

Marriage Satisfaction Scale

Directions: On a scale of 1-10, evaluate the current condition of your marriage (1 being bad, and 10 being great).

Today's Date: _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Matthew 7:5 tells us to take the log out of our own eye before looking for the speck in someone else's eye. Please read the following pages that pertain to you. Using the information from those pages, make a list of 5 things you (not your spouse) must do in order to fulfill your God-given responsibilities in your marriage.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 4. _____

- 5. _____

Portrait of a Godly Marriage

A godly marriage is one in which both the husband and the wife seek to die to self and live for Christ daily. Personal agendas are submitted to God's agenda as both spouses seek to be controlled by the Spirit of God rather than by their flesh. Neither partner clings to his or her "rights", but both realize that they are under the authority of God. Their unity is not based on likes and dislikes or other "compatibility" issues, but on the fact that God has joined them together. They seek harmony through "putting on the mind of Christ".

When there is an issue to address, they each first consider where they have been wrong. After they have confessed and repented of their area of responsibility, they prayerfully and lovingly seek to bring their spouse to a right place before God. Both are willing to consider their own sin, repent, and are ready to forgive their spouse.

Their primary goal for each other is that they reflect Christ and His love. This takes precedence above personal agendas for their spouse. They consider it a privilege and responsibility to assist each other in spiritual growth. They evaluate their love for each other based on 1 Corinthians 13 rather than on emotional whims and feelings.

They take time to build and nurture their relationship. The marriage takes priority above all other relationships (with the exception of their relationship to God), including job, kids, parents and friendships. They are loyal and faithful to each other, and do not allow any person to come between them.

They make their physical relationship a priority, are affectionate with each other, and make love frequently.

They worship together, are faithful in church attendance, and read Scripture and pray together regularly. They do not treat their faith as a private matter but share it freely with each other.

See for reference: Genesis 2:18-25; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 5:22-33; First Corinthians 7:1-5; 13:4-8; Colossians 3:12-25; First Peter 3:1-7; Titus 2:1-5 (for women); Titus 2:6-10 (for men); Titus 2:11-15 (for men and women).

Portrait of a Godly Husband

A godly husband loves his wife sacrificially. He seeks diligently to understand her. He lovingly teaches her the truths of God's Word and seeks to live out the truths of Scripture in his own conduct. He is concerned about the spiritual well-being of his wife and prays with her and for her on a regular basis. He does not rule over her. He is the biggest servant in the family and finds more joy in serving than in being served. He follows through on his commitments. He takes seriously his responsibility to lead and shepherd his family knowing that it is to the Lord he must give an account. He listens attentively to his wife so he can grow in his knowledge of her. He realizes she is not "one of the boys" and treats her with gentleness at all times. He places her interests above his own.

He is self-controlled, kind, humble, patient, and not easily angered. He is not ruled by alcohol or other forms of intoxication. He does not indulge ungodly passions, but instead buffets and disciplines his body to bring it under the authority of God and His Word. He is ruled by Christ and places himself completely under His authority. He is not wise in his own eyes but relies on the wisdom of God as revealed in His Word. He does not lean on his own understanding. His decisions and actions flow from his study and meditation on God's Word rather than from his own desires.

He takes great pleasure in his wife's body and makes love to her joyfully, frequently, and unselfishly, considering her needs rather than his own. He is faithful to her. He recognizes that his body also belongs to his wife.

He uses his speech to edify and build up his wife and children. He guards his tongue, using it for blessing rather than cursing. He joyfully and abundantly provides for the financial needs of his family. He praises his wife to others and treats her as a precious treasure. His life reflects the fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5. He seeks to please God, not man.

See for reference: Proverbs 3:5,6; Galatians 5:22, 23; Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:25-33; First Corinthians 7:1-5; 13:1-8; Colossians 3:5-19; First Peter 3:7; First Timothy 3, 5.

Portrait of a Godly Wife

A godly wife is ruled by the Word of God rather than by her emotions, desires, or own ideas about the way things "should be". She walks in close fellowship with the Lord so that she is ruled by the Spirit of God rather than by her own flesh. Her life reflects the fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5.

A godly wife submits herself to the headship of her husband as ordained by God. She recognizes that the most free place she can be is under her husband's leadership. She brings her husband good and not evil all the days of his life. She is industrious and creative, making the most of the family's resources to provide abundantly for the needs of her husband and children. When her husband is in error before the Lord, she seeks to win him over by her gentle and quiet spirit and conduct rather than by nagging, complaining, or other means. She does not grudgingly minister to her husband but does so joyfully and heartily. She plays a central role in training up her children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; she teaches them to obey their father and mother, and by her example, she teaches them to submit to authority.

She realizes her body is not hers alone, but that it also belongs to her husband. She shares it with him in joyful lovemaking on a regular basis.

She looks not only to her own interests but also to the interests of her husband. Her husband has full confidence in her because of her commitment to her relationship to the Lord. Her behavior brings her husband respect. She is a helper to him in many areas, using her own particular gifts and training to benefit the family. She has a gentle and quiet spirit which makes her beautiful in the eyes of God. She uses her speech to build up and encourage her husband in the faith. She uses her speech to encourage her husband rather than tear him down. She is ruled by the fear of the Lord.

See for reference: Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:29-32; 5:22-24, 33; First Corinthians 7:1-5; 13:1-8; Proverbs 31:10-31; Colossians 3:5-18; First Peter 3:1-6; Titus 2:1-5.