

The Abiding Word Online

Biblical Principles for Christian Growth

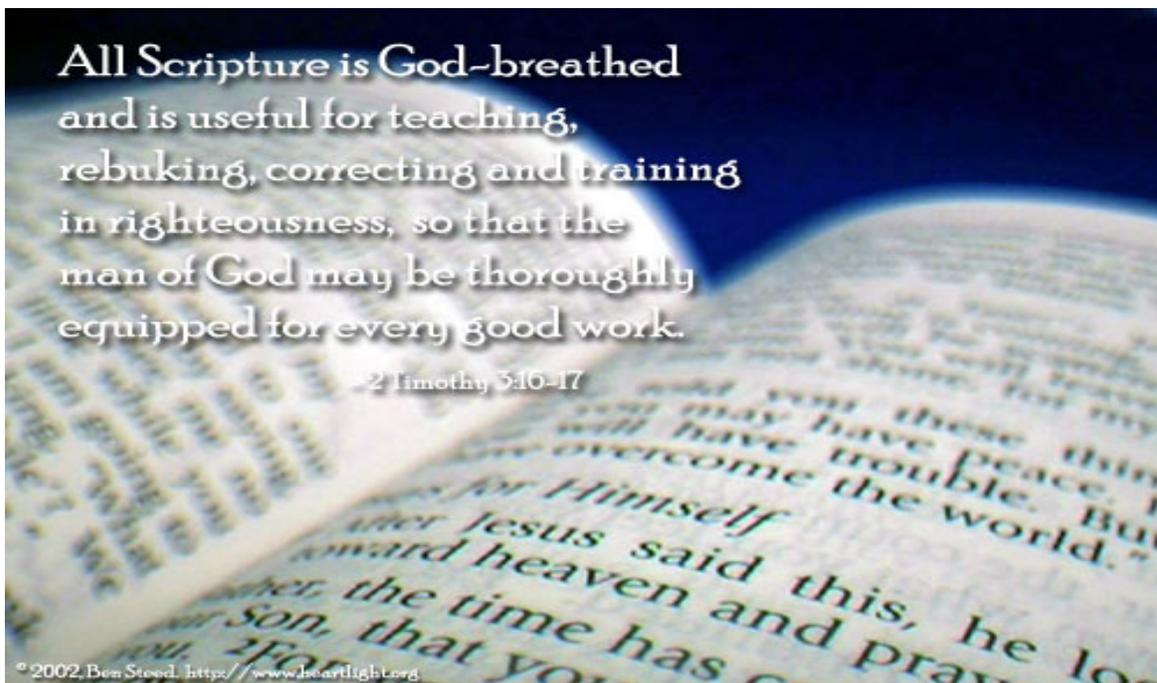
Online Bible Study

The following article is part of a series of study notes, outlines and discussions on Biblical Subjects. The goal is to deal with and express Biblical Principles for Christian Growth.

This material and all study notes may be used freely for personal use and the study of God's word. None of this material may be sold or used for financial gain.

All is presented for the glory of God and His son Jesus Christ.

Edward E. Healy



No. 3 - Rate Your Marriage

Name: _____

This test is designed to evaluate how you are doing in your marriage relationship and to spot problem areas so that you may work on correcting them. The test will be most beneficial if husband and wife both take it and then sit down and discuss their respective answers to each question. Seek to understand clearly the other person's reasons for answering each question as he/she did. If your answers pinpoint some difficulties, focus on how you could resolve the problem. Don't just attack or blame the other person. Remember, God does have a solution to every problem if you will handle your problems and seek to solve them in a biblical way.

Rating Scale: never = 0; seldom = 1; sometimes = 2; frequently = 3; always = 4.

Write the number that describes what you judge to be true of your marriage on the blank preceding each question.

- ____ 1. Does the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord manifest itself in practical ways in your marriage?
- ____ 2. Do you use the Bible to determine your convictions, decisions and practices in life in general and marriage in particular?
- ____ 3. Do you and your spouse study the Bible, pray, worship God and seek to serve God together?
- ____ 4. Do you and your spouse seek to please one another?
- ____ 5. Do you ask for forgiveness when you have done something wrong?
- ____ 6. Do you allow your mate to disagree with you or make a mistake without becoming nasty or punishing him/her?
- ____ 7. Do you focus on the things you appreciate about your mate and express appreciation in tangible ways?
- ____ 8. Do you communicate with one another on a daily basis?
- ____ 9. Do you express your opinions, ideas, plans, aspirations, fears, feelings, likes, dislikes, views, problems, joys, frustrations, annoyances to each other?
- ____ 10. Do you and your mate understand each other when you try to express yourselves?
- ____ 11. Do you do many different things together and enjoy being with each other? Are you involved in common projects?
- ____ 12. Do you show love in many practical and tangible ways?
- ____ 13. Do you still court one another by occasional gifts, unexpected attention, etc.?
- ____ 14. Is your conversation pleasant and friendly?
- ____ 15. Do you pray for one another, support and seek to encourage one another?

- ___ 16. Can you discuss differing viewpoints on values, priorities, religious convictions, politics, etc., without becoming irritated or upset?
- ___ 17. Do you anticipate sexual relations with your partner?
- ___ 18. Are your sexual desires compatible?
- ___ 19. Do you freely discuss your sexual desires with your mate?
- ___ 20. Do you agree about the way money should be spent?
- ___ 21. Do you think your spouse is as concerned about your views about the way money should be spent as he/she is about his/her own?
- ___ 22. Do you agree on how to bring up your children?
- ___ 23. Do your children know that it is foolish to try to play one of you against the other; that if Dad say "no," Mother will agree, etc.?
- ___ 24. Do you refuse to lie to your spouse; are you building your relationship on speaking the truth? Can your spouse put full confidence in whatever you say, knowing that you really mean what you say?
- ___ 25. Do you have a good relationship with your in-laws? Do you appreciate them?
- ___ 26. Do you really respect your spouse?
- ___ 27. Are you glad to introduce your spouse to friends and associates?
- ___ 28. Do you control yourself when you are moody so that you do not disrupt your family and inflict your moodiness on others?
- ___ 29. Do you seek to change your specific habits that may cause discomfort or displeasure to your spouse?
- ___ 30. Do you make your relationship with your spouse a priority matter?
- ___ 31. Do you treat your mate with respect and dignity?
- ___ 32. Do you accept corrective criticisms graciously?
- ___ 33. Do you agree concerning the roles and responsibilities of the husband and wife?
- ___ 34. Are you willing to face, discuss, and look for scriptural solutions to problems without blowing up or attacking the other person or dissolving into tears?
- ___ 35. Do you maintain your own spiritual life through Bible study, prayer, regular church attendance, and fellowship with God's people?

___ Total

A perfect score for this test would be 140, and this, of course, is the ideal toward which every couple should strive, I would suggest that the couple that scores 95-140 probably has a good marriage where two people are experiencing unity and happiness.

Even so, these people must not become complacent, but must continue to work and try to improve. This side of heaven there is always room for improvement. Marriages that score 70-94 reveal the need for improvement.

Couples in this bracket should note the areas where improvement is needed (indicated by this test) and immediately make changes. Marriages that score 69 or below are in need of great improvement. Your marriage is far below the biblical norm, and this explains why you are not experiencing unity or fulfillment in marriage. The two of you need to sit down and discuss your problems and then work out a biblical plan to solve them.

God has a solution in His Word for every problem if you will seek it and apply it. Your marriage can be different. God says it can. The Holy Spirit can help you to make it so. But remember, God often use godly men to assist His people (Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 15:22). Perhaps the two of you should seek counsel from a wise and godly counselor.

¹⁴ Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.
Proverbs 11:14 (KJV)

¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkened unto counsel *is* wise.
Proverbs 12:15 (KJV)

²² Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.
Proverbs 15:22 (KJV)

To make this test accurate and, consequently, of maximum value, you ought to be able to support the way you scored each question with specific examples or reasons from your own experience. If you cannot support your score with evidence, your score is suspect.