

A REFLECTION GUIDE

# What You're Getting Into

*Honest Questions for the Groom, Before You Marry*

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*"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and  
shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*

GENESIS 2:24 — KJV

# Before You Say Yes

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I have been marrying couples since 1993. In all that time, I have learned one thing over and over again: a wedding day is easy to plan. A marriage is not. The flowers, the vows, the ceremony — all of that can come together in an afternoon. But the marriage itself is something you build for the rest of your life, and it deserves more than excitement. It deserves honesty.

This guide is not meant to scare you off or talk you out of anything. It is meant to help you walk into marriage with your eyes open and your heart ready — so that the vows you say on your wedding day are ones you are truly prepared to keep, not just for the day, but for the years that follow.

**How to use this guide:** Find somewhere quiet. Sit with each question honestly before you answer it — for yourself first, before you ever discuss it with her. There is no wrong answer here, only an honest one. Write your answers in your own hand, because the thing you write down is the thing you actually wrestle with.

If a question is hard to answer, that is not a red flag — that is exactly the point. The men who make the best husbands are not the ones with no doubts. They are the ones willing to be honest about them before the wedding day, not after.

# An Honest Inventory

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## 1 Am I Ready to Lead With Love, Not Control?

Leading a marriage well has nothing to do with being in charge, and everything to do with putting her well-being ahead of your own comfort.

- Do I want a partner, or do I want someone who simply agrees with me?
  - When we disagree, am I willing to listen and be changed by what I hear?
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## 2 Can I Provide — and Am I Willing to Sacrifice?

Providing is not only about money. It is about showing up, following through, and being willing to give up your own preferences for the good of your family.

- What am I genuinely willing to give up for her and for this marriage?
  - Am I stable enough — emotionally and practically — to build a life with someone else?
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## 3 Have I Dealt With My Own Past?

Old wounds, old relationships, and things you have never talked about with anyone do not disappear on your wedding day. They come into the marriage with you, whether you deal with them or not.

- Is there anything from my past — grief, a past relationship, a habit — that I have never truly worked through?
  - Am I bringing healing into this marriage, or am I hoping marriage will fix what I have not?
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#### 4 Can I Communicate, Even When It's Hard?

Every other part of a marriage depends on this one. If you cannot talk honestly and listen well, everything else becomes harder than it needs to be.

- When something bothers me, do I say it honestly, or do I go quiet and let it build?
  - Can she disagree with me without me shutting down or getting defensive?
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#### 5 Am I Ready to Put Her First?

Marriage means her needs are no longer someone else's concern. They are yours now, as much as your own.

- Do I make decisions with her in mind, or do I still think mostly of myself?
  - Am I ready for her to become the most important relationship in my life, above friends, hobbies, and even, in its proper place, my own family of origin?
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#### 6 What Kind of Husband and Father Do I Want to Be?

The habits you build now are the ones your marriage — and someday your children — will live inside of.

- If I am honest, am I becoming the kind of husband I would want my daughter to marry?
  - What do I want to be different in my home than what I grew up around — and am I actually doing the work to make that true?
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#### 7 Why Do I Want to Marry Her?

Not the wedding. Not the timing. Her — specifically.

- Am I choosing her freely, or am I choosing the idea of being married?
- When I picture hard seasons — sickness, loss, financial strain — can I still see myself choosing her, on purpose, every day?

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# A Prayer for the Man Preparing to Marry

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*"Father, thank You for the woman You have brought into my life. Make me the kind of man who leads with love instead of control, who listens instead of demanding to be heard, and who chooses her honestly, every day, not just on the day I say 'I do.' Heal what I have not yet healed, and give me the courage to be honest before I make this promise. In Jesus' name, amen."*

*"Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up... beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4, 7 — KJV

**Want to go deeper than a page can take you?** Working through this guide alone is a good start — but some things are easier to be honest about with another person in the room. I offer one-on-one Premarital Guidance Sessions, where we walk through these questions and more together, at your pace. Like my life coaching, it's sliding-scale — cost should never be the reason you go into marriage without the support you need.

## Want to Talk It Through?

Written by Frank Wyatt — ordained minister since 1993 and officiant at Dayton Simple Weddings.

Whether you'd like to set up a Premarital Guidance Session, talk any of this through, or you're looking for a simple, meaningful couples-only ceremony, I would love to hear from you.

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*You are free to share this guide with anyone, at no charge. May it bless your marriage.*