

# TRINITY ANGLICAN PREMARITAL QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of this questionnaire is to give Trinity pastors (and mentors, if you choose to participate in the Premarital Mentoring process) a snapshot of your personal, relational, and spiritual history and your understanding of marriage. Please be as honest and thorough as possible in answering the questions. The value of the questionnaire depends on the detail contained in your responses.

This questionnaire is not meant to be a comprehensive assessment of your life history, experiences, strengths, and weaknesses. The Prepare/Enrich Assessment that you and your partner will complete next will delve into more detail in that regard.

We encourage you to complete this questionnaire independent of your partner.

**Please email completed questionnaires to [karyn@atltrinity.org](mailto:karyn@atltrinity.org), and copy [addie@atltrinity.org](mailto:addie@atltrinity.org).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address after wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiancé's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fiancé's Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired wedding date and location: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend Trinity? If so, Westside, Eastside, or Northside, and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Trinity Member or pursuing membership at Trinity? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized? If so, date and location? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Have you previously been married? \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced or widowed, for how long? (*You may give more details in Question 13 below.*) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children? \_\_\_\_\_

Current occupation (or if student, where?) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you and your partner plan to participate in Trinity's Premarital Mentoring program or do you have premarital counseling set up? \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Trinity subscribes to The Churches for the Sake of Others' policy on divorce and remarriage, which requires approval from our bishop in order to proceed with a remarriage. This is typically accomplished through an in-person meeting with one of Trinity's pastors, in consultation with the bishop. This process may add several weeks to the premarital window.*

## PERSONAL & FAMILY HISTORY:

1. How would you describe your parents' marriage? Are they currently married or divorced? What roles did each parent play? How did they handle conflict?
2. What did you observe in your parents' marriage that you want to bring into your own marriage; what did you observe that you would NOT like to bring into your own marriage?
3. How are your parents responding to your plans for marriage?
4. Do you have close friends with whom you are vulnerable and to whom you feel accountable? How are these friends responding to your plans for marriage?
5. What are 3-5 adjectives your friends would use to describe you?
6. What are your greatest strengths? Weaknesses?





*At Trinity, we are committed to upholding the biblical call to sexual abstinence before marriage. Before moving forward with the planning process for your wedding, we would ask that you walk in alignment with us in this area. Please take time to read the white paper below, *On Marriage and Abstinence*; it will provide you with helpful information on our perspective on premarital sex. A Trinity pastor is happy to discuss this perspective with you further if you seek more clarity and understanding.*

17. What are your beliefs about premarital sex?

18. Are you and your partner sexually active? If so, are you willing to abstain from sex until you are married?

## ON MARRIAGE AND ABSTINENCE

At Trinity, we believe that marriage was instituted by God as a sacramental expression of God's love and fidelity to those who worship him. Marriage makes visible God's commitment to never forsake those whom he has called. In the same way that God maintains his eternal covenant with his people, we are invited to demonstrate lifelong fidelity through marriage (Malachi 2:14-16). In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to marriage as a representation of Christ's relationship to the Church. It is described as a shared commitment between a husband and wife to be mutually submitted to one another out of love and respect (Ephesians 5:30-33). In Mark's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to the sacred nature of marriage. When asked if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife, Jesus responds by saying that Moses made an allowance for divorce in the case of infidelity due to humanity's "hardness of heart." He goes on to say,

*From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and "the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate. Mark 10:2-12*

Therefore, when a person commits to marry another person and invokes God's blessing on that union, the joining together of their lives relationally, sexually, and financially creates and symbolizes a spiritual bond. God is at work through this union to teach each spouse to submit to one another out of love, and out of reverence to Jesus, in hopes of seeing Christ formed in the other. The love that exists between married persons, like the love that exists between Christ and the Church, must be intentionally cultivated, defended, and renewed until we are, as the wedding liturgy says, parted by death.

It is for this reason that we at Trinity uphold the Bible's prohibition against premarital sex. By abstaining from sexual intimacy before marriage, a betrothed couple is invited to make their first sacrificial commitment to one another and the Lord. Faithful abstinence is an opportunity to say to the other, *By God's grace, I am committing now and for the rest of my life to honoring boundaries that challenge my individual will and autonomy for the sake of our future.*

A flourishing marriage requires a willingness to concede our appetites, desires, routines, habits, and resources for the sake of another. These concessions, whatever their nature, are costly and are often experienced as a violation of our own will and appetites. Abstinence is, therefore, a gracious invitation to begin cultivating the kind of fidelity and discipline that a flourishing marriage requires.