is this relationship different than those you have not worked out? What will you do if the marriage gets strained or rocky? What specific things do you plan to do to stay in love and keep the romance?

Section 3 Social Life (60 Minutes of discussion -  
Let your partner grow and shape you)

1. Where do you want to live? (city, country, apartment, house, other?)
2. Describe how you picture your day-to-day life together. What meals do you plan to eat together? Apart? How will you negotiate cooking duties?
3. In what ways do your religious and/or political beliefs and practices, if any, differ from your partner's? If you have children, with what beliefs and practices will you raise them?
4. How strong are your feelings about visiting relatives on holidays and other occasions? Whose will you visit, and how often? How would you each keep up family traditions, obligations, and social niceties?
5. Where have you traveled, and what did you like or dislike about it? What role do you imagine travel will play in your life together?
6. Which friends of your partner's do you like most? Least?
7. Messy or tidy, early bird or night owl? How do the habits of you and your partner differ? In what ways does this affect you?
8. Are you a planner or more spontaneous? How do you feel when you have to go against your preferred style?
9. What will you give up or gain if you keep your birth name, take your spouse's, combine your names, or create a new family name? If you have children, how will you decide what last name they will have?
10. What are some of the major issues in your family's medical and mental health histories? How do you feel about any past or present legal issues?
11. What are your feelings about genetic testing, abortion, and birthing techniques? How would you feel if you knew a pregnancy would result in your child's having physical or mental challenges?
12. What hobbies do you share? What kinds of social events or outings will you do together? When your partner goes out without you, how will you spend your time?
13. What is there to admire about your partner's relationship with his or her family members? What are the challenges in your relationship with your in-laws?

Section 4 Money (60 Minutes of discussion -  
Encourage each other along the way)

1. If one partner makes or spends more than the other, what feelings does this bring up for you? What financial goals do you agree on?
2. How do you feel about any existing debt? About taking on more debt as a couple?
3. What are your reasons for having or not having a prenuptial agreement? Which bank accounts will you have jointly, and which will you maintain separately?
4. What are your main strategies for coping with tough financial times? How will you decide who balances the checkbook, prepares the taxes, pays the bills, etc.?
5. How will you decide whose money purchases common and shared items? How will you decide whose money pays for things used or wanted by just one of you?
6. What does having money mean to you? How much money is "enough"?
7. What are your outside financial obligations? (e.g. supporting family or staff) How do you plan to maintain these?
8. If you came into a large sum of money, how would you spend it? Which family, friends, or charities, if any, would you give to and why?
9. For what reasons would you uproot yourself to a new place? (e.g. a job opportunity, family crisis, etc.)
10. How much money do you want to set aside for retirement? What kind of lifestyle do you envision for your retirement?
11. How much money is enough to have a child? What is your philosophy about what children need? What kind of allowance or financial provision will the children receive?
12. How do you set boundaries around the requirements of your job? Do you equate earnings with success?
13. If one career takes off and the other doesn't, how will this affect your relationship? What if one partner doesn't make money?

Print this page, then fill out, and bring with you to the clerk of court when you pick up your Florida marriage license to receive \$25 off your license and waive the 3-day waiting period!

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION  
OF PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE**

1. THIS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF A PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE WAS ISSUED AND GIVEN TO

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF APPLICANT 1 - PLEASE PRINT

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF APPLICANT 2 - PLEASE PRINT

A QUALIFIED COURSE PROVIDER WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK, AT THE COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 741.0305, FLORIDA STATUTES.

2. THE PREMARITAL PREPARATION COURSE WAS NOT LESS THAN FOUR (4) HOURS.

3. THE NAME (S) OF THE COURSE PARTICIPANT (S) IS/ARE: \_\_\_\_\_ Print names here also

4. THE DATE OF COMPLETION IS: \_\_\_\_\_

5. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COURSE WAS COMPLETED, PURSUANT TO SECTION 741.0305(1) AND (4), FLORIDA STATUTES, WAS BY (MARK ALL OF THE ONES THAT APPLY):

PERSONAL INSTRUCTION

VIDEOTAPE INSTRUCTION

INSTRUCTION VIA OTHER ELECTRONIC MEDIUM

A COMBINATION OF ALL OF THESE METHODS

"Chaplain Scott"

Chaplain Joseph "Scott" Shubert, LT, USN, (Ret.)

*J. Scott Shubert*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
INSTRUCTOR-SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

