

## LESSON FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

C: It's so exciting to be engaged as a disciple! Christian marriage is one of the great gifts that God gives us. We're so happy for both of you. Now as you're about to get married let's study some ideas to ensure a great wedding and an awesome start to your life together. There are 6 obstacles we must overcome to have a great wedding and marriage!

### 1. Overcome the Anxieties.

#### **Phil. 4:4-7**

C: The first key to planning a great marriage is organizing the wedding. For most people in India, this is a very overwhelming and stressful time.

Q: What does Paul say in these verses?

[Rejoice always! Also, he says to cast all our burdens on God.]

C: If we are to get married happily, we must pray to God about every detail of the wedding and our future. We must give him the worries and the burdens that we feel.

Q: What anxieties do you have right now about the marriage and the wedding?

{Let them share. Discuss }

C: There are a few other areas you might feel tension about:

#### a. Relationship.

Q: Is this the right partner for me?

Q: How will the physical relationship be?

Q: How will our families react to our marriage and the other family?

#### b. Living Situation.

Q: Do we have a flat? Do we have everything we need for the flat?

#### c. Financial.

Q: Do we have enough money for the wedding? Do we have enough to live on each month?

#### d. Wedding.

Q: Will everything go well?

C: There is a 4-step solution to these anxieties:

1. Plan well in advance
2. Pray about everything
3. Get advice from a mature couple.
4. Delegate to a close friend the responsibility of organizing the wedding.

C: Be sure to sit together and plan all the details:

- \* Flowers
- \* Decorations for wedding hall.
- \* Reception
- \* Food/drinks at wedding and reception
- \* Order of wedding
- \* Cassette player.

- \* Video and/or photography.
- \* Special music of songs at wedding/reception.
- \* Gifts/appreciation of family.
- \* Cars for wedding party.
- \* Honeymoon location Honeymoon travel]

C: Also, on the day of the wedding, be totally overwhelming mess-up, don't worry. Be sure to rejoice on your wedding day. Though it may seem very important to you, most other people there will barely even notice a mess-up. You will only have one wedding day, so have great time and don't be burdened!

## **2. Overcome the Pressures.**

### **Mark 3:31-35**

C: You will face a lot of pressures and demands from you own families in the coming weeks. They'll want you to conduct the marriage according to their customs and traditions. Some of these traditions are perfectly OK. But some of them are religious customs and violate the Bible.

Also, the families may fight with each other about how to do the wedding. This is why you must take charge. You must have conviction. You can listen to the families, but you must decide how things will go, and you must make sure that Jesus is not insulted by whatever occurs the word NO is a great word! Don't be afraid.

Q: What troubles/conflicts do you anticipate in the coming wedding arrangements with either of the families? How do you feel about their reaction? {Discuss}

C: Be prepared for threats. If families do not get their way, they will threaten to not support you, or even to not attend your wedding. Do not be intimidated by this. If they love you, they will respect your faith. If you give in to their threats, they will always control you. And on day they may pressure you to leave each other! Do not give in! They may offer you financial help in arranging the wedding and your new flat.

Be careful about this, if you take their help, it is possible they will remind you about it your whole life and try to use it to control you. Taking too much money is dangerous. And refusing money is insulting. Be wise about this, and get advice. Be a good example to your family in this area, not being greedy or ungrateful like the world, and not being manipulated, either.

C: Fix the locations, times and dates for the wedding that will be convenient both for the families and the disciples. Of course, never get married in a location outside of this city. Please do not request or expect to have a wedding after church at the regular Sunday service halls.

We discourage this practice, except for people who have been in the church for several years and know almost everyone in the church. Once the wedding dates, locations times are fixed, do not change them. Be a man woman of conviction and do not be unnecessarily influenced on these things. Always take advice.

## **3. Overcome Independence.**

C: Whatever we do as Christians, we must get a lot of advice to make sure it goes great.

### **Prov. 19:20- 20:18**

Q: What do these verses say about taking advice?

[Make plans by seeking advice. Make sure to listen to the advice!]

C: That is convicting isn't it! Don't be independent, but be wise. Mature disciples can help you avoid a lot of tension and problems through their advice.

### **4. Overcome Boredom.**

C: In other words, make it special for everyone involved!

### **Luke 22:7-15.**

C: In V.7, we see that Jesus delegated the job of organizing the last supper to Peter and John.

In V.9, they asked advice! In V.10, Jesus told them where to go. He explained all the details.

And in V.15, he expressed how eager he was for this occasion to be with his guys. Jesus made it special!

C: Your wedding will be a great opportunity to show your appreciation to your family. Have a mature couple in the church who knows your family be in charge of taking care of them, especially on the wedding day.

You can do special things to honor your family, like giving them gifts, writing them cards, making sure they are shared about in the sermon, and sharing about them yourselves in the reception or in the wedding ceremony itself.

C: Communication is another key to making things special. Christian marriage is new to your families, especially if they are from other religious backgrounds. So let them know in advance how the marriage will be conducted.

If possible, let them attend the wedding of someone else in the church, first! Before the wedding day, be sure to have a special time with your family and relatives. On the wedding day, have someone from your family ushering your relatives and friends.

At the wedding, the taking of photographs and the greeting of the couple by the relatives is a very sensitive and important matter. Do NOT leave anyone out, but do not take too many photographs either. Make sure there are some good photos of you as a couple. Because of the crowd that will be present on your wedding day, you must have a very clear plan as to who want to be photographed with you and how you want the relatives to greet you.

Also, on the wedding day, get out of the wedding hall fast! Do not spend five hours greeting everyone and have a tense wedding day as a result. It is your wedding day, after all, not theirs!

### **4. Overcome Bankruptcy.**

C: Many people spend all their money on their wedding, and then they and their families are in debt for years trying to repay the money they borrowed to buy paneer and chana masala for 350 guests. This is very foolish. Better to have potato chips at the wedding and a happy marriage than to have some heavy food and a tense, unspiritual married life full of financial pressures.

### **Pro 13:11.**

C: It says here we must gather money little by little to make it grow! Don't waste money on your wedding!

C: Make a budget for your wedding and your flat set-up, and stick to it no matter what! Be humble, and do not try to impress others.

### **Gal. 1:10.**

Servants of Christ do not try to impress men. Your family may insist on spending more than you'd like for the wedding. Ask them to save their money, or to give you part of it for the flat. But don't let your wedding turn in to an extravagant affair to impress men.

C: On the wedding day, have a reliable friend in charge of all spending and payments. Have a meeting with everyone involved in the wedding spending and appeal to all of them NOT to overspend. If the family has given you money, be sure to involve them in the purchasing of things for the flat and the wedding.

C: Also, have someone in charge of gifts. Make a list of what you need, and make sure anyone who wants to give you a gift approaches the friend in charge. That way, you will not receive 17 irons and toasters, but rather a number of things you need!

## **6. Overcome Sin.**

### **Mark 9:42-43**

C: In planning the wedding, you will be tempted to spend too much time together talking about the details. Do not travel alone together in autorikshaws as you do the wedding work. This will be a temptation to sexual sin. Also, do not think about what it will be like after you married.

The wedding is just a few weeks away, don't spoil that special time by lusting or falling into any kind of impurity. Be open with your disciplers about temptations in these areas.

If you are also doing a court marriage, be sure to remember that only after you are married in the church you can have physical relations. God is watching! { Ask them separately (men/women ) about how they are doing in this area of sexual purity }

C: You also will be tempted to be emotional in the coming weeks. Control it! Emotions are from Satan. This is a lifelong commitment you are making. Pray through the wedding vows, pray about your emotions, pray to be pure!

C: Some people miss church during the days before their wedding, or on their wedding day. That is a terrible way to start your married life! NEVER ever miss meetings of the church. Only on your honeymoon can you miss a meeting. Q: How do you feel about this?

C: On the wedding day, before having physical union, pray together at least 30 minutes. This will provide a great spiritual foundation for your new married life. Do not travel too far for your honeymoon - you'll get so tired that you won't enjoy it. Come back in time from your honeymoon, and don't go over budget, either!

C: Most importantly, always rejoice! Have a happy married life. We are so happy for you!

<b>Things to do</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Printing Cards - take advice from sector leaders	1 month before	
2. Venue & time (Hall booking)	Before printing cards	
3. Wedding dress	2 weeks before	
4. Rings or Thali	2 weeks before	
5. House to stay	2 weeks before	
6. Flower decoration (ordered) - delegate it to X'ian	1 week before	
7. Music - delegate it	2 weeks before	
8. Requesting bridal party ( Groomsman &Bridesmaid)	3 weeks before	
9. Informing person who conducts (Eng or Tam)	1 month	
10. Ring or Chain to be brought to the venue		
11. Cake to be ordered - delegate & transportation		
12. Bride & groom transport		
13. Honey moon plan		
14. Food & snacks - delegate	3 weeks	
15. Photo graphs	2 weeks	
16. Garlands - delegate (ordered)	1 week	
17. Decoration	1 week	
18. Personal make up	1 week	
19. Rehearsal		
20. Ushering & Serving		
21. Prayer & Song leading	1 week	
22. Gifts incharge		
23. Family planning	1 week	
24. Health check	1 week	