

25 Things That Make a Difference

Man is made up of spirit, body, and soul; the following 25 points are things that cover these 3 areas, and can make a difference between a happy joyous marriage, or a marriage that continually struggles. Please over the course of the next few weeks and months, consider and pray over each point, first individually, and then come together and discuss them as a couple. On a separate piece of paper write your thoughts and answers down, individually, and then corporately.

Spirit

1.) Religious Beliefs and Practices:

Who is Jesus Christ, and what does He mean to you? How often do you want to pray together? What is the husband's role in the home? What is the wife's role in the home? How should the two compliment each other?

2.) Christian Maturity

How would you rate your Christian Maturity? What is your plan to grow deeper in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord? How spiritually mature is your future spouse? Will they lift you up or bring you down spiritually? Do you think you are both seeking and heading for the same things as they relate to Christ?

3.) Expectations of Marriage:

How much time do you want to spend with your partner? Do you want to be best friends or share confidences with other best friends, too? What do you expect marriage to provide for you?

4.) Children / Step-Children

Do you want children? How many and when? How do you want to raise any children in regard to religious beliefs and practices? Describe your disciplinary style. Describe parental roles. What does parenting mean to you? How will you receive the stepchildren? Who will discipline the stepchildren?

5.) Church Style

What type of church do you want to go to; is it more traditional or contemporary? What type of music do you want in the worship service. How often do you want to go to Church? Will you tithe?

6.) Ministry Involvement

How involved in the Ministry do you want to be? Describe what you would like to do? Do you want to do Mission Trips? What ministry will you do together, and separately?

Body

7.) Communication

Do you consider yourself balanced in the are of listening and hearing? Do you let out or keep in your emotions. Which do you do more of, compliment or criticize?

8.) Conflict Resolution

How do you react in conflict? How will you resolve your conflicts?

9.) Woman's Cycles

For the woman: how do you feel at this time? What is the approximate time? How do you behave? What can your husband do to make this time better?

10.) Age:

What is your age? Based on your age differences, what problems could you possibly face?

11.) Physical characteristics attractive to you:

What about looks? How important are they to you? How attractive do you find your mate?

12.) Intimacy and affection:

How do you view God's design for intimacy in a marriage? Do you like to hold hands? Are you comfortable kissing in public or in front of the kids? What are your thoughts on birth control?

13.) Energy levels:

How much energy do you have? What time of the day do you have energy? What time of the day do you crash? Are you a night person or a day person? Do you have more or less mental or physical energy? How much energy do you have to be a companion and friend? How much energy do you have to be a parent?

Soul

14.) Health and fitness, including the habits of smoking, drinking, or using drugs:

What do you believe and practice in regard to taking care of yourself - your health and fitness? What is your diet? What is your exercise routine? Do you smoke? Do you drink alcohol? Do you use drugs? What do you think about those issues? How do you think health and fitness issues affect children?

15.) Where to live:

Where do you want to live? Do you have allergies or other health reasons for living in certain areas? How flexible are you about where you want to live? Will your career influence where you live? Does it matter how close you live to your extended family?

16.) Education/Intelligence:

To what level of education do you aspire? What are your beliefs about education and intelligence? What are your intellectual interests? What do you like to talk about? What topics spark your curiosity? Who will help the children in their Educational development?

17.) Lifestyle (Formal versus Informal; active versus passive):

Do you like to take off your shoes and put your feet up? Do you like everything in its place? Would you rather entertain at a backyard barbecue or a dinner party? Are you child and family oriented or career and philanthropically oriented? Do you enjoy activities requiring passivity or would you rather be physically active? How do you balance formal and informal aspects of your life? How do you balance activity and passivity?

18.) Common leisure interests:

What do you do for fun? How do you balance fun and work? Do you like physical activity or would you rather read or watch TV or a movie? What balance of active and passive leisure activity do you like? What kind of activity recharges your batteries and refreshes you? Do you like solitary activity or would you rather spend your leisure with others? How many others? How much time do you devote to leisure? How much money do you devote to leisure? Do you like to plan your activities ahead of time or would you rather act spontaneously?

19.) Views about work/Level of ambition:

What are your career ambitions? What work do you do or what work would you like to do? What hours do you work? What would be the ideal balance of work and play to you? What kind of an income will it take to support the lifestyle you desire?

20.) Political beliefs and practices:

What are your political beliefs and practices? What part does politics play in your life?

21.) Life stage:

What is the focus of your life right now? Are you finishing school? Are you just beginning a career? Have you settled into your career? Are you raising children? Are you childless? Are you planning a career change? Are you planning for retirement?

22.) Views on how to handle and spend money:

How do you want to spend, save, and invest? Do you operate on a budget? Discuss your budget. What are your short- and long-term financial goals? What meanings do you attach to money? Are either of you bringing debt into the marriage? Who's responsibility is the debt? Will you get a joint checking account? Who will take care of the bills? Does the husband want the wife to work when or if children come into the picture? Does the wife want to work or stay at home with kids?

23.) In-Laws

How much influence do you want from your in-laws in your marriage? How much influence do they have in your relationship right now? How much time do you want to spend with them? How do you plan to handle holidays (whose family will you see and when?)

24.) Ex-spouse

What can your mate expect to encounter from your ex-spouse? What influence in your marriage can your mate expect from your ex-spouse? How about for the children? What are the financial agreements? What is the visitation agreement? How about your ex-spouse parents, will they still be a part of your new family?

25.) Planning your wedding

What does the bride want? What does the groom want? What is your budget? What are the priorities in your wedding budget? Who will do what? What details should be discussed together?