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**QUESTIONS TO ASK
BEFORE MARRIAGE**

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QUESTION 5.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON GENDER ROLES WITHIN A MARRIAGE?

Defining and understanding each person's thoughts on gender roles within a marriage is crucial for potential couples because these roles can significantly influence expectations and responsibilities within the relationship. Gender roles, shaped by cultural, familial, and personal beliefs, can dictate how tasks are divided, how decisions are made, and how partners support each other. Clarity on this topic can prevent misunderstandings and conflicts, ensuring both partners feel valued and respected.

When couples discuss and define their expectations about gender roles, they can better align their visions of daily life and long-term planning. This might involve who is responsible for household chores, financial management, or childcare. Such discussions can help each partner understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from their partner, fostering a more balanced and equitable relationship.

Moreover, an open dialogue about gender roles allows each person to express their personal desires and boundaries. Some individuals might prefer traditional roles, while others may seek a more egalitarian approach. Understanding these preferences is essential for creating a partnership where both individuals feel they can thrive and be themselves without feeling pressured to conform to external standards or unspoken assumptions.

Addressing gender roles explicitly also enables couples to support each other's careers and personal goals in a way that feels fair and supportive. This consideration is particularly important in marriages where both partners pursue demanding careers or when one chooses to step back professionally to focus on family needs.

Ultimately, by negotiating and understanding gender roles, couples can build a foundation of mutual respect and cooperation that enhances their union. It prepares them for the complexities of married life and helps ensure that both partners contribute to the relationship in ways that are meaningful and fulfilling for them. This conversation is not just about dividing responsibilities but about crafting a shared life vision that honors both individuals' needs and aspirations.

QUESTION 6

What are your political beliefs?

Defining and understanding each person's thoughts on politics and their political beliefs before entering into a marriage is important because these beliefs can profoundly influence a couple's values, decision-making, and how they engage with the world around them. Political beliefs often reflect deeper values and ethical stances, which can impact everything from lifestyle choices to parenting styles and social interactions.

When couples have a clear understanding of each other's political views, it can help prevent conflicts that may arise from fundamental disagreements on key issues. If their views are aligned, it can strengthen the bond between them, providing a shared platform for advocacy, discussion, and engagement with their community. Conversely, if there are significant differences, a thorough understanding allows the couple to navigate these potentially divisive issues with respect and empathy.

Discussing political beliefs openly can also enhance communication skills within the relationship, teaching partners how to discuss sensitive topics without causing harm or resentment. This skill is invaluable in all aspects of a relationship, not just political discussions, as it promotes healthy, constructive, and respectful dialogue.

Moreover, in today's highly politicized environment, where politics often influences social interactions and public engagement, having a partner who shares similar views or respects differing ones can lead to a more harmonious life

together. This is particularly important when interacting with extended family, friends, and community members or when deciding on issues like schooling for children or community involvement.

Ultimately, by addressing political beliefs before marriage, couples can ensure that they are better prepared for a long-term commitment that respects both partners' views and values. This understanding helps lay the groundwork for a resilient partnership that can navigate not only personal challenges but also those presented by the wider world in which they live.

QUESTION 10.

WHAT ROLE DOES FORGIVENESS PLAY IN YOUR LIFE?

In marriage, the role of forgiveness is paramount, as it fosters a nurturing environment necessary for lasting love and mutual growth. Marriage, like any close relationship, inevitably involves misunderstandings, disagreements, and mistakes. Without the presence of forgiveness, these minor transgressions can accumulate, leading to resentment and a breakdown of trust. Therefore, discussing and understanding each partner's views on forgiveness is essential for a healthy relationship.

Forgiveness in marriage is about more than absolving a partner of wrongdoing; it's about creating a space where both partners feel safe to be imperfect, make mistakes, and still feel loved and supported. It involves letting go of hurt while addressing the underlying issues that led to conflict. This approach not only heals the immediate wound but also strengthens the relationship by improving communication and understanding.

Moreover, forgiveness is closely tied to resilience in relationships. Couples who practice forgiveness are generally better equipped to bounce back from conflicts and challenges, viewing them as opportunities for growth rather than insurmountable problems. This resilience is crucial for the longevity and happiness of the marriage.

The importance of forgiveness also extends to personal well-being. Holding onto anger and resentment can lead to stress and health issues, whereas forgiveness can promote peace of mind and emotional health. By forgiving, individuals free themselves from the negative emotions that can cloud judgment and affect behavior.

Forgiveness does not mean ignoring or excusing poor behavior or not addressing serious issues. Rather, it involves understanding the imperfections of both oneself and one's partner and striving to overcome them together. By valuing and practicing forgiveness, couples can ensure that their marriage remains strong and supportive, even in the face of difficulties.

Understanding each partner's stance on forgiveness before entering into marriage can help set realistic expectations and provide a framework for dealing with conflicts constructively. It ensures that both partners are committed to healing, growth, and maintaining a loving, respectful relationship. This mutual understanding and commitment to forgiveness are key to a thriving marriage where both partners feel valued, understood, and supported.

QUESTION 41

What are your thoughts on budgeting and saving?

Understanding each other's thoughts on budgeting and saving is crucial for couples considering marriage, as it directly impacts how they will manage their financial life together. This discussion helps align financial goals, prevent future conflicts, and ensures that both partners are committed to a mutually agreed-upon financial strategy, which is essential for building a stable and secure future.

Firstly, discussing budgeting habits reveals how each partner views financial responsibility and planning. It shows their level of fiscal discipline and their priorities when it comes to spending versus saving. For instance, one partner might prioritize immediate lifestyle enjoyment while the other might focus on long-term financial security. Aligning these perspectives is key to developing a financial plan that satisfies both partners and supports shared life goals such as buying a home, saving for retirement, or funding travel.

Moreover, an understanding of each other's saving habits is critical for setting realistic and achievable financial goals. It helps in establishing how much the couple can regularly set aside for future needs and how they can manage their discretionary spending. Knowing each other's comfort levels with saving also facilitates discussions about emergency funds, investment choices, and potential sacrifices that might be necessary to achieve their goals.

Additionally, conversations about budgeting and saving can highlight differences in risk tolerance and expectations about lifestyle, which are fundamental aspects

of financial compatibility. If these issues are not addressed early in the relationship, they could lead to dissatisfaction and strain.

This dialogue also promotes transparency, which is essential in building trust. Partners who are open about their financial situations can better support each other in maintaining financial health. This might involve deciding if and how to combine finances, determining spending limits, and agreeing on monitoring and revising the budget as necessary.

In essence, understanding each other's perspectives on budgeting and saving forms the backbone of effective financial management within a marriage. It ensures that both partners participate in financial decisions, respect each other's financial boundaries, and work together towards common objectives. This not only helps in achieving financial goals but also strengthens the relationship by building trust and teamwork.
