

---

# 10 Ways You Can Begin Preparing for Your Marriage (or any vocation) NOW!

---



- 1. Understand the dignity and importance of your life.** You are so unrepeatable that God wanted YOU to exist for all eternity in Heaven. Not even the stars or mountains are made to last forever like you. Your unique dignity as a son or daughter of God is so great that if someone treats you as less than that, the relationship is not worthy of you. Your life is so important that no one can do your mission for you.
- 2. Learn to LOVE God.** I would have said “pray”, but sometimes we interpret that word to mean “talk to (or at!) God.” Prayer is a relationship of love and deep intimacy with God Himself. It means listening, it means sharing your heart with God, and letting Him be the center of your life.
- 3. Spend some time in silence, self-reflection, and journaling.** To know what you are made for, you need to know yourself. You cannot truly know yourself unless you cut down on the distractions. When you examine your life, and ask “why?” you will learn more about yourself, the good, the bad, and the unique.
- 4. Ask questions.** You don’t have to try and reinvent the wheel! Many people have been where you are right now. They can tell you from experience the things to avoid and give you a better perspective. Ask them about their experience in their vocation! Take advantage of time with people you admire to listen to them.
- 5. Eliminate selfishness.** If you were to take on one of the vocations at this very moment, what in your life would be an obstacle to living your vocation? What would keep you from being a loving spouse/religious/priest? How can you remove that selfishness from your life?
- 6. Find ways of serving your community.** Volunteering is great, but I am talking about the little things, like just refilling your sister’s glass or being the one to take out the trash with nobody asking. If you are consistently attentive to the needs of others, you will develop the habit of loving.
- 7. Date like someone who loves your future spouse.** If you love the person you will one day be married to, don’t pretend you are married to anyone else you are dating.
- 8. When dating, ask “Will this relationship be an obstacle or a help to my future vocation?”** If any relationship is keeping you from becoming the type of person you are supposed to be, you are harming your future vocation. The people around you influence you; what people are impacting the person you become?
- 9. Let go of your fear.** To name a few, the fear that you will never find someone to love you, that your marriage will fail, that the priesthood or religious life will make you unhappy, that people will laugh at you for saving your body for marriage, etc. These will distract you from knowing your dignity, truly loving somebody, and from finding your vocation. Ask God and other people for help in defeating these fears.
- 10. Be a person of your word.** This one might surprise you, but being a person of commitment and trustworthiness will help you truly have a faithful love for your vocation. If you take the little commitments seriously, you will be able to make and keep the big ones.