



Lesson 1: Expectations

Key Questions to utilize while having a conversation about expectations: What do you want regarding _____? Or, how do you think things should be regarding _____?

1. The longevity of this relationship: "Til death do us part?" What do you expect about marriage?
2. Sexual fidelity?
3. Love? Do you expect to love each other always? Do you expect this to change over time?
4. Your sexual relationship? Frequency? Practices? Taboos?
5. Romance? What is romantic for you?
6. Children? Or more children?
7. Children from previous relationships or marriages? If you or your partner have children from a previous marriage, where do you want them to live? How do you expect that you should share in the discipline of these children?
8. Work, careers, and provision of income? Who will work in the future? Whose career/job is more important? If there are or will be more children, will either partner reduce work time out of the home to take care of the children?
9. The degree of emotional dependence on the other? Do you want to be taken care of, and if so, how? What does that look like for you? How much do you expect to be able to rely on each other to get through the tough times?
10. Basic approach to life. As a team? As two independent individuals?
11. Loyalty? What does that mean to you?
12. Communication about problems in the relationship? Do you want to talk these out, and if so, how?
13. Power? Who do you expect will have more power in what kinds of decisions? For example, who will control the money or who will discipline the kids? What happens when you disagree in a key area? Who has the power now, and how do you feel about that?

14. Household tasks? Who do you expect will do that? How much household work will each of you do in the future? If you live together now, how does the current breakdown match up with what you ideally expect in marriage?
15. Religious beliefs and observances? How, what, when, where? If you have no kids but plan to, what then? How will you incorporate your beliefs with the way you raise children?
16. Time together? How much time do you want to spend together (versus with friends at work, with family, etc.)?
17. Sharing feelings? How much of what you are each feeling should you expect to be shared?
18. Friendship with your partner? What is a friend? What would it mean to maintain or have a friendship with your partner?
19. The little things in life? Where you squeeze the toothpaste? Is the toilet seat left up or down? Who sends greeting cards, if either? Really think about the little things that could or have irritated you (and what aspects have been going really well). What do you want or expect in each area?
20. Forgiveness? How important is forgiveness in your relationship? How should forgiveness affect your relationship?
21. How should we celebrate each other's birthdays? Anniversaries? What do each of us expect from each other on holidays, such as Valentine's day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.?
22. What is your faith/spiritual/core belief? What do you believe in? How did you come to believe in this faith/spiritual/core belief?
23. What is the meaning or purpose of life in your faith/spiritual/core belief? What are some of your core assumptions or beliefs about life as they relate to your faith/spiritual/core belief?
24. What was your faith/spiritual/core belief growing up? How was your faith/spiritual/core belief practiced in your family of origin?
25. What is the meaning of marriage in your faith/spiritual/core belief?

Discuss all other expectations for how you want things to be that are important, that you are aware of, that are not listed above already.