

Evaluation: Living in THE Love Story

Note: Each major section of the Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage series will have a brief evaluation tool to help you assess your marital strengths and weaknesses. Complete the evaluation before reading the material, then review the assessment again after completing each section to learn the accuracy of your initial self-assessment.

Instructions: Read the following descriptive statements. Consider how well they describe your experience or perspective on your marriage. If you are engaged, consider how well they describe your courtship experience or your beliefs about what you think your coming marriage should be. Mark the answer that best fits how you respond:

(CD) Completely Disagree, (SD) Somewhat Disagree, (NS) Not Sure, (SA) Somewhat Agree, or (CA) Completely Agree

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| 1. I can enjoy being selfless with the things I enjoy most. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 2. My spouse can enjoy being selfless with the things he/she enjoys most. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 3. I put as much thought and energy into my spouse’s dreams as I do my own. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 4. My spouse puts as much thought and energy into my dreams as their own. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 5. I live as if sacrificing for my marriage is an opportunity instead of a burden. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 6. My spouse lives as if sacrificing for our marriage is an opportunity instead of a burden. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 7. I am able to turn to my spouse for comfort and support during hard times. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 8. My spouse turns to me for comfort and support during hard times. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 9. I see Christ in even the small ways my spouse loves and serves me. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 10. My spouse sees Christ in even the small ways I love and serve them. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 11. I encourage my spouse to express their gifts as much as meet my needs. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 13. My spouse encourages me to express my gifts as much as meet their needs. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 14. I do not struggle with jealousy towards people or activities in my spouse’s life. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 15. My spouse does not struggle with jealousy towards people or activities in my life. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 16. We have a growing sense of unity and common identity in our marriage. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 17. My spouse and I agree on what it means to be faithful to one another in marriage. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 18. Our marriage is energized by our opportunities to do ministry together. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 19. We take time to reflect on God’s goodness to us as a couple. | CD SD NS SA CA |
| 20. Our marriage is a major catalyst in our personal relationships with God. | CD SD NS SA CA |

Key to Survey Scoring: For each set of questions tabulate your score using the following numerical values. The scoring is weighted with the “neutral” NS answer being a negative score, because if you have not defined or pursued important aspects of your marriage relationship it will negatively impact the marriage.

CD	–	Negative 3 points	SA	–	Positive 1 points
SD	–	Negative 2 points	CA	–	Positive 2 points
NS	–	Negative 1 point			

If your total score...

- ...matches or exceeds the total number of questions, then this area of marriage is an area of strength.
- ...is less than the total number of questions, then this area of marriage could use attention or refinement.
- ...is a negative number, then this area of marriage should be given immediate and concentrated attention.

➤ Questions 1-20: (Total: _____ in 20 questions)

This set of questions examines evidences of “centering romance in the gospel narrative.” We tend to be most self-centered and selfish with the things bring us the most joy; this includes the romantic aspects of marriage. Only centering our martial affection on the gospel can protect the joy of romance from our sinful tendencies.

Recommended Resources: *What Did You Expect?* by Paul Tripp (Commitments 5 and 6); *Preparing for Marriage* by Dennis Rainey (Part 2) *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller (Chapters 1-4)