107 Days! By Michelle Eigemann

Brian Hipp and I had our first official premarital counseling session earlier this week. Before this session, we were given a questionnaire containing 45 questions. We were to answer these questions separately without sharing or discussing our answers. Some sample questions were about characteristics we admire in our future mate and the characteristics we least admire: debt, expectations, and marital roles.

We each filled out our responses and then waited to go over them in counseling. Our answers were so similar that we were asked if we had discussed them.

When Brian and I first began "dating," I was very intentional about asking all those questions. Y'all, I'm 47 years old, and I wasn't messing around. I had no desire to "date" just to "date." I wasn't in need of filling my social calendar, and I didn't want to spend time with someone I wasn't compatible with. I was waiting for my future husband.

Waiting is a verb, and it requires action. Waiting doesn't mean we sit on our couch passively praying for a future spouse. It means we actively begin preparing. I had some past hurts I needed to heal, habits I needed to break, and faulty mindsets I needed to sort out. I knew that until I could work on myself that I wouldn't be any good for someone else. I needed to be willing to look internally and deal with whatever I found there.

My amazing and talented friend [Kris Swiatocho](https://www.facebook.com/swiatocho?__cft__%5B0%5D=AZXP5N240fEaJRQ8FM0nO8mrpznvUlKS8GQOagyGrwJ8vUXNztmV5v_hzylicgWuC2x3XmS5jSN5BAGjMNIbVCPBmQqsjgPj3I5g307AHRVPJAXlL34VCe5TDbqdpZVGwFlLugGMjiFjXIqwlM9cDaK1&__tn__=-%5DK-R) wrote a book with co-author Pastor Dan Houk called Intentional Relationships for Singles, and it's good. I mean real good. It forces you to look inward and increase your level of self-awareness because healing is halted until awareness is established.

I used this book as a guide to asking some of those difficult and uncomfortable questions. Brian and I talked openly and authentically, which is why our answers were so similar. We didn't cheat because we'd only be cheating ourselves. We aren't getting married just to get married. We are getting married to allow God to double our serving capacity, strengthen our kingdom reaching ability, and allow our marriage to always point to Jesus.

Check out the Intentional Relationships FB page below.

[https://www.facebook.com/IntentionalRelationshipSolutions/](https://www.facebook.com/IntentionalRelationshipSolutions/?__cft__%5B0%5D=AZXP5N240fEaJRQ8FM0nO8mrpznvUlKS8GQOagyGrwJ8vUXNztmV5v_hzylicgWuC2x3XmS5jSN5BAGjMNIbVCPBmQqsjgPj3I5g307AHRVPJAXlL34VCe5TDbqdpZVGwFlLugGMjiFjXIqwlM9cDaK1&__tn__=kK-R)

**BIO** – Michelle wears an array of hats on any given day, but her favorite is Daughter of the King. She lives in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, where she works as a Child and Family Therapist. She has been a single mother for 18 years and loves to watch God take your most difficult struggles and transform them into passionate purpose. Today Michelle has joyfully embraced her passion for speaking truth into the lives of others and assisting them in finding and living out their true identity in Christ. She believes that we need to uncover the lies and labels, identity the root, and replace it with God's truth.