

# THE UNITED FRONT

*How Couples Parent Together Without Destroying Their Marriage*

## TOOL 5 — Your Parenting Partnership Blueprint

### PART 1 — THE UNITED FRONT ASSESSMENT

Children do not need perfect parents — they need aligned ones. Answer individually, then compare honestly. Mark A (Agree), P (Partial agree), D (Disagree). Your gaps are your starting point, not your verdict.

STATEMENT	SPOUSE 1	SPOUSE 2
We have a shared, agreed-upon parenting philosophy		
We never undermine each other's decisions in front of the children		
We resolve parenting disagreements privately — before they reach the kids		
We present the same rules, the same expectations, and the same consequences		
Neither of us is the "fun parent" while the other carries all authority		
We protect our marriage while raising our children — not the reverse		

Our three biggest areas of disagreement as parenting partners:

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### PART 2 — PARENTING ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Resentment builds when roles are assumed, not agreed upon. Complete this together. Write a name, "Both," or "Discuss."

RESPONSIBILITY	WHO OWNS IT?	NEEDS DISCUSSION?
Morning routine and school preparation		
Homework help and academic oversight		
Discipline and consequence enforcement		
Bedtime routine and nighttime needs		
Spiritual training and faith conversations		
Doctor appointments and health decisions		
Extracurricular scheduling and transport		
Financial decisions related to children		

## PART 3 — THE PARENTING CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

Disagreement between parents is normal. Division is dangerous. This protocol gives you a process for resolving parenting conflicts privately — so your children never become the referees.

STEP	RULE	WHY IT MATTERS
1	<b>Never contradict your spouse's decision in front of the child</b>	It destroys their authority and teaches children to divide and conquer
2	<b>Use the phrase: "Let me talk to your father/mother first"</b>	Buys time, models unity, and prevents reactive decisions
3	<b>Debrief privately within 24 hours — not in the moment</b>	Emotion clouds judgment. Time creates clarity for better decisions
4	<b>State your concern as a question: "Help me understand why..."</b>	Curiosity keeps the conversation open. Accusation shuts it down
5	<b>Agree on a decision and return to the child together</b>	The united return is the most powerful signal of parental partnership
6	<b>If truly stuck — seek counsel before it becomes a pattern</b>	Unresolved parenting conflict is a marriage issue, not just a parenting one

## PART 4 — THE PARENTHOOD TRAP: ARE YOU STILL SPOUSES?

The greatest parenting mistake couples make is becoming so consumed by raising children that they forget they are also partners. A strong marriage is your most powerful parenting tool. Check each item that is currently true.

<b>We have a regular date night or couple time</b>	<b>We protect our bedroom as couple space</b>
<b>We talk about us — not just the children</b>	<b>We make decisions as partners, not co-managers</b>
<b>We show affection in front of the children</b>	<b>We still pursue and pursue each other</b>
<b>We resolve our own conflicts well</b>	<b>Our children know our marriage comes first</b>
<b>We pray or worship together as a couple</b>	<b>We laugh, rest, and enjoy each other still</b>

How many did you check? \_\_\_\_\_ / 10 Score below 7? Your marriage needs as much attention as your parenting.

## PART 5 — PREMARITAL PARENTING CONVERSATION GUIDE

For engaged or newlywed couples — these conversations must happen before children arrive. Disagreements are far easier to resolve before a child is in the room demanding an immediate answer. Mark each conversation as C (Completed), P (Partial), or N (Not yet).

CONVERSATION	KEY QUESTION TO ANSWER	C/P/N
Discipline philosophy	How will we correct our children — and what methods are off limits?	
Spiritual upbringing	What faith framework will shape our children's worldview?	
Roles and responsibilities	Who leads what in the daily parenting of our children?	
Extended family boundaries	How much influence will grandparents and relatives have?	
Schooling and education	Public, private, homeschool — and who decides?	
Screen time and technology	What are our household rules around devices and content?	
Financial provision for children	How will we fund education, activities, and needs fairly?	

## PART 6 — OUR UNITED FRONT COMMITMENTS

The parenting disagreement we will resolve together this week:

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One way we will protect our marriage while raising our children:

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The rule we will enforce together — starting today — without exception:

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## COUPLE'S DECLARATION

**We choose to parent as one. We will disagree privately and stand united publicly. We will protect our marriage while raising our children. We will not let our children divide us — because a divided home serves no one, least of all the children we love.**

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Spouse 1 Signature

Spouse 2 Signature

Date