

Clergy Recommends Pre-Marital Counseling

By MAXINE ELLIOTT

Regardless of its size, a girl's wedding will remain forever a special event in her mind. In order to make the wedding as perfect as possible, certain customs should be observed.

Of course, the wise couple discusses these with the clergyman when reserving the church. However, a certain familiarity with some of the customs should be a prerequisite before meeting with the pastor.

Generally speaking, the couple will be asked to participate in pre-marital counseling. According to the Rev. James E. Merlin of Eugene's Emerald (American) Baptist Church, counseling "is not a requirement, but I advocate it and, in some instances, practically insist on it." Rev. Merlin said that his view is "probably pretty representative of most Protestant ministers."

Pretty Well Educated

"Usually I meet with the couple for at least one 45-minute session. We'll discuss things such as financial arrangements, employment, family relationships—things like that. . . . Birth control? They're usually pretty well educated on this point," he chuckled.

"Most of all, though, I try to emphasize the spiritual aspects of marriage—that it's an institution ordained by God."

According to Rabbi Louis Neimand of Temple Beth Israel, he tries to work out counseling sessions prior to the wedding.

"They're rather elastic, depending on how much time we have and how much interest the couple shows," he commented.

"We assume they know enough about the economic and physiological side of marriage, but we do discuss the religious value of marriage."

"The subject of birth control sometimes comes up," Rabbi Neimand admitted, "but since Judaism has no specific teachings on the subject, our talks usually center around the couple's attitude towards children and the sex relationship as a spiritual concept."

Sometimes a Necessity

A local Catholic clergyman told the Emerald that "pre-marital counseling is a necessity only when a non-Catholic marries a Catholic."

Counseling involves six one-hour sessions during which time the couple are instructed in their mutual rights and obligations in religion.

"We frequently counsel otherwise," he said, "but this is not ordained by church law."

"Birth control is not as big a topic as you might imagine," he said. "Regarding the sex act, we believe that artificial control frustrates the essential meaning and is against nature."

"You realize," he continued, "that the topic of birth control is

very involved. I'd suggest that couples discuss this very thoroughly with their priest rather than take my word for it."

Concerning marriage of persons with no religious affiliations, reaction was divided.

Rev. Merlin said he would perform the ceremony if the couple had a healthy attitude toward a religious marriage. "Some pastors won't however," he said.

"Theoretically, I suppose," the priest said, "I could marry such a couple. I mean, they have a license and I'm legally able to do it. I doubt, however, that I would, since there are just so many other things to do."

No Disabilities

Rabbi Neimand pointed out that according to Judaism, there would be "no disabilities in performing such a marriage, if at least one of the persons involved is Jewish heritage. You must realize that in our faith you're always a Jew unless you embrace another faith."

Both Rev. Merlin and Rabbi Neimand agreed that they would marry divorced couples in the Church. Rev. Merlin pointed out that all Baptists, regardless of which branch, are free to marry whomever they choose.

"I'm happy to marry such couples in instances where the divorced person shows real repentance for the failure of the marriage, and understanding of the marriage and subsequent divorce," he said.

The Catholic clergyman pointed out that such marriage are legal under church law only under certain circumstances.

"It depends on whether the former bond was a true one," he explained. "This might include civil ceremonies, death of the former spouse following the divorce, proof that the former spouse actually means 'I don't' when he said 'I do,' or that the former spouse had no intention of having children."

"Again, I advise that the couple discuss this pretty thoroughly with their priest."

Advise Against Large Wedding

The three clergymen admitted that they sometimes perform ceremonies within the church when the bride is pregnant.

"They don't usually tell you she's pregnant," Rev. Merlin said, "and sometimes you wish they would."

"I'd marry them, anyway, since I believe marriage would be the best solution for most couples, but I'd advise them against a large wedding."

"Many brides want one, regardless of whether or not they're pregnant, but it's not really right. Aside from the fact that it isn't proper, the large wedding and accompanying publicity often serves to fix the wedding date in people's minds, and later, they may wish that everyone wasn't so sure of the date," he concluded.

Women Face Frustrated Life

From the Daily Aztec, San Diego State College

American colleges are turning out a multitude of educated women who are unprepared to deal with the life of frustration they will face.

An increasingly large number of coeds who find their niche in colleges these days, are pampered and spurred on to achievement during their four years and are given to expect great and stimulating things following their departure from the ivy halls.

Sadly, the young college graduate often finds she must play the dual role of feminine mystique with the men in her life and the aggressive entrepreneur in the profession she has chosen.

Sociological studies show that the vast majority of college graduated women are married within two years after graduation.

Once in the firm bonds of matrimony, the woman finds herself majoring in diapers and detergents. Some try to escape the four walls with outside jobs, but such time consumption is not long tolerated by the husband, who rightly assumes his wife should keep up her part of the bargain by tending the hearth.

This is a heavy price to pay for being taught to think logically and independently.

Hopefully the coed will meet the man who will encourage her to grow intellectually along with him, but for the ones who don't meet the understanding one, how long can they accept this dual role and stifle their educated talent for thinking?

Rent to Cut Costs

Rental stores can provide many different types of furnishings for weddings and receptions that otherwise would have to be purchased.

Besides the usual banquet tables and folding chairs, rental stores usually carry candleabra, flower baskets, punch fountains, punch bowls, cups, serving trays and silverware.

It pays to help cut costs by planning ahead and deciding what can be rented instead of bought.

Men's Sportswear



Photo by Bill Johnson

THESE HAGGER stay pressed bermudas will go far especially when combined with shirt by Holbrook and London Fog jacket in dacron and cotton blend. The waterproof jacket comes in natural, olive and navy. Costs: pants and shirt from \$7, jacket about \$20. Notice the unusual combination of plaid shirts and striped bermudas—it's high style guys.

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