

# Measuring Your Marriage

## Introduction:

1. We are studying John 14 at this time, and John 14:21-23 should provoke us to keep all commandments.
2. We live in a wicked time of moral corruption and abominable perversions of love, marriage, and sex.
3. An excellent way to adorn the gospel and defend the faith is to have the best marriages seen anywhere.
4. God made marriage to be one of the most exciting things in life (Gen 2:18; 29:20; Eccl 9:9; the Song).
5. It is deceiving to assume your marriage is okay. Give yourself 1 to 5 stars by five measures from God.

## **GOD'S WORD**

- A. God put in writing in the Bible His plan, roles, rules, wisdom, and judgment of marriage.
- B. Disobeying God in your marriage is like sexual abominations popular today – it is sin.
- C. The Bible regarding marriage is final truth for you (Ps 119:128; Is 8:20; II Ti 3:16-17).
- D. There are many verses for wives (Ge 3:16; Pr 12:4; 31:10-30; Ep 5:22-24; I Pet 3:1-6).
- E. There are many verses for husbands (Pr 5:19; Mat 5:28; Ep 5:25-33; Col 3:19; I Pe 3:7).

## **BIBLE EXAMPLES**

- A. There are good and bad examples in the Bible of husbands and wives for your learning.
- B. Sarah and others are set forth as examples for subjection and reverence (I Peter 3:5-6).
- C. Ahab and Job had very wicked wives, but Hannah and Abigail were wonderful wives.
- D. Song of Solomon is an inspired description of a very loving, romantic, sexual marriage.
- E. There are romances from Isaac to Jacob to Ruth to Esther that can excite and motivate.

## **HOLY BRETHREN**

- A. This measure is very different from brotherly counsel that comes next – this is examples.
- B. A reason for churches is for examples to follow, like Paul and others (Phil 3:17,20-21).
- C. There are good husbands and good wives in every church that others admire or desire.
- D. Your rebellious excuse that they are different temperaments is wicked; they are godly.
- E. Why forfeit, loser? You can do exploits for God and a spouse in a contest with rewards!

## **WISE COUNSELORS**

- A. A benefit and reason for churches is for counsel (Heb 3:12-13; 10:23-25; Titus 2:3-5).
- B. In a multitude of counselors is safety, including emotional marital matters (Prov 11:14).
- C. You need the objectivity of others to look past your bitterness, blindness, habits, etc.
- D. Think pulpit, weddings, men and women meetings, retreats, Proverb commentaries, etc.
- E. Do you use them? Or do you think you can do it your way? Are you a fool or scorner?

## **SPOUSAL EFFECT**

- A. Character and conduct by a spouse may be measured by the *other* spouse's pleasure!
  1. *Compromises* in character and conduct usually have *consequences* in relationships.
  2. True friendship and love serves *others*, especially spouses, for their highest profit.
  3. Friends, honor, popularity are accurate (Pr 11:16; 18:24; 19:7; 22:1,11; Luke 2:52).

4. This measure is painful – ending deceitful, subjective excuses of your heart (Je 17:9).
  5. This measure is not by your feelings – for true love focuses on your spouse, not you.
  6. But you cannot usually measure yourself by asking your spouse, for they may lie; this is especially true of Christians (due to charity) and of wives (due to reverence).
  7. You must consider and evaluate your spouse to determine what they truly think/feel.
  8. You must wait and win their confidence and security to tell you the truth, but such kindness may only further bury their true thoughts to avoid hurting you when kind.
  9. Function, productivity, and survival are not indicative of a life fueled by romance.
  10. Romance lifts a person's energy, enthusiasm, joy, and exuberance like nothing else.
- B. Yes, we can measure your marriage by you, but we want you to think about your spouse.
1. Your outward appearance – weight, fitness, clothing, energy – show us selfishness.
  2. Your outward conduct – PDA, private praise, passionate plans – show us your love.
  3. Your lifestyle (within budget) – dates, trips, pampering, waste – reveal your heart.
- C. Men and women are responders: you can fire up your marriage by investing love in it.
1. A healthy spirit is strong, a wounded one unbearable; how is your spouse (Pr 18:14)?
  2. If a spouse is happy inside, it shows outside (Pr 15:13). Why is your spouse morose?
  3. If your husband is not ravished with your love (Pr 5:19), is it his fault or your fault?
  4. If a wife is hurt, God sees her tears and counts it treachery, if his fault (Mal 2:13).
- D. If your husband is not fully esteemed by others (Pr 31:23), how do you dishonor him?
- E. Does he fully trust you domestically, financially, emotionally, and sexually (Pr 31:11)?
- F. Is your husband often gone physically or emotionally? what are you like (Prov 21:9,19)?
- G. Love – romantic, passionate kind – is priceless (Song 8:7). Yet you seem a poor couple.
- H. Your spouse should know all of you, or you are not friendly, let alone loving (Jn 15:15).
- I. Can your wife bring anything up, or must she fear your reaction and the consequences?
- J. Has your husband been forced to alter his desires due to your opposition for your own?
- K. Romance is wildly energizing and thrilling, so why is a spouse perfunctory and sober?

#### Conclusion:

1. Our marriages should be best for God's glory, adorn church, children, silence world, coming judgment.
2. We have men's and women's meetings and much material for you to identify faults and find remedies.
3. In America, you have the spouse you chose; our religion has wisdom and power; what is your problem?
4. What is your problem? Selfishness? Rebellion? Laziness? Bitterness? Fantasies? Inputs? Habits?
5. The reward of repentance and change is a thrilling life, rebellion is pain now and judgment to come.
6. There are many documents about marriage on our website and not on the website for Bible instruction.

#### For Further Study:

1. Sermon outline ... *Perfect Marriages* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/practical/perfect-marriages/sermon.php>.
2. Sermon outline ... *Role of the Woman* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/role-of-the-woman.pdf>.
3. Sermon outline ... *Role of the Man* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/role-of-the-man.pdf>.
4. Sermon outline ... *The Importance of Marriage* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/marriage-importance.pdf>.
5. Sermon outline ... *Maximizing Your Marriage* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/maximizing-your-marriage-1989.pdf>.
6. Sermon outline ... *God's Rules for Marriage* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/marriage-rules-preached.pdf>.
7. Marriage covenant ... *Example Covenant* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/marriage-covenant.pdf>.
8. PowerPoint slides ... *Young Couples Retreat* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/young-couples-retreat-2012.pdf>.
9. Proverb commentaries ... *Marriage* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/proverbs/topics/marriage.php>.
10. Proverb commentaries ... *Sex* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/proverbs/topics/sex.php>.