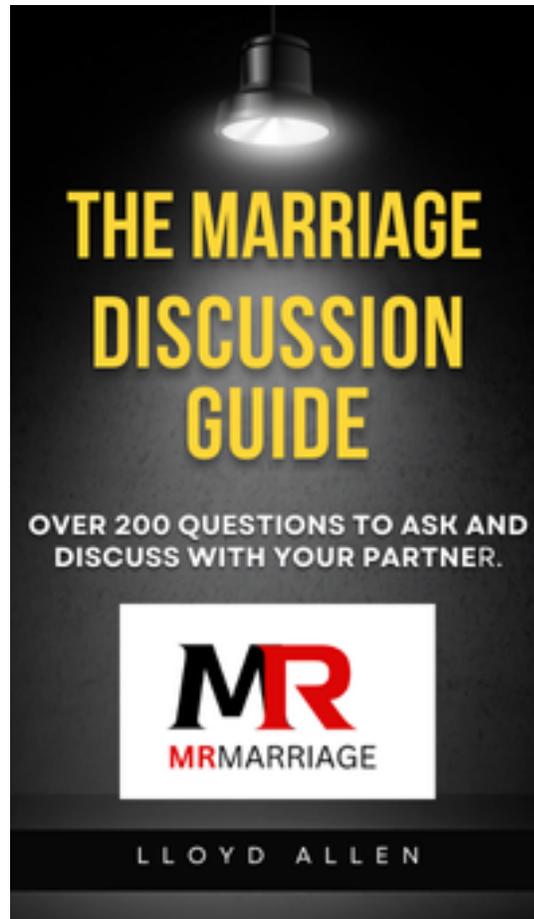


# The Marriage Discussion Guide

OVER 200 QUESTIONS TO ASK AND  
DISCUSS WITH YOUR PARTNER.



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**Lloyd Allen's Comprehensive Marriage Discussion Guide:  
Over 200 Questions to ask and discuss with your partner.**

Important questions to discuss with your partner so you can have a better understanding of each other's expectations and build a foundation for honest communication.

Expectation is living in anticipation that some things will happen.

Everyone enters marriage with expectations. These expectations are hidden rules that form our reality of how a marriage should function. Since our partner is not a mind-reader, they must be made aware of what these unconscious expectations are through effective communication.

Introduction.

Lloyd D. Allen's comprehensive marriage discussion. Fifteen (15) sections highlighting the 15 fundamental components of marriage. Each section contains between 10-15 questions that build upon each other and provides thorough coverage of that topic area.

The categories now flow logically from foundational concepts (love, spirituality) through practical daily life matters (household, finances) to deeper relationship dynamics (communication, intimacy, commitment) and finally to long-term planning (retirement, future goals).

The list is structured to make it easier for couples to work through one category at a time and have focused, meaningful conversations about their expectations and values.

## Purpose

These questions are designed to help couples understand each other's expectations and build a foundation for honest communication. Take time with each section and discuss openly and respectfully.

### How it works:

1. Partners complete their sections independently first
2. They then share and discuss their responses

The worksheets- One worksheet for each category.  
Get the worksheets when you upgrade to the course

3. The discussion points (in the worksheets) help guide productive conversation
4. Focus is on understanding differences, not eliminating them

Each worksheet can be completed in 15-30 minutes, making it manageable for busy couples while still covering the essential topics thoroughly. The format encourages honest self-reflection first, then opens the door for meaningful dialogue about expectations and value

Couples can use the worksheets to facilitate meaningful discussions about marriage expectations. Each worksheet follows a simple, consistent format:

Key Features:

- Side-by-side format for both partners to record responses
- Multiple choice options where appropriate to make it easier
- Rating scales (1-10) for measuring importance/preferences
- Open-ended questions for deeper reflection
- Discussion points to guide the conversation after completing responses

## Marriage Expectations Discussion Topics

### List of 15 Main Categories

1. Love and Happiness
2. Spirituality and Worship
3. Fun and Recreation
4. Social Media and Public Life
5. Household Expectations
6. Relational Expectations
7. Financial Management
8. Extended Family and In-Laws
9. Communication and Conflict Resolution
10. Parenting and Family Planning
11. Career and Work-Life Balance
12. Intimacy and Sexual Expectations
13. Commitment and Loyalty
14. Marriage Maintenance and Growth
15. Retirement and Future Planning

## 1. Love and Happiness

1. What does the word love mean to you?
2. How do you want your spouse to express their affection for you?
3. What is your definition of happiness?
4. How can I show you that I love you?
5. What makes you feel most loved and appreciated?
6. How do you express love when you're stressed or tired?
7. What are your love languages (words of affirmation, physical touch, gifts, acts of service, quality time)?
8. How important are romantic gestures to you?
9. What does emotional intimacy look like to you?
10. How do you handle disappointment in relationships?
11. What role should friendship play in our marriage?
12. How do you want to celebrate special occasions and milestones?

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## 2. Spirituality and Worship

1. Discuss your core beliefs and values?
2. Are any of these values and beliefs negotiable?
3. What happens if one of us changes our spiritual beliefs?
4. How important is it that we attend religious services together?
5. How will we handle religious differences if they arise?
6. What role should prayer or meditation play in our marriage?
7. How do you want to incorporate faith into our daily lives?
8. What are your thoughts on tithing or religious giving?
9. How should we handle religious holidays and traditions?
10. What spiritual practices do you want to maintain individually?
11. How important is it to have a spiritual mentor or counselor?
12. What does forgiveness mean to you in a marriage context?

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### 3. Fun and Recreation

1. What is fun for you?
2. What recreational interests do you have?
3. How do you expect your partner to respond with regards to these interests?
4. Do you want me to participate or share in your interests or to disengage?
5. Will disengagement create a problem?
6. How much time should we spend on individual hobbies versus shared activities?
7. What does a perfect weekend look like to you?
8. How important are vacations and travel to you?
9. What types of entertainment do you enjoy (movies, concerts, sports)?
10. How do you like to celebrate achievements or good news?
11. What role should friends play in our recreational time?
12. How much money should we budget for entertainment and hobbies?
13. Do you prefer planned activities or spontaneous adventures?
14. How important is physical fitness and exercise to you?
15. What seasonal activities or traditions are important to you?

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#### 4. Social Media and Public Life

1. How much of your family life or interests will you display publicly?
2. What boundaries should we establish around social media use?
3. How should we present our relationship online?
4. What information about our marriage should remain private?
5. How do you feel about posting photos of each other?
6. Should we have joint social media accounts or keep them separate?
7. How should we handle disagreements or conflicts publicly?
8. What role should social media play in our relationship?
9. How much time is appropriate to spend on social media daily?
10. Should we share passwords or have access to each other's accounts?
11. How should we handle interactions with ex-partners online?
12. What guidelines should we have for our children's social media use?

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## 5. Household Expectations

1. How will you divide up the household duties?
2. What role do you play in the marriage?
3. What is your spouse's role in marriage?
4. Who will handle which specific chores (cooking, cleaning, laundry, yard work)?
5. How should we handle household tasks when one person is busier than the other?
6. What are your standards for cleanliness and organization?
7. How should we handle home maintenance and repairs?
8. What decisions require both of our input versus individual decisions?
9. How should we handle grocery shopping and meal planning?
10. What are your expectations about pets in our home?
11. How should we manage household schedules and calendars?
12. What happens when one person doesn't fulfill their household responsibilities?
13. Should we hire help for any household tasks?
14. How should we handle hosting guests and entertaining?
15. What are your thoughts on home decor and furnishing decisions?

## 6. Relational Expectations

1. What is something I do now, or could do in the future that would make you not trust me?
2. Is a great career more important than our marriage and family?
3. What kind of rules do you want to establish for our marriage?
4. How much alone time do you need in a relationship?
5. What does quality time together look like to you?
6. How should we handle friendships with people of the opposite sex?
7. What boundaries should we have with ex-partners?
8. How important is it to have mutual friends versus separate friends?
9. What role should our extended families play in our decision-making?
10. How should we support each other's personal growth and goals?
11. What does loyalty mean to you in marriage?
12. How should we handle situations where we disagree in public?
13. What are your expectations about anniversary celebrations?
14. How should we maintain romance and dating within marriage?

15. What does emotional support look like when one of us is struggling?

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## 7. Financial Management

1. Are you comfortable putting all our money together and sharing an account?
2. Are you okay with having both our names on all holdings, investments and bank accounts?
3. Are you okay with staying in debt or do you want to live debt free?
4. Who will be the minister of finance in your home?
5. How should we handle major financial decisions?
6. What is your philosophy about saving versus spending?
7. How much should we save for emergencies?
8. What are your thoughts on making investments?
9. How should we handle financial disagreements?
10. What amount requires discussion before spending?
11. Should we have individual “fun money” accounts?
12. How important is financial security to you?
13. What are your thoughts on insurance (life, health, disability)?
14. How should we handle financial support for family members?
15. What financial goals should we set together?

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## 8. Extended Family and In-Laws

1. What influence, if any do you believe our families should have on our marriage?
2. How involved will your family be in our lives?
3. Will you approve financial assistance for my relatives?
4. Will you assist or support them when needed?
5. How should we handle holiday celebrations with both families?
6. What boundaries should we establish with our parents?
7. How should we handle criticism or advice from family members?
8. What happens if there's conflict between our families?
9. How much information about our marriage should we share with family?
10. Should our parents have keys to our home?
11. How should we handle unexpected visits from family?
12. What role should grandparents play in our children's lives?
13. How should we handle family traditions that conflict with each other?
14. What happens if family members don't approve of our marriage?
15. How should we support aging parents in the future?

## 9. Communication and Conflict Resolution

1. Are you capable of honestly expressing your feelings without attacking your partner's character?
2. Are you able to listen without interrupting whenever your partner is talking?
3. Do you become impatient easily when asked to repeat or clarify your thoughts?
4. Do you yell or swear or engage in vulgarity when communicating?
5. How open will you be in discussing your disagreements and disappointments?
6. How will you react or respond when hurt by your partner?
7. Will you become explosive or withdraw in silence?
8. Will you stonewall or discuss the issue?
9. How did your family resolve conflict when you were growing up?
10. Was that a good pattern or not?
11. What would you change about the way they resolve conflicts to apply to our marriage?
12. Do you have good listening skills?
13. How important is listening to what your partner has to say?
14. Will you listen to reply, with an agenda or to learn and understand?
15. What does it mean to have honest conversation?

## 10. Parenting and Family Planning

1. What parenting skills will you implement in our family?  
Laissez faire, authoritarian or authoritative?
2. Will you be the indulgent parent, the authoritarian or one who combines firmness with gentleness?
3. How many children do you want to have?
4. What are your thoughts on discipline and punishment?
5. How should we handle disagreements about parenting decisions?
6. What values do you want to instill in our children?
7. How should we handle education decisions (public, private, homeschool)?
8. What role should extended family play in raising our children?
9. How should we teach our children about money and work?
10. What traditions do you want to establish with our children?
11. How should we handle technology and screen time for kids?
12. What happens if we struggle with infertility?
13. Are you open to adoption if needed?
14. How should we prepare financially for children?
15. What does work-life balance look like with children?

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## 11. Career and Work-Life Balance

1. Do you expect to be a career woman, or do you intend to stay home with the kids?
2. How important is allotting quality time to spend with family?
3. What plans will you put in place to balance work time and family time?
4. Will your career be more important than family?
5. How should we handle career changes or job loss?
6. What happens if one person's career requires relocation?
7. How should we support each other's professional goals?
8. What are your thoughts on working overtime or travel for work?
9. Should both partners work outside the home?
10. How should we handle childcare decisions if both work?
11. What happens if one person wants to change careers?
12. How important is job satisfaction versus income?
13. Should we have separate or joint professional goals?
14. How should we handle networking events and work social functions?
15. What does retirement planning look like for both of us?

## 12. Intimacy and Sexual Expectations

1. Is sex only physical for you? Is it also psychological?  
Explain
2. What would you do to initiate a resolution of sexual rejection in the bedroom?
3. If your partner is too tired or stressed to perform sexually, how would you respond?
4. Is sex important to you? How would you attempt to enhance your sex life?
5. Do you think we should openly and candidly discuss our sex life?
6. If your partner told you they are not ready or in the mood, how would you respond?
7. If I were ever to lose interest in sex, would you dissolve the relationship? Would you divorce me?
8. Which is more important to you? Sex or non-sexual affection?
9. What does this mean to you: "Sex is not profane. It is sacred"?
10. What are your moral boundaries with regards to sex?
11. Will you respect my moral boundaries?
12. How do you define emotional and physical infidelity?
13. What does intimacy beyond physical mean to you?

14. How should we maintain physical intimacy throughout different life stages?
15. What role does physical affection play in your daily life?

### 13. Commitment and Loyalty

1. The wedding vows state: “Forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her/him, for as long as you both shall live”. What does this mean for you?
2. How can you convince me that you will be able to embrace this commitment?
3. Should we end the relationship if you fail here?
4. Why do you think you are capable of being loyal to one partner for life?
5. What does faithfulness mean beyond sexual fidelity?
6. How should we handle attraction to other people?
7. What boundaries should we establish to protect our marriage?
8. How important is transparency in our relationship?
9. What does “forsaking all others” mean in practical terms?
10. How should we handle temptation or difficult seasons in marriage?
11. What role does trust play in your understanding of marriage?
12. How do we rebuild trust if it’s broken?
13. What does unconditional commitment look like to you?
14. How should we support each other through personal struggles?
15. What happens when one person wants to give up on the marriage?

## 14. Marriage Maintenance and Growth

1. Will you go to marriage counseling if I ask you to?
2. How do you rate your ability to avoid destructive habits (criticism, stonewalling, defensiveness, contempt)?
3. If we develop a huge problem that we are unable to resolve, would you agree to seeking professional help to save our marriage?
4. How should we continue growing together as individuals and as a couple?
5. What does investing in our marriage look like practically?
6. How often should we have intentional conversations about our relationship?
7. What books, resources, or mentors should we utilize?
8. How should we handle seasons when we feel distant from each other?
9. What role should date nights and romance play in our marriage?
10. How do we prevent taking each other for granted?
11. What new experiences should we pursue together?
12. How should we celebrate relationship milestones?
13. What happens when one person wants to grow in a different direction?
14. How do we maintain friendship and companionship in marriage?

15. What legacy do you want our marriage to leave?

## 15. Retirement and Future Planning

1. What will retirement look like for you?
2. Where do you want to live and what will you do?
3. Will your partner want the same thing?
4. How should we prepare financially for retirement?
5. What role should our children play in our later years?
6. How do you want to handle aging and health challenges?
7. What dreams do you want to pursue in retirement?
8. Should we retire at the same time or separately?
9. What does leaving a legacy mean to you?
10. How should we handle end-of-life decisions and planning?
11. What kind of lifestyle do you envision in retirement?
12. How important is staying near family versus pursuing other goals?
13. What activities or service opportunities interest you for later life?
14. How should we handle healthcare decisions as we age?
15. What fears do you have about growing old together?

## Additional Deep Reflection Questions

1. What was the most climactic or traumatic event of your life and how are you still being impacted by that experience today?
2. How did your parents resolve conflict, and will you employ those patterns of communication in your new relationship?
3. Considering that men and women are wired differently, what is your understanding of your partner's world?
4. For some people sex represents trauma, betrayal or delight. What ideas does the word sex conjure in your mind and why?
5. Considering that marriage is about meeting needs, what is your idea about marriage? Is it about giving or getting? Is it about serving or being served?

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These questions are designed to help couples understand each other's expectations and build a foundation for honest communication. Take time with each section and discuss openly and respectfully.

## **Upgrade to the course: You get:**

### **1. Worksheets and other tools**

#### **Key Features:**

Side-by-side format for both partners to record responses

Multiple choice options where appropriate to make it easier

Rating scales (1-10) for measuring importance/preferences

Open-ended questions for deeper reflection

Discussion points to guide the conversation after completing responses

**2. Questions counselors typically ask in premarital sessions**

**3. Questions that married couples (in crisis) wish they had discussed before marriage**

**4. All you need to know about a Prenuptial Agreement, etc.**

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