

Pre-Marriage Financial Guide

Guide to Inspire Discussion for Engaged Couples

Intro

Money itself is rarely the culprit of marital conflict, the root issue is more often the expectations we have about life and the different family backgrounds that we grew up in. Thankfully, both of these can be addressed prior to marriage. With proper family boundaries and a financial plan, everyone can have a prosperous marriage with on-going healthy conversations about finances, forever breaking the cycle of conflict. Money is an indicator of our values, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. Let’s start the process of bringing your values into alignment and using money to achieve your goals.

Money Background - Luke 16:11

¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

1. What memories do you have of your parents handling money?

2. Describe the temperament or personality of your future spouse and how this influences their money habits. (Jimmy Evans - [Money Languages Video](#))

3. Have you seen your partner's credit score and discussed what it means?

Free Score - CreditKarma.com (or any other free resource)

Free Report - AnnualCreditReport.com (only government approved free site)

4. Do you have savings? How much? What are you saving for?

5. Which of you live on a written spending plan? Share it.

[Free Budget Tool](http://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/stewardship/resources) (<http://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/stewardship/resources>)

6. What debts does each bring into the marriage and what should be repaid first, second, and so on?

[Free Debt Snowball](http://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/stewardship/resources) (<http://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/stewardship/resources>)

7. Do you plan to accrue more debt before marriage? How much?

8. Do you have an auto loan or is it paid for? How often do you hope to replace your vehicles?

9. Do you owe the IRS money? Do you owe money to your parents? Do you have any other loans?

10. If previously married, what monthly obligations need to be budgeted for?

Money Plan - 1 Corinthians 4:2

²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1. Once married, will you have a monthly budget meeting to agree on the spending plan for the month? Will you do this every 2-weeks or monthly?

2. What are your first three money goals as a couple?
(Example: pay cash for wedding, pay off car debt, save \$1,000 emergency fund, combine our checking accounts, save 20% down payment for a home, honor God with first 10% of income, create a budget together, pay cash for next car, etc)
How often will you review financial goals together?

3. Will you attend a course at the church to learn about money together?
[Financial Hope Workshop](#), [The Heart of a Steward](#), [Financial Peace University](#)

4. How do you feel about giving God the first and best of your increase by tithing from your income? Do you have a percentage figure in mind? If you don't agree, how will you come together in agreement?

5. What is your opinion on saving for things instead of borrowing money? What influenced your opinion?

6. How do you feel about using credit cards regularly? Do you feel it's OK to keep a running balance that never gets paid in full? Why or why not?

7. How much should be in emergency savings? What really constitutes an emergency?

Money Future - Proverbs 21:5

“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”

1. Where do you want to live - a house in the suburbs or an uptown loft? What is the plan to pay for it? Are you aware that housing should be no more than about 35% of net take home pay?

2. Do you want kids? How many? Do you both expect to keep working or will one of you stay home to raise children when they come? Can you live on one income, what does your budget tell you?

3. Have you discussed the need for life insurance when kids come? Will you have enough insurance proceeds to fully replace income of the primary wage earner? For how long?

4. Have you talked about saving enough over a lifetime to not depend on others when you can't work for health reasons? How much will you need when you are "old"? What does your plan look like to reach this goal? Talking to your parents and grandparents, how much do they wish they had saved?

5. How will you regularly share your financial account information with each other so you both know how much you have and where it is located? What about account passwords?

Additional Resources:

8-Week Pre-Marriage Class - [Becoming One Class](#)

7-Week Financial Class - [Financial Hope Workshop](#)

Monthly Accountability - [Financial Fitness](#)

Money & Marriage - [A Complete Guide for Engaged and Newly Married Couples, Matt Bell](#)

Special Thanks To:

Bruce & Margret Edstrom, Director of Dallas Center for Biblical Counseling

Matt Bell, Author of Money & Marriage

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