



That's Good to Know! Important Premarital Questions—BEFORE You Tie the Knot

Congratulations! You met, fell in love and want to tie the knot. It's an exciting time! My name is Annelies Gentile, I'm an Interfaith Minister and honored to share this day with you. Grateful you chose me to be your wedding officiant. Thank you and blessings.

I know you're excited to share your life together and have dreams to pursue. Before you make your decision official, I invite you to discuss these important topics—together. It might seem unusual to scrutinize "your love" before you dive in but doing so will help you sort out differences and help your relationship in the long run.

If you've been married in the past then you may be coming into this commitment with more clarity (and anxiety) than the last marriage. You may be more mindful of your own shortcomings, you may have done some personal work to improve your communication and may be looking forward to this time being different. Whether it's your first, second or third marriage there's just some things that are good to know in advance.

Explore these prompts independently, then share your answers or simply answer them together. Either way— find out more about each other now. Knowing some things in advance will strengthen reasons why you'll choose to stay together when things get hard, and as with life— there will be hard times. Be willing to be vulnerable with one another. Be willing to learn about one another. Be willing to grow, dream and improve.

Best of luck to you on your new journey! If you need additional support, couples coaching or have any other questions, just ask! The following questions are for you.

→ **The first TWO pages are required to complete.** Beyond that is a deeply personal inquiry designed mostly for you two. Feel free to share what you'd like me and your friends and family to know about your love story! Enjoy learning together! ☺

Many blessings,
Rev. Annelies Gentile

PLEASE SEND ANSWERS FROM THIS PAGE TO ME ASAP!

FULL NAMES OF COUPLE: (please write phonetics, if needed)



1- _____

2- _____

3- Date/Time of Wedding: _____

4- Where is the wedding? Full address/name of place. _____

5- Yes / NoDo you have your marriage license? I cannot marry you without it!

6- Do you have TWO unrelated witnesses? Names? _____

7- What is the COUNTY you are getting married in? _____

8- What is the ADDRESS of the REGISTER OF DEEDS where your marriage license was issued?

9- What is your color theme/style for your wedding? Inside or outside? Fancy or casual?

10- How long of a ceremony do you want? 15 min. 30 min. 45 min

11- What type of ceremony do you want? Circle all that apply.

- Non-denominational

- Spiritual

- Christian

- Nature-based

- Other _____

12- Anything else I should know? Important pets, poems, psalms? Funny details?

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→ The following answers are necessary for me to craft your ceremony. Please answer them best you can via email so I can write a custom ceremony that's unique to you.

1- What is your love story, how did you meet? Be detailed.

2- What do you love most about each other?

3- What do you hope to bring into this world together in partnership that you couldn't do solo.

4- What impact do you hope to make in the world as a couple?

5- What are your favorite songs, lyrics, poems, quotes or faith psalms?

6- What are the special things you do for one another to show each other that you care?

7- What are your absolute heart-melting things your partner does or says that you LOVE?

8- What are your absolute most annoying things your partner does that bothers you?

9- What do you do to smooth the tough times when there's conflict?

10- What makes you laugh about your partner?

BONUS: What do you want to share in public about your love that others might not know?

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE FOR YOU TO EXPLORE TOGETHER.
(Share with me any details you want me to add to your ceremony)

THINK FIRST

These first questions may be most important. If you don't know why you're getting married or have different views of where you'll be in a few decades, it could cause problems down the road. Ask yourselves: Why are we getting married? (FYI- Your reasons might be different than one another's). Make a list of pros and cons to officially getting married. Be honest.

WHY?	PROS	CONS

Seeing & Thinking... Ask yourselves the following.

- What I love most about my partner is...
- What I see in them that makes me smile most is....
- What bothers me the most about them is.....
- How do others see us as a couple?
- Where might we be blind to one another?

Planning for Life

- What do we as a couple want out of life?
- Considering our ages, how many years might we have together?
- What might be important to us as we age?
- Are we retiring? How/where? What needs to be in place?
- What are the top three things on your bucket list, do they match?

Personal Habits & Skeletons

- Do you think it is important to know one another's physical and mental health histories?
- Is there something in your past that needs to be revealed before you tie the knot?
- What's your relationship to substances like alcohol, tobacco or drugs? Can you live this?
- Who will clean the toilet?
- Seat up or seat down?
- How are we going to divide up the household chores?

Spiritual Beliefs

- What is your idea of God (or another philosophy describing life)?
- How important is faith or spirituality to you?
- How do your thoughts on faith/spirituality differ?
- Do you need a spiritual home or church, where might that be?
- What are your individual and collective faith needs in your partnership?

Finances & Future

- What are your feelings about a prenuptial agreement? Do we need one to protect ourselves and our assets?
- What healthcare/insurance will we have? Who's responsible?
- What financial planning will we have? Who's responsible?
- Who carries the most debt?
- What are your habits/strengths around spending and saving?
- What are our collective assets?
- How much money do you make?
- What type of budget is needed?
- How independent must you be when it comes to money? What does that look like?
- What are our financial goals? Are they collective goals or is personal financial independence important? What might that look like?
- Should we have a joint checking account, separate accounts, or both?
- Who is going to be responsible for making sure the bills are paid on time?
- Do you consider going to the movies or having a vacation every year a necessity or a luxury? Why?
- What are our plans for purchasing/renting or selling a home and/or luxury items?
- Where are your important financial documents located?
- Who is responsible for crafting a will? What about a Do Not Resuscitate? What are your thoughts on this and other critical end of life questions?
- Who will take care of our parents when they age?
- Who will take care of us when we age?

Children

- Do you/we want to have children?
- If we decide we do, how many children do you want to have?
- How long should we be married before having children?
- What kind of parent do you think you will be?
- What is your parenting philosophy?
- Will one of us stay home after we have children?
- What type of birth control should we use if we want to postpone or prevent parenthood?
- How do you feel about adoption?
- Do you have any children already? If so, how do we want to parent them?
- How will we celebrate holidays? Who's included and where?

Family

- What was your childhood like?
- Was your family an affectionate one?
- What family values do you want to bring into our marriage?
- What do you like and dislike about your family?
- What do you like and dislike about my family?
- What do you like and dislike about your parents' marriage?
- What do you like and dislike about my parents' marriage?
- How much time will we spend with our in-laws?

Sex, Intimacy & Health

- How comfortable are you talking about sexual needs, likes and dislikes? What are they?
- What are your expectations of our sexual relationship?
- How might jealousy show up in our relationship and how might we handle it?
- I feel insecure, when you _____ and I need you to _____.
- To validate me, I need _____.
- What is your primary love language?
 - service, touch, words of affirmation, quality time or gifts
 - List these in order of priority of needs
- Do you think we listen to one another well? How?
- Do you think it is important to be faithful to one another? Why or why not?
- What are your feelings about sexuality in general?
- How much should be shared about past relationships?
- Do you have STDs or other health issues I should know about now?

Lifestyle

- What are your expectations about how we will spend our free time?
- Do you believe that we should be doing everything together?
- Can we each pursue our own interests?
- Do you need time alone? How much?
- How would you feel if I want a night out with my friends?
- How will we make sure we have quality time together?
- When was the last time you felt genuinely proud of yourself?
- How do you like to be celebrated?
- What do you wish we can do together that we're not already doing?

Conflict and Communication

- What does active listening mean to you?
- What's the best way to communicate my fears and dreams to you so that you'll hear them?
- What makes you shut down?
- How do we handle conflict?
- Do you expect or want me to change?
- How do you forgive? What would you not forgive?
- When is it ever ok to end or walk away from our commitment?

Conflict and Communication (cont.)

- Are there any issues in our relationship now that we need to face before the wedding?
- How will I know when you've had "enough"?
- What angers you most?
- How might anger show up in you and how should I respond?
- What brings you the most joy? What makes you laugh the most?
- What are your top 3 values?
- What do you think are the shared values in our relationship?

Blessings & Blunders

- What's the most spontaneous thing you've ever done?
- When did you laugh the hardest and what happened to make you do that?
- What's your most embarrassing moment?
- What's your most wildest dream?
- If you had to trade jobs with somebody, who would it be and why?
- What's the craziest, wildest night you've ever had?
- What advice would you give your younger self? How about your older self?
- If we inherited a million dollars, what would we want to do with it?
- What percent of our income or time should we give to charitable organizations?
- If our relationship was a fruit, what kind would it be and why?