

A Marriage Inventory

Applying God's Creation Truths to Your Marriage Today

Before You Begin

God's design for marriage is woven into the very fabric of creation. This inventory walks you and your spouse through twelve foundational truths from Genesis 1–2, paired with discussion questions to help you honestly assess your marriage and grow together in light of those truths.

There are no right or wrong answers — only an invitation to open, prayerful conversation. Before you begin, take time to pray together and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Work through it at whatever pace feels right, one section at a time or all at once.

Each section includes space to write your reflections. You may want to use a pen or pencil and write your responses privately first, then share and discuss together.

Names: _____ & _____

Date: _____

Personal Value and Equality

KEY PASSAGE

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Gen. 1:27).

Women and men are created equally in the image of God. You have value because you are made in the very image of God. Neither the man nor woman is created more in God's image than the other. While sin has corrupted our basic nature, God commands us to view our spouses with respect and love as individuals made in His image.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways in which your spouse makes you feel honored as an individual—one made equally in God's image?

2. What are some ways in which you and your spouse are different? Do you value those differences? How do those differences get in the way of seeing each other as equals?

3. How do you affirm what your spouse does as your marriage partner? In what ways do you fail to honor your spouse as an equal made in God's image?

4. How good are you at listening? Do you dominate conversations with your spouse as if your views are more valuable?

5. Think of someone you greatly respect. Compare how you treat that individual with how you treat your spouse. How do your actions and attitudes measure up?



Shared Authority and Responsibility

KEY PASSAGE

"So that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Gen. 1:26).

God created woman and man in His image for a purpose. Under His overarching rule, they were to rule together over what God has created. Both the husband and wife share in both this responsibility and authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you share responsibilities well in your marriage? How could you do better?

2. What different strengths do you bring as husband and wife? How do these differences equip you better as a couple to do what God has called you to do?

3. How would you describe your mission as a couple? Consider writing a mission statement together.

4. Where do you feel an imbalance of responsibility or effort in your marriage? Where do you or your spouse often feel overburdened?

5. In what areas do you and your spouse need to communicate better about how best to share responsibilities?



The Blessing of Children

KEY PASSAGE

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it'" (Gen. 1:28).

Children are a God-given blessing. While our culture often diminishes parenthood, the Bible ascribes great value to children. Not only are parents blessed by their children, but they also have a tremendous responsibility toward them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you have children, do you view them as a blessing or burden (or both)? How do you need to adjust your attitudes to conform to God's view of children?

2. If you don't have children, do you want to become parents? What are good and godly reasons for wanting or not wanting to have children?

3. How are you affected by cultural influences that sometimes diminish the value of both children and parenthood?

4. How does "oneness" (or the lack of it) in your marriage affect your approach to having and raising children?

5. Have you discussed your approach to parenting? Do you make decisions together after thoughtful and prayerful discussions?



God's Abundant Provision

KEY PASSAGE

"Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food'" (Gen. 1:29).

God has blessed us and our marriages. In addition to establishing a beautiful design for marriage, he provides generously for our daily needs. We are not alone in our marriages. We can't "make" our marriages succeed on our own. We need God in our marriages.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has God provided for you in marriage? Discuss examples of God's abundant provision.

2. Do you thank God for how He provides for you and your marriage? How can you incorporate that into your prayer time?

3. In what specific areas do you need to seek God's provision for your marriage?

4. How is your prayer life as individuals, as a couple, and as a family? How might you improve it?

5. Do you spend time as a couple and as a family reading the Bible together?



Relational Need and Fulfillment

KEY PASSAGE

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him'" (Gen. 2:18).

While God's creation was "very good," it was "not good" for Adam to be alone. A husband and wife form a "oneness" relationship that, more than any other human relationship, can fill your deepest relational needs.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you value your marriage above your other relationships? Discuss specific ways in which you find relational fulfillment in your marriage.

2. What are some of your important human relationships other than marriage? Do you ever treat those relationships as more important than your marriage?

3. How can you show your spouse that your marriage is more important to you than any other human relationship?

4. Besides parenting, do you and your spouse have common interests and activities? Where could it be helpful to develop shared interests?

5. What gives you a strong feeling of "us" in your marriage (as opposed to "me" and "you")?



Honesty, Openness, and Transparency

KEY PASSAGE

"Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame" (Gen. 2:25).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve could be fully open with each other without shame. Shame, fear, and guilt work against God's marriage design. Only Christ can truly take away our shame, fear, and guilt.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do mutual respect and empathy facilitate honesty, openness, and transparency in your marriage? Where do you feel a lack of respect and empathy?

2. When are you too eager to point out areas of weakness or failure in your spouse? How can you communicate acceptance and forgiveness instead of judgment?

3. Are you a person who invites transparency and honesty? What can you do to encourage your spouse to be more open with you?

4. Where do you struggle with sharing openly with your spouse? How can you improve in those areas?

5. What do you feel is the right balance in what to share with your spouse?



A Unique "One Flesh" Relationship

KEY PASSAGE

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

Marriage is the only "one flesh" relationship identified in the Bible. It is not a 50/50 relationship or a temporary arrangement. Instead, marriage is a lifelong "oneness" relationship. Oneness should be the central defining quality of your marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you view marriage differently from other human relationships? What does it mean in practice for your marriage to be a unique "one flesh" relationship?

2. What are some practical expressions of oneness in your relationship? Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 together and discuss how it applies.

3. What is God's role in creating oneness in marriage? How can God be the third strand that keeps your marriage strong?

4. Does God's "one flesh" design mean you must share all the same interests? How can it be healthy to have some different interests within marriage?

5. How can you grow in oneness with your spouse? How will you need to adjust your attitudes and actions?



Marriage As a Lifelong "Oneness" Commitment

KEY PASSAGE

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" (Matt. 19:6).

Because marriage is a "till death do us part" relationship, you need to work through your struggles rather than giving up when marriage is difficult—as it is sure to be at times.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you committed to marriage as a "till death do us part" relationship?

2. Read Matthew 19:3–9 together. What is God's view of divorce? How does it compare with your view?

3. How can you communicate—in both word and deed—that you are committed to your spouse and to your marriage?

4. What do you want to hear from your spouse that would help you feel secure in your marriage?

5. Do you believe that God has the best plan for your marriage? What are some specific benefits of a lifelong oneness relationship?



Marriage as an Exclusive, Intimate Relationship

KEY PASSAGE

"But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit" (1 Cor. 6:17).

God's "oneness" plan for marriage is an exclusive, intimate relationship. While oneness involves more than sex, it clearly means that you should have sex only with your spouse. We should not go outside of our marriages to seek intimacy reserved for marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you experience intimacy in each area of your marriage (emotional, relational, spiritual, physical, etc.)?

2. What positive steps can you take to grow intimacy in different areas of your marriage?

3. How should sexual intimacy build on and foster equality and mutual respect?

4. Why is sexual exclusivity so important to the "oneness" marriage relationship established by God?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 7:3–5 together. What does it mean in practice for a husband and wife to give their bodies to each other?



Sacrificial Love

KEY PASSAGE

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies" (Eph. 5:25, 28).

Christ is our supreme example of sacrificial love. A husband's sacrificial love and servant leadership are critical to correcting competition for control and restoring God's creation design for marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is sacrificial love so important to restoring God's creation design for marriage? How does it address the problem of competition for control?

2. What is the difference between unhealthy rule and servant leadership? How can a husband lead in love without being domineering?

3. What does the right balance look like in your marriage? What does servant leadership look like for you specifically?

4. How does Christ's example show husbands how to love their wives—not only in giving His life, but in daily care and service?

5. What is the relationship between a husband's sacrificial love and a wife's submission? How does one encourage the other?



Submission

KEY PASSAGE

"Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church" (Eph. 5:22–23).

Women and men are made equally in God's image. The Hebrew word for "helper" points to a position of strength, not weakness. Much as sacrificial love is a cure to the husband's unhealthy "rule," so submission is a cure to the wife's unhealthy desire to control her husband.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your reaction to the word "submission"? How does the word make you feel? What is our culture's reaction to it?

2. How does your perception change when you consider that Christ is the supreme example of submission? Was He a weak individual?

3. Why does God view submission as a positive quality—an essential building block for all godly relationships?

4. Wives, why is submission particularly important in marriage? How does it help correct the unhealthy desire to control your husband?

5. How does submission work cooperatively with the instruction that husbands love their wives sacrificially and care for them as their own bodies?



A Glimpse into the Mystery of Our Relationship with God

KEY PASSAGE

"The two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:31–32).

A marriage based on God's good plan provides a glimpse into the mystery of our relationship with God. Of all human relationships, marriage should have the deepest spiritual significance. You should have a measure of awe about your marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does your marriage reflect the grace, mercy, and forgiveness we see in God's relationship with us?

2. How can your marriage help your children and others discover something about their relationship with God?

3. What can your marriage teach you about your relationship with Christ? What do the truths of oneness and exclusivity teach you about Christ?

4. In what specific ways do you prioritize your marriage above all other human relationships?

5. Christ alone (not your spouse) is your Savior. How do you need to be careful not to substitute your spouse for Christ?

Well Done — Keep Going

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor... A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

— Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12

This inventory is not the end — it is the beginning of an ongoing conversation. Return to these questions as your marriage grows and changes. God has a beautiful plan for your marriage, and your faithfulness in seeking it matters.