

Ten Steps for Marriage Preparation

Congratulations on your recent (or soon to be) engagement. The following are some steps to help you achieve your goal of being sealed to one another in the Holy Temple:

- 1 – Set midnight curfews.
- 2 – Date more publicly and always have plans for something to do when you go out. Don't just hang out or sit around watching T.V.
- 3 – Develop the spiritual and fraternal aspects of your relationship and diminish the physical. Read scriptures together; attend Church activities and firesides; go on walks, go bowling, go skating; talk about future plans, without always resorting to the physical.
- 4 – NEVER allow yourselves to be alone in an apartment or house; NEVER enter the bedroom of your fiancé; NEVER catch yourselves in a prone position together.
- 5 – Pray daily, morning and night, and feast daily on the scriptures. Begin praying together for spiritual protection. Engage in acts of service that help you focus your attention outward. Strengthen your testimony and prepare for the temple sealing.
- 6 – Watch the way you dress. Encourage modesty in each other's dress. This principle will be reinforced by the wearing of the temple garment after you are endowed. Prepare for it now.
- 7 – Be extremely careful of the types of shows, videos, and T.V. programs you watch, either together or separately. Avoid R-rated movies and any PG-13 or PG-rated movies unfit for saintly consumption. Think of yourselves as future parents and don't let yourselves get hooked into watching something you wouldn't want shown in your future home.
- 8 – Learn to communicate frankly and honestly with your fiancé; tell him or her when the warning lights have started to flash for you. Respect your fiancé when he/she says it's time to say "good night" and for one of you to go home – right then! The right kind of person, someone preparing for a temple marriage, will want to cool things down immediately.
- 9 – Return and report to your bishop on a regular basis (at least once every two weeks or more regularly if you wish). Consider these "checkpoint" interviews on the road to a wonderful day in the temple, a day when you can look at each other across the altar and know that you are worthy in every way to be there.
- 10 – Suggested Reading: The first 5 chapters of Moses in the Pearl of Great Price
Boyd K. Packer's "The Holy Temple", (the book or the pamphlet)
January 2006 Ensign, "For Newlyweds & Their Parents"
September 2002 Ensign, "Choosing & Being the Right Spouse"