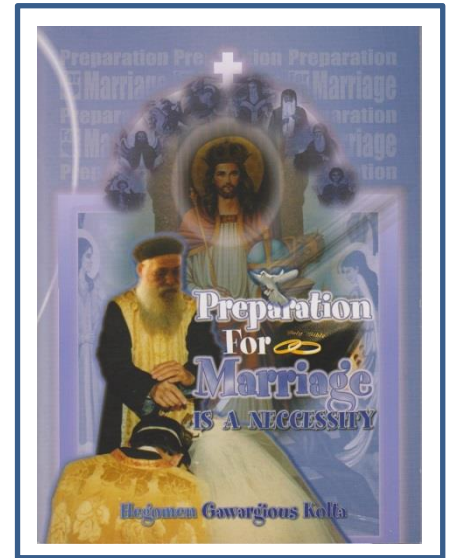


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## Preparation for marriage

Hegumen Gawargious Kolta



### Preface :

I was directed to write this important essay on “Pre-marital programs” , hoping that such programs would be carried out by our dear Coptic orthodox churches to prepare, help and guide our youth and the engaged couples to successful marriage and healthy family life.

### Introduction

#### Coptic Marriage:

Couples get married through the sacrament of holy matrimony.

The church believes that God himself completes this joining of one man and one woman to become one flesh.

The church responsibility in preparing couples for Marriage:

It is vital that the couples get prepared for the important lifelong task of building a successful Christian family.

Preparing for marriage needs a dynamic program designed to help the couples lay the foundation for a strong biblical marriage.

#### The nature of marital problems

Sincere and righteous couples can solve their problems by prayers, and healthy communication with each other.

Christian families can live happy life without serious marriage problems, if the couples are united with a third person, the Lord Jesus Christ, to bless their union, work with them, and give them true love.

#### Major causes of marital problems

Individual difference between the two spouses.

Different in spiritual maturity.

Miscommunication.

Selfishness in Relations.  
 Unrealistic expectations.  
 Interference of parent and relatives.  
 Financial problems.  
 Impure pre-marital life.  
 Unfaithfulness and middle age crisis.  
 Reversed responsibilities.

### The church role in Marriage

The church is the only sincere, honest, and caring body that can protect families from crisis and work for the well-being of the whole society. This great task should begin by preparing her children for successful marriage.

### The contents of the pre-marital program

Seminars:

Learn the different aspects of Christian family life.

Workshops:

Couples discuss certain problems under supervision of qualified leaders.

Questionnaire:

Each one of the couples is asked to answer questions relating to different aspects of his or her life.

Physical and psychological tests:

To show how physically fit the person is for marriage.

Retreats and church activities:

Couples learn about the nature of Christian marriage.

