



COURTSHIP COUNSELLING TEMPLATE

This document is given to help the counsellor in the courtship counselling process.

This is a huge responsibility we have been given and we need to give the couple our best even if they don't take the counselling.

The Lord wants us to give them His wisdom and guidance at one of the most crucial times in their lives.

Names of partner one (P1)

and partner two (P2)

Date started courting:

Date met:

Send the documents to both parties they can be found here - <https://fatherslove.co.za/family-and-marriage/>

Questions for counselling meetings:

1. Why are you here now?
 - a. P1:
 - b. P2:
2. Did you both read the documents?
 - a.
3. How do you feel about the process as set out in the documents?
 - a. P1:
 - b. P2:
 - c. Counsellor comments:
4. How do you feel about the questionnaire?
 - a. P1:
 - b. P2:
 - c. Counsellor comments:
5. How important is it for you to go through this process before getting married?
 - a. P1:
 - b. P2:
 - c. Counsellor comments:
 - i.
6. Introduction:
 - a. Amos 3:3 –
 - b. The more areas you agree on the stronger the covenant and therefore the stronger the foundation. Explain the two circles coming together. The greater the overlap the stronger the foundation and therefore the stronger the marriage. The higher the building that Gods wants to build the stronger and deeper the foundations needs to be. It has taken about 2000 years for the Bride to get ready for the Marriage to Jesus. The reason is the standard of the Father, it is very high. He decides when the date is, based on the readiness and compatibility of the Bride and the Bridegroom.
 - c. Explain your role e.g My role as the counsellor and father:
 - i. My role is to help you make the right decisions for the right timing.
 - ii. To see if both parties are prepared to pay the price by laying the foundation – courtship process lays the foundation.
 - iii. To help you to accurately lay the foundation
 - iv. To test the foundation for your potential partnership. I'm not to just make you feel good, but to point out potential problem areas in the foundation. I test the areas of agreements and how strong they are and areas of disagreement and how serious they are.
 - v. Comments:
 1. If you can't stand the heat of counselling process then you stand little chance enduring the fires of marriage. Finally I will give you my honest assessment of the potential partnership and my recommendation.
 - d. How do you feel about my role?
 - i. P1
 - ii. P2
7. Process where are we in this process?
 - a. P1:
 - i. Step one
 - ii. Time frame you have?
 - b. P2:
 - i. Step one
 - ii. Time frame you have?
8. Feed back on questionnaire:

- a. P1
 - b. P2:
 - i. Strengths:
 - 1.
 - ii. Weaknesses:
 - 1.
 - iii. Way forward:
 - 1.
9. Other questions:
- a. What would you like to see change in your partner?
 - i.
 - b. What can you live with and what cant you live with?
 - i.
10. Counselling process:
- a. Do you both want to continue with the counselling?
 - i.
 - b. Why do you want to?
 - i.

Process	Duration	Start Date	Fin Date
1. Courtship questionnaire filled in by individuals. Then to share documents with each other and make your comments in the comments column. Only to move on once these are agreed upon. (to be filled in separately and given back to the counsellor)			
2. Preparation of partners formulae a. Fill in Eternal Plan.* b. Check compatibility of partners c. Spend some time together and build friendship. See compatibility.			
3. Go ahead from the Lord and both pastors			
4. Now start to courtship process. a. Each to open a courtship document b. Pray together and fellowship together. c. Work and minister together. d. Ongoing marriage counselling. e. Join the church they will attend after the wedding. Flow with word and vision for the Church. f. Discipleship starts – man needs to take the lead and disciple the woman. While the man gets disciplined by the pastor/counsellor. g. Partnership covenant document			
5. Go ahead for the marriage – both pastors			
6. Engagement:			
7. Marriage preparation: a. Pray and set wedding date b. Marriage contract & finances. c. Last will and testaments			
8. The wedding			

Definitions:

Courtship questionnaire: This questionnaire needs to be filled out by both parties separately and then given to each other. Now the parties can work through the document step by step to test and see whether they are compatible.

Eternal plan: Gods eternal plan for your life; this is His will and purpose for your life. Your calling etc. Where you are called this will have a huge impact on your marriage partner and is the primary reason we get married is to fulfil His will for our lives. We therefore need a partner who is both compatible and called to walk this road with us. This is not only a process but a lifetime journey.

Courtship process: This process allows for the couple to build the friendship. The friendship will be tested and needs to pass the tests in order for the couple to be ready for the marriage. This is the time when the couple need to really seek the Lord together; as to His purpose and plan for their lives together.

As you walk through this process things will become clearer either you will get closer or further apart. Depending on the true compatibility, this is the time when you can test to see whether the person is really matching your formulae for a spouse in reality or just in theory. When you see something you don't like, ask yourself the question what happens if this issue carries on in the marriage, will I be able to live with it even if they don't change? Is this issue, a non negotiable for your future spouse? We cannot get into marriage thinking we are going to change them. As we cannot change anyone. The higher your standards for a partner the more difficult it will be to find someone compatible.

Make sure your standards are godly standards and not worldly standards. We cannot expect to marry a perfect person, we must count the cost and marry them with their strengths and weaknesses. We also need to make sure we are practising the standards we are expecting our partner to be living, if we are not then we will be unequally yoked with them. E.g. you can't expect your partner to worship and love God when you are not doing it yourself.

It is recommended that you only allow yourself to fall in love once you have entered the courtship process, which is after step one, and hearing God say that this person is your spouse. This will protect you from making mistakes based on the infatuation and the in love feeling. Emotions cloud our judgment and thinking. Falling in love is easy, so do not stir up love until it pleases. It needs to please both the Lord and yourselves, then you can fall in love. This will save you a lot of pain in the long run. Once you fall in love the other test will be self control in the area of sexual desire for your partner; this needs to be faced with serious prayer and focus on Him. Discuss this issue and seek God for wisdom and strength and practical guidelines that will help you stay out of trouble.

Remember once you are married you cannot get divorced, it is better to break off the courtship and remain friends than enter a marriage that will end in disaster or not what God planned. Remember God has an awesome plan for your lives, He loves both of you. It is better not to get married if it will hurt all parties.

Courtship Document: This document is where you put all the words and visions and scriptures concerning your relationship like a treasure chest. All the questions you have asked the Lord and the answers concerning the relationship. Any problems and questions you have for your partner. You can also include you compatibility tests and check list. This is like a journal of your relationship.

Partnership covenant document: This document contains your agreement and understanding for your marriage basically this is your marriage covenant before God. This includes your responsibilities and expectations in the marriage.