



Casually Elegant Weddings

individualized service for quality results in Las Vegas

PREPARE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE – NOT JUST THE WEDDING

“Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry”, said Tom Mullen. Elof Nelson echoed, “Success in life is more than finding the right person. *Being* the right person is even more important.”

Most brides (and a few grooms) spend a great deal of time, energy and money on their wedding plans. And of course, a great relationship led to their decision to marry. But their last few premarital months can be surprisingly stressful. These may even wear against future years.

It’s much easier to prepare for a successful wedding than a successful marriage. While a wedding involves one-time tasks that will ultimately be over, a successful marriage involves the proverbial “good times and bad” – and requires couples to continue growing closer year after year.

An important part of preparation is to deal openly and adequately with current issues so they not become future problems. To help keep your love growing, we recommend daily dialogue about your feelings for each other and your life together, and that you give daily compliments to each other.

Every couple has relationship “strengths” and “work areas”. Identifying and understanding these is the long-standing mission of a program called “Prepare/Enrich”. It’s a computer-generated resource (from Life Innovations) that we use. There’s probably a facilitator in your area. If not, you may benefit from working through it with us via Skype. If you’d like to give attention to celebrating your relationship strengths, as well as shoring up some of your work areas, check out [Life Innovations](#). Let us know if you’d like to discuss this or other means. We think you’ll enjoy the exercise.

We also recommend thought-provoking books. We particularly like [Dr. Gary Smalley](#) and recommend starting with “[If Only He Knew](#): A Valuable Guide to Knowing, Understanding, and Loving Your Wife”. A companion book is “[For Better or for Best](#): A Valuable Guide to Knowing, Understanding, and Loving your Husband”. Don’t hesitate to read your partner’s book as well as your own. That way you’ll be prepared to comment on and revise what your partner is hearing about you.



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A lot has been (and continues to be) written about relationship issues. Some writings are so generic that they're cliché, some are so clinical that they're incomprehensible, and all are biased. As you "read between the lines" you'll agree or disagree (funny how that's what happens in marriage too). Of course, though Americans share common traits, particularly within age brackets, we're each wired a bit differently. So you'll have to check for yourself whether what's being written "fits" the two of you. With that in mind, we encourage you to read and discuss good books and articles as part of your preparation for marriage.

Please take all this in the spirit we give it. You may be an extraordinary couple that has covered all the bases and resolved every potential issue. If so, we applaud you. But few of us have completely figured ourselves out, much less our partner. We find ourselves growing, successfully, throughout life and marriage. Premarital counseling is designed preview "coming attractions" and, when life's carnival comes through town, to remind us that we can choose wisely when facing the plethora of barkers along its midway.

Respectfully,
Pastor Ed