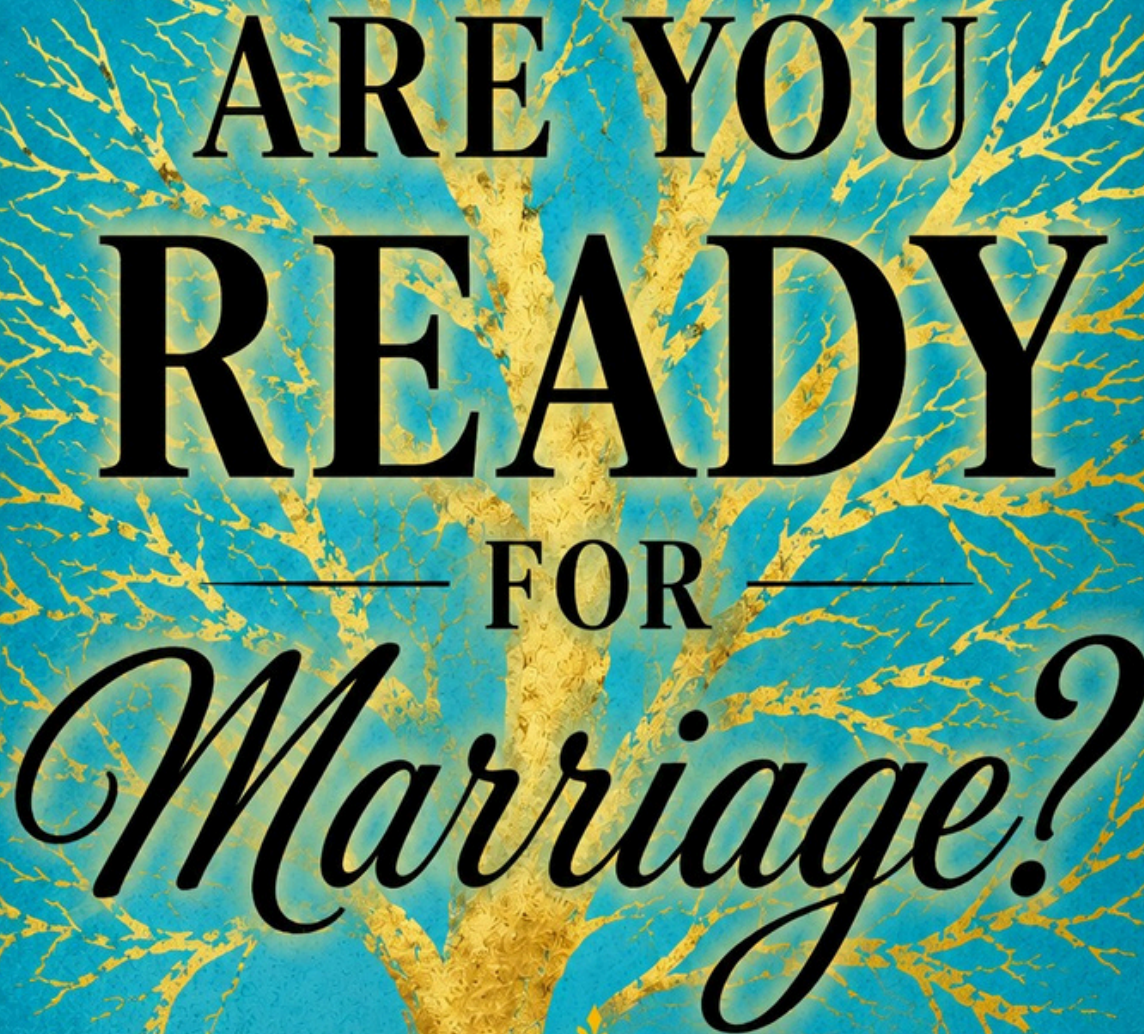


— AN EXCERPT —



**ARE YOU
READY**
— FOR —
Marriage?

A BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL,
SOCIOLOGICAL, AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON
MARRIAGE, RELATIONSHIPS
& COMPATIBILITY

—
BY

BISHOP CLARENCE B. HARRIS
—

A FOUNDATION FOR A GODLY MARRIAGE

The Marriage Compatibility Scriptural Background

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The following three choices can, and will determine, more than any other factors in one's life, whether one will inherit eternal life. All three are connected.

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT ONE WILL MAKE IN THEIR LIFETIME ARE:

1. Whether or not they choose to serve, and obey, the True and Living **GOD**
2. Who will be their **SPOUSE**
3. Who will be their **PASTOR**.

God measures our love for Him, by how we love those whom we can see, rather than our claims of loving Him whom we cannot see (I Jn 4:16-21). There are only **two types of relationships** authorized by God, which involves spiritual union. **The first** is between man and God by the New Birth (Jn 3:5; Rm 8:9-14). **The second** is between husbands and wives (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5,6), not their children, or any other family relationship. When the marriage covenant is transgressed through adultery, there is an unauthorized sexual union with the harlot (I Cor 6:15,16). **The final** is one's Pastor, or ambassador of Christ. If the blind lead the blind, they shall all fall into the ditch (Mt 15:8,9,15; 23:1-39; Jer 23:1-40).

The family relationship of **husband and wife was God's original design** to illustrate a future prophetic relationship, which was established in the mind of God from the foundation of the world, to have **His own WIFE**, an eternal Kingdom Ecclesia. God's redemptive work towards mankind represented His special relationship and covenant promise to redeem the seed of Adam and Eve. This relationship was excluded from the angels and is only given to humans. It would be through this **special relationship** with man that the God of the universe would demonstrate and exemplify in plain view to the celestial beings (angels), a living definition of LOVE. How? God so loved the world (Adam and his descendants) that He came Himself (Jn 1:10-12) and purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The hosts of heaven looked on in amazement, awe, and wonder when they beheld the suffering of Christ on the cross and the price, He paid to redeem mankind. The Key to connecting with God, and with man, is to obey His word and be led by His Spirit. This is our first, and foremost relationship, for destiny and purpose.

RELATIONSHIPS: Are You loveable? Have you connected with God, your Savior? What is your personality type? Do you have friends or acquaintances? Are you friendly? Are your friends on social media, or a real person? Are you an extravert, or an introvert? Are you an only child? What was your birth order? Are you a leader, or a follower? Do you have initiative or are you a procrastinator? Do you keep

your home clean, or are you filthy? How do you handle conflict? Can you cook a complete meal? Do you know how to balance a checkbook or maintain a budget? Do you know how to take care of a baby? If you were a member of the opposite sex, would you marry yourself? What was your highest level of school completion? Do you have a prayer life? Do you know how to study the Bible? Do you know and understand church and biblical history? Are you currently involved in a local ministry?

Questions of psychological and mental imprinting from one's "Family of Orientation": Were your parents married; and if so, for how long? Were your parents divorced? Were you raised by a single parent? If raised by two parents, how did they handle conflicts? Do any of your siblings have multiple fathers? Were you adopted? Were your parents abusive, verbally, physically, or neglected? What was the religious background of your parents? Were they committed to their faith? Are you a member of a blended family? Did you have many sibling rivalries growing up? How did members of your family show affections towards one another? How is your current relationship with your parent(s)? How close are you with your siblings today? Do you have a good extended family network consisting of cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents to rely on?

Choosing a Spouse:

There should be a high standard for a righteous man to select a great prize, his precious bride. This section will examine Old Testament and New Testament guidelines for selecting a chaste and glorious **bride** for the man of God and a righteous **groom** for the virtuous woman.

Prov 18:22 The scriptures declare that "He that findeth a wife [a precious Jewel] findeth a good thing."

It was never God's intent that man or woman should be alone, isolated, or lonely. We are social beings created by God from birth, needing one's mother and father's touch, their hugs, and verbal affirmations to THRIVE and SURVIVE. Even before the individual as a babe, could understand consciousness. However, if these elements are void of the child's developmental experience it will produce a Feral child.

A FERAL CHILD is one who had no socialization with their parents (no touch, vocal, or environmental stimulation or interactions while developing. Their prolonged deprivation the first two years of birth severely stunts cognitive, emotional, and linguistic development, often permanently impairing their ability to speak or adapt to human society. These children's behaviors are like those of wild animals.

This is why God created the husband, wife, family and the greater community, giving all the COMMAND to love one another. When it comes to the church, He created **His body to take care of the needs** of all its members; however, this necessitates that the kingdom church functions as a body, a living and organic organism, with each member supplying the needs of one another. When members of the body fail to do their part, disconnected, or function as institutional denominational churches, then dams, and walls of separation occur. These **barriers prohibit the interconnectivity**, the love from flowing, and the spirit of God from uniting its members as a body; consequently, inhibiting suitable marriage partners from connecting with one another. God set the solitary in families. He loves the widow and makes provisions for the fatherless. In the Law, God took care of the widow and the fatherless through the Levitical priesthood and in the New Testament the responsibility was given to the Deacons (Acts 6:1-7). All body parts of Christ are significant (I Cor 12:12-31). Therefore, single women and men should not be neglected.

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Unfortunately, for the Biblical Christian who loves the Lord, they are forced to find love, friendship, and body ministry in a **jungle** of competing religious sects, a plethora of carnal self-serving religious doctrines, and self-centered individuals divided by denominational tribes (45,000) ... rather than One body, One Lord, and One Head, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since most American churches are **female dominate**, especially in minority communities' **pastors often cater to their female audiences**, while men for many reasons, remain outside the walls of institutional churches. This pattern created **dysfunction in the family**, in the church, and can destroy marriages. Unless institutional Church reach out to men, leaving their pulpits, their good will be for naught. What do we have, churches filled with women, and women competing for the few available men. Some women will out of desperation or compromise marry outside of their faith, creating more dysfunction and in some cases commit **spiritual Russian Roulette**.

How do churches destroy marriages? If the woman is faithful to the local church, and her husband is at home involved in carnal activities, an unrealized consequence, is that the wife's now has a second husband, her pastor, who leads and guides her spiritually. **This was never God's intent** for the family. Elders **need to leave the pulpit**, and with their wives, visit the homes of their congregants to minister to their husbands. It was never God's intent to have denominations (I Cor 1:10) that divide and segregate His body parts. The **Nicolaitan Priesthood** which Christ hates, must **FEED God's people, and not Feed off of them** (Zech 11:3-6; Rev 2:6,15).

Other impediments to the body ministry of Christ are family run churches, church corporations and CEO executives, and matriarchal religious institutions pimped and exploited by men. In these religious venues individuals serve as legal fiction entities, and business executives according to their own secular organizational models. Unfortunately, these individuals never know or do the will of God; rather, they subject themselves to the traditions of men and disobey the divine order of Jesus Christ (Eph 4:11). To the contrary, the Bride of Christ is compared to the husband-and-wife relationship, with all abiding in divine and biblical order (Eph 5:22-33). When men in church leadership rebel against the Lord, He invokes a curse by raising **women and children** to RULE over them, and have their children OPPRESS their parents (Isa 3:1-5,12). By understanding and accurately accessing the current marital social environment of America and its churches, it is **necessary to develop strategies and establish systems**, to connect those with the heart towards our Heavenly Father, to do His will, pursuant to MARRIAGE. The male psyche is geared more for teaching rather than the emotions of preaching. **Teach the men** how to fish, how to lead their families, and they will fix the problems of the church.

MARTIAL PRELUDE FOR PREMARTIAL COUNSELING

A Father to His Daughter ... Out Pouring of Wisdom

The partner selection, and consent to the marriage process, can be either a blessing, or a curse, depending on who one chooses to be their spouse. This applies to both males and females. The **consequence for the Christian woman is graver** than any other group, because she is choosing the man that she will have to according to scripture submit too and be her spiritual head (I Cor 11:1-7). Even though individuals may have the liberty to choose and marry whomsoever they wish, we know that all things may be lawful, but

all things are not always expedient. **Wisdom is the principle thing.** In retrospect, through another analogy, even though one may have the liberty to drink, if he aspires towards greatness or excellence in the Lord's kingdom, he would be foolish to do so. Those who choose to drink, smoke, and use drugs are conducts for men of low degree (Prov 31:1-9) for individuals which character defects and dependency issues. Their **lust or addiction** can also lead to health issues and a shorter life expectancy. The choices that one makes daily will determine their long-term successes, or failures in everything they do.

Whether one is a male, or female, the partner that one selects for marriage will become an **inseparable unit in the eyes of God** (no divorce allowed in Christ). According to the scriptures, the two have become one flesh. If they are Christians, and being thus united by the Spirit of Christ, they are united as one flesh and jointly connected by Christ through the spirit (Baptism of the Holy Ghost, Mt 3:11,12), as **one flesh** in the marriage covenant (I Cor 6:17, Mt 19:15). **For the Christian couple**, "*What God has joined together let no man put asunder*" (Mt 10:9). As stated earlier, one's relationship with one's spouse will be a major determining factor as to whether either will go to heaven, or hell. God will **measure one's love** for Him in **direct proportion** to their love for their spouse. This relationship will **qualify or disqualify** one from being an elder in the house of God (Titus 1:5-9; I Tim 3:1-13) and it will also determine the type of spirits, blessings, or generational curses one's children may have. A DOUBLE WAMMY! Therefore, one should be **methodical and very selective** in choosing a spouse, being "*as wise as serpents, but as harmless as doves*" (Mt 10:16).

It is extremely CRITICALLY for the woman to realize that she is selecting more than a husband when she marries. In the biblical model, **she is also choosing her spiritual head**, the one that will be **the priest, teacher, and pastor of their home**. If she chooses him, she will have no other option than to obey him in the Lord, as her head. He is also commanded to be in subjection to divine authority of other men in the 7-Fold Ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Evangelist, Pastor, Bishop, Deacon). If he is not spiritual, or does not seek spiritual things, then he has no accountability for his behavior, or for the decisions that he will make for the family. God knew from the foundation of the world who we would marry, but it is still the individual's choice. He also knows if one will never marry or become a widow. Once married, the couple must live together and become "One" in Christ. God does have a will for every person; therefore, we should seek him early in life to avoid tragic mistakes in our selection process.

One should avoid **Dead End Relationships** with individuals that they know from the beginning will not work out, due to scriptural and behavioral incompatibilities. Dead end relationships mean they go nowhere, and once on that path, they must eventually turn around at the dead end of the street and find their way back to the main road of life, to find qualified or desired candidates. Do not waste your time, or the time of others, regardless of how convenient it may appear. One thing you can never regain, or recapture, is time. The longer one is on a road to nowhere, the more damage and bruised heart issues may occur.

It takes more than love to make a successful marriage...it takes commitment, willful consent, patience, forgiveness, resisting pride, and the honoring of one's vows to fulfill one's pledge until one's partner dies. According to Scripture, **LOVE IS A CHOICE OF THE WILL ... NOT AN EMOTION**, which is often declared by the children of the world. It is a choice explicitly given by commandment, implying a choice. Often in relationships there will be conflicts, and when one does not feel like loving or giving themselves sexually to their spouse (I Cor 7:3-5). Submitting when you do not want to for the male or the female is a heart test, and flesh examination. Being in the category of a choice of their will to submit it is also an

opportunity to overcome their flesh. If love was an emotion, it would be very unstable, because emotions fluctuate, are uncontrollably, unpredictable, and are not trustworthy.

God's love is liberating. However, it can only be manifested through Him. God's **love is a choice of His will towards us**, while we were yet sinners (Rm 5:8). One can choose to love, or they can choose to hate (anyone at any time). It is their choice; however, one without the Spirit of Christ is incapable of godly love, because it is God's nature, and **He has a monopoly on Love**. His love is based on His holiness, sacrifice, and His capacity to forgive without measure. Therefore, one should not be blind, intoxicated with lust, or infatuations, mistaking these for love when they choose their spouse. **The love of God is NOT** manipulative, controlling, or possessive. He allows everyone to freely give of themselves and reciprocate His love willingly.

If a Christian male or female marries the opposite sex for **all the wrong reasons** (worldly lusts and thoughts), they should not cry later after discovering their folly, or claim that they made a mistake, and after the fact, want to get a divorce. One must go into the relationship of marriage **"with both eyes open."** Christian women are not to be like the silly women that the Apostle Paul spoke of that were foolish, latent with sin, and captured by diverse lusts (II Tim 3:6). These women were easily beguiled and led by their carnal impulses, rather than God's word. Now is the **time to be sober, wise**, and choose a wise godly partner **"with both eyes open."** Not like **Sapphira**, who obeyed the voice of her husband and God struck her dead (Acts 5:8-11); or as with **Adam** who listened to and obeyed the voice of His wife, and he received a body subjected to death; nor like **Solomon**, who obeyed the voices of his many wives, which consequently brought his kingdom to shambles, creating the divided house of Israel.

The wise and prudent will follow strict scriptural guidelines, exercise spiritual discernment, and investigate their potential mate. One must be willing to trust, but also to verify the claims stated by the one that is pursuing them. **Here is wisdom:** one must do their **vetting and due diligence** before marriage. Social media is a good place to start. If there are any serious concerns about the integrity of the person, or any red flags alerts that pop up, one can always do a background check on the individual for a nominal fee. Also, observe how the individual interacts with their parents and siblings to get a realistic account of their true behavior, without false pretense. How does the individual respond to their parents? Those in authority will give one an idea of how the individual governs themselves under authority.

One should not make decisions based on desperation, frustration, loneliness, moral compromise, or being anxious to get married. Putting unnecessary pressure on themselves, believing that they are on a short fuse, and short time constraints to marry an example would be the mindset of **getting the cart before the horse**, "I must get married ASAP to have a baby before I get too old". If in a rush one later discovers that their spouse was on drugs, tended to be violent, is a compulsive liar, or abusive person, they may separate. She may have had her baby, but no father. If they were in Christ there are few scriptural grounds for two spirit-filled, equally yoked together in Christ individuals to divorce. Yes, just because a person is in Christ it does not mean he or she is person of good character, mature, or bare that they bare the fruit of the Spirit.

In Christ's kingdom, **there are vessels unto honor and vessels unto dishonor**. There are **tares** and there is **wheat** (II Tim 2:18-20; Mt 13:25-30). Having spiritual and reflective support groups helps to solidify possible candidates, and avoids possible oversight, and poor judgement mistakes. Seeking spiritual help and deliverance for the salvation of the soul, with **connectivity and accountability** to the body of Christ, is the best option for any marriage.

When there are legitimate grounds for divorce such as adultery, and unrepented violence, it is the victim in the relationship that has the authority to forgive and seek help for their spouse, or terminate the relationship, leaving the offending partner in a state of perpetual inability to marry (I Cor 7:1-18). Again, it is **not God's fault** if one chooses **not to make a wise choice**, if one is deceived, or willfully disobeys the word of God and marries an anti-Christ.

Fantasizing women get all excited about their imagined dream wedding, contemplated in their minds, while perhaps forgetting in their much planning, who they are marrying. They plan the wedding **without making plans for their marriage foundation**. **A minimum of ten hours of pre-marital counseling is needed with a skilled pastor**, or elder, one year to six months before the actual wedding takes place, to build a solid foundation for a life-long relationship. This also gives them time to work through and develop successful strategies for potential marital conflicts. For the sake of the Christian woman, I will restate, that **she is the most vulnerable** person in the marriage relationship. The Female Christian has much to gain from a wholesome godly relationship with her husband. However, making unwise choices for a partner puts her in a **vulnerable position**. The Christian women should ask herself, is she willing to submit herself to this person's spiritual headship and leadership.

Heathen women will generally not follow biblical principles and mandates of divine headship and order ordained by God, when it is not convenient. The man that the Christian woman chooses to be her spouse will be the natural and spiritual head of their family. If he changes for the worse, rather than for the better, or if he is indifferent to spiritual things, or will not pray or go to church prior to marriage, there is very little recourse for her unwise decisions to marry anyway. If he is not willing to peruse spiritual things prior to marriage, there is no guarantee that he will afterwards. Prepare for the worse and hope for the best.

A person's selection of a mate **also reveals volumes about the character** of both individuals. If a man or woman believes that they **can change their spouse after marriage** to be what they desire them to be, they will soon discover that their manipulative plot will backfire on them. If one's spouse commits adultery (fornication, acquire an addiction to pornography, visits prostitutes, deviant sexual behaviors with others), the scriptures clearly address this issue; however, such sins are still not a mandate for divorce... just an option. However, they must forgive the person. The scriptures state that the offending partner **cannot remarry**, if he or she is divorced for infidelity (Mt 5:32; 19:9). If the adulteress or whoremonger husband does remarry, they enjoin their future spouse also into their perpetual sin of adultery.

A Biblical, historical, sociological and psychological diagnosis of Marriage in Western Culture.

The concept of a **virgin wife** and **virgin husband** are contrary to the narcissistic, over sexed modern world's thinking, with children becoming sexually active in some cases as early as elementary school. However, virginity is a holy and righteous state in the sight of God. Instead, the contemporary world advocates **Satan's lie** that one should "*try out*" or live with ("**shacking**") their potential partner and be sexually involved prior to marriage to *discover* if they are compatible. Unfortunately, after they have experienced many partners, and if they should be married in the future, they will have a greater probability of being dissatisfied by one monogamous partner. This can lead to infidelity and lustful sexual perversion, pornography, and many sexual addictions if these habits, behaviors, and demonic tendencies are not

addressed before marriage. If one was **sexually violated as a child**, it could lead to a range of sexual responses to abhorring intercourse, sexual addictions, or depending on the age and gender of the assailant, homosexual or effeminate tendencies. These issues may be unresolved as internal conflicts within the individual and he or she may need prayer and deliverance prior to marriage to heal and resolve their childhood trauma(s); especially, if these acts against them were concealed and never told to anyone.

Throughout human history and all over the world **social norms** and methods for **courtship** to preserve virginity; the family, and cultural legacy are found through customs of preparation for marriage. Hence, up until the 1950's in the US, **Courtship** was the norm for preparation for marriage. During 1960's "**Recreational Sex**" the new norm of "**Dating**" created a revolutionary Sexual Movement and anti-biblical environment in culture, through the media, music, and educational institutions. The consequences of recreational sex is abortion, eugenics, and STD's. Collectively, these cultural transformers promoted the rugged individual, narcissistic aspirations, feminism, lustful desires enhanced by drugs, sex and exotic music, which eventually led to rebellion against the **NUCLEAR family** (A husband and a wife). This new disconnect from millenniums of global family norms, cultural morals, personal protection, social accountability, and the curtailing of deviant behavior was replaced by experimentation and so-called "**Sexual Emancipation.**" These tendencies accelerated with young men and women leaving their homes at an early age to attend college with the mobility given to them by the **automobile**. **This movement was** enhanced by the breakdown of the nuclear family, poverty, occultism, anarchy, and increasing fatherless homes.

In **America's African American history**, the element of dysfunctional families stemming from slavery, genocide, lynchings, government welfare dependency programs, segregation, illiteracy, economic deprivation, crime infestation and mass incarceration, eugenics (abortion and LBGTQ), Western feminism against divine order, and anti-Christ political agendas and policies conveyed from the pulpit. The net results is the destruction of the Black Nuclear Family, and its' stead substitute it with single parent units.

Many may need to be delivered from sexual deviance and spirits of lust, unclean spirits, perversions, fetishes, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, bisexuality, lesbian and many others which should be dealt with before marriage. According to the world rebellious strategy of rebellion to God's word, there would be nothing wrong, unholy with having an active sexual life prior to marriage. What they fail to understand about spiritual laws is the fact that sexual intercourse with one's spouse before marriage dramatically increases the divorce rate, and can be an erosion of future trust, and can foster insecure jealousy with their partner during the marriage itself. Premarital sex is the current norm (even amongst many so called "Christians") in Western European and American culture. It is also the catalyst of many of the current social, sexual, and cultural ills associated with gender warfare.

In the Old Testament, if a male violated or went into a woman sexually, she automatically became his wife... the consequence of fornication (premarital sex) under the Law of Moses, was death, and the same for adultery. **God knows the human heart** (Jer 17:9,10), and He also knows the pitfalls and effective deceptive lures that Satan has deployed on the feeble-minded rebellious children of Adam and Eve (Jn 10:10). Apparently, **men do not understand to wiles of the devil** and his methods of seduction. The rebellious practices of men have caused the divorce rate to skyrocket. Since the birth of the 1960's Sexual Revolution, America and Europe (divorce) have reaped a society of matriarchal single families, Teen Pregnancies, lesbianism, homosexuality, effeminate men, same-sex marriages, abortions on demand, psychotic children (emotion, suicidal, narcissic) and an increasingly violent population.

Yes, Jesus Christ is the **God of a second chance** for individuals who may have had a terrible beginning in life; however, the second chance does not necessarily remove the baggage that came from the experiences associated with their sins: such as addictions, psychological problems, hatred of the opposite sex, poverty, or having children out of wedlock. The wisdom given by YHWH in the Law is repeated by the Apostle Paul (with revelation from the Holy Ghost) with greater clarification regarding the selection of a bride or groom written to the Corinthian Church. Simply stated, that **are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers**.

II Cor 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

II Cor 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

II Cor 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

II Cor 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you...

We have seen the **strict separation guidelines** established under the Law of Moses, pertaining to marriage. These guidelines were universally applied to the church of Jesus Christ as well. He is the same God of both covenants, and He strictly commanded that the Jews were not to marry, or co-mingle with heathen women to be polluted, and defiled by them. He also commanded that they remain sanctified and not seduced unto spiritual harlotry by unclean Gentile women, and their pagan gods. In II Cor 6:14, the Apostle Paul gives the same commandment to the church. However, over the past two thousand years the church has become an infestation of pagan rites and heathen rituals with very little resemblance to the First Century Apostolic Church. With over 45,000 Christian denominational and doctrinal sects in the world, each claiming to be married to a Christian can be a complicated, confusing, and outright deadly, if one is not careful. Therefore, if one is getting married and desires to be equally yoked, **one must know the doctrine of Christ and** understand biblical apostolic authority.

Amo_3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

It would be a nightmare to marry someone, and the next morning wake up and discover that they have married a devil. The greatest deception in the church world today concerning marriage and being **unequally yoked**, has been brought on by the seductive and **lying Ecumenical Movement**, of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. One's understanding of the doctrine of salvation is critical, and it must be biblically sound, because their **life**, their **walk** with Christ, and their **soul** will be at stake. If one's **doctrine concerning salvation**, the new birth, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost is in error, it could cause one to marry an anti-Christ, being deceived, believing that they are a Christian. Every teaching, philosophy, assumption, and idea in the Bible is classified as doctrine, whether it is the concept of a God, sin, a need for salvation, faith, grace, or eternal judgment. **Doctrine and Truth are indivisible ...** They that worship Him **MUST** worship Him in spirit and in Truth (Jn 4:23,24). In the Bible everything is doctrine, and doctrine is everything in knowing God (I Tim 4:1,16).

On the other hand, ecumenicalism, as propagated by Roman Catholics, the Orthodox Church, Protestants and Trinitarian Pentecostal (Charismatic) is the attempt to unite and amalgamate their cultural heretical doctrines to form a **one world religious system**. All Western European churches, to preserve their cultural 45,00 religious versions called **Christianity**, reject apostolic doctrine and biblical authority; thus, teaching that salvation is void of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Even though their doctrines are not found in scripture, their popular teaching that one simply becomes a Christian by believing and confessing their faith in Christ, **puts every marriage at RISK**, and deceives the simple. If one partner has received the spirit of Christ the Bible Way, and the other has not, they are spiritually UNEQUALLY yoked, even though they both may believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believing in Christ does not make one a Christian, not even devils (Jm 2:19).

If an individual's parents, or themselves have been a member of the **Freemasons**, Eastern Star, fraternities or sororities they must renounce their affiliations, their chapter and the Greek and Babylonian deities they knowingly or unknowingly pledged to serve (Acts 19:13-20). Prayer for deliverance to revoke and renounce all contracts, and oaths with the demonic realm, its idolatrous practices, and repentance for their participation in occultic sins (Ex 20:3,4).

Without the Spirit of Christ, the individual is none of His (Rm 8:9); hence, not born again. Having not the spirit, but heresy for doctrine believing they do, and possessing a carnal mind, the alleged Christian male or female may seem perplexed as to why their partner behaves in the manner in which they do. With or without the spirit, if one's mind is not born again (I Pet 1:23), their carnal mind can never do, or know by revelation, the will of God for their lives (Rm 8:5,6). If one has not received the two-baptism found throughout scripture that equates to being born again (Jn 3:5) they are **not in the New Testament Covenant**. The Two foundational doctrines of baptism of the biblical Christian faith is **Water and Spirit Baptisms**, identified and found in the following verses (Heb 6:1,2; Acts 2:38; 10:44-48; 19:1-7) .We serve a supernatural God, who gives supernatural gifts according to His will to all who are baptized by His spirit, empowered to walk in His Spirit, and exercise their authority over devils (Rm 8:14).

The carnal, worldly, antichrist churches of men **reject the supernatural** and the **King of the Kingdom Church**, Jesus the Christ. In the Bible when one received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, they simultaneously **received Christ with His Power** (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 10:44-48; 19:1-7). Unfortunately, many have a very broad spectrum of beliefs, claiming that this supernatural experience is of the devil, that it ceased with the First Century Church, or for some Pentecostals is an experience after "salvation." They have a form of godliness but deny the Power there of (II Tim 3:5). Collectively with their many tenants of Babylonian doctrinal beliefs, they represent the children of the harlot, Mystery Babylon found in Rev 17:5-7. Therefore, **every man or woman that desires to be married, must understand doctrine**, if they want eternal life, and have a holy marriage empowered by the Jesus Christ, to be quickened (I Cor 15:45-54; Jn 5:21,25-30) to become His wife at the rapture.

It is very difficult today for a woman to find a godly man, who has the Spirit of God, fathered by a godly man, and who is walking in sound doctrine to be her spiritual head. If one has never received the baptism of the Holy Ghost both individuals most reject their religious traditions and receive the Holy Ghost according to the scriptures with the evidence of speaking in unlearned languages. Biblically, **they are not in Christ, the church, or His kingdom** as they suppose (Jn 3:5; Acts 2:38). Therefore, under the Protestant, Roman Catholic, and some Pentecostal doctrines they can be religious, but never a true spiritual priest of the home, of which Christ is supposed to be his head. Unfortunately, many men and women are

finding these facts to be true, **tragically by the way divorce**. They are **discovering after marriage** that their spouses need deliverance from devils, sexual perverseness, controlling and abusive spirits and they have not the spirit of Christ.

Whenever, a spirit filled Christian commits adultery or is involved in any abominable or ungodly act, they grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus, who dwells within them as the Holy Ghost, is thrust into their lustful wicked acts with them. Also, when a true Christian marries an unbeliever, or unknowingly a false Christian, they have a spiritually divided house. Jesus and Satan represent two opposing kingdoms. **Light and darkness are not compatible** and in the marriage relationship, the two opposites will remain in a consistent state of spiritual domestic warfare, martial incompatibility, and conflict. Also, those who are carnally minded and walk in the flesh will eventually oppose those who walk in the spirit (Rm 8:3-6), because they are incapable of pleasing God. **This spiritual warfare, within and without**, by the couple will produce two frustrated and dissatisfied partners, resulting in very little peace, isolation, discontent, and lack of martial fulfillment in their home.

If the Christian gives in, compromises, and abandon their faith for the sake of peace at home they forfeit their salvation. If the unbelieving spouse comes in covenant with Christ, then the chances of both partners being saved in the end is much greater. Therefore, as was in the Old Testament concerning the Jews and the unclean Gentiles, so is it in the New Testament saints with those who have the Spirit of Christ, and those who do not. One should not play **Marital Russian Reulet** by marrying an unbeliever. This outside of the Lord explicit commandment. Their naive, hope that their situation is different, and that they are the exception to the rule, is no excuse to disobey God's commandments. COEXISTANCE is not living an abundant life.

What is fornication? Fornication is any form of **sexual activity before or outside of marriage** and it includes every deviant sexual behavior contemplated by men or demons: adultery, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality (all unnatural affections), prostitution, pornography (fantasy), uncleanness – masturbation, incest, and orgies to name a few (Gal 5:19; II Tim 3:1-3, Gen 19:1-29; Judges 19:22-30; Lev 18:6-30; 20:10-23).

If one was to search the Old Testament, he would not find the word fornication as a premarital sexual expression. The reason being, if one committed premarital sex, the man that violates a woman's sexually would be considered her husband. If the female's family protested or considered it a violation of her, or their family's honor, he would be killed by members of her family (Gen 34). Under the Law, the sexual act was the consummation of the relationship of marriage. It was not created for **recreational sex**, sports, or the fulfillment of narcissistic deviant pleasures as advocated today. The God of Israel judged sexual impurity very harshly, that's why adulterers, and adulteresses were stoned to death. God was then, and is still today, preserving His first human institution, called the family through marriage. The Apostle Paul echoes the same sentiment.

I Cor 6:13 ... Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

I Cor 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

I Cor 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? **shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.**

I Cor 6:16 **What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.**

I Cor 6:17 **But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**

I Cor 6:18 **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; **but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.**

I Cor 6:19 **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?***

It is Satan who comes to kill, still and destroy all that God has declared good. He desires to co-mingle with a deceived or disobedient Christian, through the marriage relationship, to destroy the Christian witness, frustrate the grace of God, and oppress their children. If a Christian woman has an unsaved husband as her head, her road may not be easy. She may have to fight with all her spiritual vitality, to remain saved if Satan seeks to destroy her psychologically, emotionally, or physically through her husband. Unfortunately, this can also apply to a backsliding Christian husband as well.

THE FAMILY God's Foundational Building Block

The family is the foundational building block of all human social institutions: the **government, education, religion, and economics**. It is through the family that a child first experiences government. Their government officials are their parents, and the rules and responsibilities given to them are the laws of their homeland. The parents are also the first investors in their children's educational development and language, and they administer the basic building blocks for all academic areas. The same parental roles apply to religion as a child's first introduction to the knowledge of God. Finally, it is through the family that they acquire their understanding of money and their family's economic viability in society.

The following chart can be used to determine one's marriage compatibility using ten key areas: religion, education, economics, one's childhood, one's parent's marriage relationship, and their cultural differences, the impact of stepchildren, Sexual compatibility, and past divorce experiences. The ten (10) items on the following chart is a list of issues related to marriage that can be detrimental to any marriage relationship.

The 10-Key Items of Marriage Compatibility TEST **By Bishop Clarence B. Harris**

The following ten (10) variable indicators can be key factors to reveal the probability of one's success in marriage. Each variable can **stand alone and** has its own merits; however, the more of these 10 items the couple has in common, the greater the probability of their success. Needless to say, sometimes only one of these areas can be so disruptive, acute, and off balance (issues) in the couple's relationship that it alone could totally sabotage the marriage relationship. One can be a catalyst, or a land mine to trigger others depending on its impact and effect on the other nine variables.

An example would be a female that has deep seated unresolved conflicts because of incest as a young girl, who after marriage, may have problems with sexual intimacy, and manifest uncontrollable compulsive behaviors (cutting themselves, anger issues, washing until she bleeds, and hoarding). The couple and their individual relationship to Christ is the ultimate solution. However, TRAMA, the social dynamics of culture, selfishness on behalf of the individual, and social pressures which create strains and tension in the relationship one's life, can be overwhelmed by the gravity of the situation for partner not knowing or understanding the dynamics, and may not be willing to forebear the burdens. Time creates elasticity but not necessarily healing. Time can also unravel all loose threads (seams) of what appeared at first to be a match made in heaven before the wedding day; however, without **proper planning and premarital counseling** to resolve trauma and personal issues of abandonment, rejection, phobias, compulsive behaviors and health issues the relationship can become volatile and create broken hearts.

If two individuals come into the relationship and are already whole in Christ, their success rate skyrockets, because the demonic balls and chains of their past are eliminated, and they are liberated from the sins and shackles of the past. The Moral for this example is that everyone should prepare themselves for marriage, to present to their potential partner their best self, by adorning the inward man, which can be shaped and molded in the beauty of holiness, in the Lord. Hence, the focus should not be on their partner, but themselves, even as we do for Christ, our groom.

First and foremost, one should be reminded that a person **does not marry an individual** ... but rather, they **marry into a family** (and all good, and bad baggage that comes with it will eventually manifest itself). Even though the two becomes one, according to the scripture, they are both part of a web of (hopefully) enduring family lineage relationships and **Extended family members** that can have a significant impact on marital success. **Not ranked in any particular order, the following are the ten (10) essential key items for marriage compatibility:**

1. **Religious preference.** Are they the same, different, or of contrary religious backgrounds (Catholic v. Protestant; Muslim v. Christian; Jewish v. Buddhist). If they are of the same religion, are they of the same sect (denominationalism, Baptist v. Presbyterian, Pentecostal v. Apostolic)? Do they have knowledge of or put into practice or know their doctrinal beliefs? The Commandment given by Christ to every Saint who enters marriage as a Christian... **Are they equally yoked, II Cor 6:14-18?** If so, are they of a similar spiritual maturity level? What are the religions of their parents, would their practices (occultism) and traditions impact one's marriage? Do not fall into the trap of **Missionary Dating**.... dating to minister to an individual unto salvation so you can marry that person; however, the efforts will most likely be the result of one's own deceptive lust and premature romantic involvement. The goal should be their salvation, not for one's marriage, which may be a marriage out of obligation, and purposeful convenience, and may not last. Does the man or the woman put their ministry above their marriage?
2. **Educational background.** Is the marriage candidate's literate, or functionally illiterate? Do they have a similar level of educational attainment (for example, high school v. college)? Will the male have adverse attitude and behavior problems, if his wife has a college degree and makes more money than he? Do they have a similar knowledge base for conversation and intellectual discussions (compatibility)? Education often will determine one's career, employment, income, and amount of time spent together. Educational level of the parents is a great indicator of their

children's success. Who would be the financial final decision maker? Will there be an equitable system in place for domestic chores? What about checks and balances and husband accountability? Will there be a family member's borrowing? Will there be credit card usage policies established? How will the couple deal with impulsive buying or shopping? Will financial decisions be joint decisions? What if they marry after years of independent living, acquire assets, sole decision making, and would they now know how to consider someone else in their life? What role will both parents play in their children's education?

2. **Economic background.** Social status based upon social strata based on parent wealth and educational backgrounds can be a conflict. Competing paradigms with one family being financially stable and affluent, versus the other, from a low-income family bracket could be a problem. In the Christian household the income of both is to be considered as one income to govern their united responsibilities. If the wife's income is greater than the husband's, it is irrelevant, they are one in Christ, in all things. They should be on an **agreed upon budget**, a bill payment system, and be sure to incorporate the allocation of funds for kingdom gifts and offerings. The husband has the ultimate responsibility before God, but financial decisions must be shared, and disbursement of funds must be equitable, NOT selfish. It would be wise to have a **set spending limit** for both, based on budget and total income. Any amount to be spent above that limit would have to be agreed upon by one's partner, before purchase.

Who is the best financial steward and most financially disciplined between the two? Would they need to be enrolled in a class on financial planning? How will they address competing and conflicting financial goals, budgets, efforts at financial planning, savings issues, credit issues, managing credit scores, and account management? Is the wife materialistic, worldly, high or low maintenance? Does either have a criminal record or have committed a **felon**? Were their parents' hard workers, slothful, or willfully dependent upon the government? A question of the ability to produce income based on age difference and maturity levels. Does the male depend on his wife's income, while spending his time playing video games, social media, sports, and gambling? Is the wife a shopaholic and compulsive buyer? If one was incarcerated, and has committed a felon, it may limit their careers, job options and economic potential for life; thus, affecting their family.

4. **Racial heritage.** All humans are the descendants of Adam and Eve (Acts 24:26). However, the concept of **race is a human sociological construct, not a biological one**. Regardless of one's physical features, there is only one race... "*The Human Race*." Hence, all men are kindred, with two common progenitors. The development of human divisions based on language, physical features, tribes, and nations began after the flood (Noah), and at the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-6). Racial superiority or inferiority, social stratification, and economic status are all the byproducts of the sin nature of man. The Word of God, also His Divine Constitution, supersedes all racial and cultural norms of men for both the heathen and the Saint.

Is the engaged couple of the **same, or different race**? If they are of same race, how about their **ethnicity**? Ethnicity means being of the same race, but different cultures (Jamaican v Haitian, Mexican v Puerto Rican)? How does one overcome **stereotypes, prejudice, racism**, and ignorance exhibit by family members and society? Are there laws prohibiting, or social mores and restricting interracial marriages for those who marry outside of their race? If different, how

and where would they raise your children? Are there any social family pressures concerning holidays or visitations? One might choose wisely where they live and raise their children.

Which traditions, cultural practices, holidays, and expectations can become issues of conflict between the couple and / or with the extended family? How about racial mores, taboos, tribal differences from one's native country? If different, how will each be received by the other's families, communities, and churches?

5. **Type of childhood experiences.** One's childhood experiences, whether happy or otherwise, laid the foundation for long-term human relationships. In question would be; the parenting skills of their parents, types of parental discipline if any; the birth order and number of siblings; personal issues or hang-ups – victimization; physical and sexual abuse; adolescent fantasies, compulsions, phobias, oppressive behaviors, addictions, spiritual oppression, and submission to authority. **Addictions:** Drugs, sexual, pornography, social media, video games. How will the couple parent, discipline, and share in the development of their offspring. Will they replicate their parents or better their options through biblical standards and modeling the Bible for their children?

How was their relationship with their siblings? Is one's potential spouse a "Momma's boy" or "Daddy's girl?" Are there any parental co-dependencies... daughter must call mom every day? ... or son that caters to his mother more than his wife? Were they the only children? Do they respect their parents? Were they raised by members of their extended family, stepparents, or adopted?

As an adult, what are their developmental ages: maturation, sociological, psychological, cognitive, and spiritual?

6. **Type of marriage manifested by each of the couple's parents** – modeled by both the couple's mother and father?
ONE DOES NOT MARRY AN INDIVIDUAL; THEY MARRY INTO A FAMILY with all of its dynamics. Are there any natural or physical disabilities or diseases that run in families that may affect their offspring... (i.e. Cycle Cell, down syndrome).

Were their parents happily married? How long were they married? Was their home patriarchal or matriarchal? A strong mother and strong father? A strong dominate mother and weak disconnected father? How did their parents resolve conflicts? Who was the final authority in the home? Did their parents' divorce, if so, how many times? Did either have a blended family? Are there unresolved family sins or generational spirits (sins: sexual, alcohol, drug addiction, abusive, infidelity, incest)?

Did either of their parent's exercise conflict resolution skills? How was their relationship with their mother and their father individually? Does the man want a wife, or does he want a mother? Is he a momma's boy? The female with a strong mother, who never had a father, or even if she did, is she able to submit to a man. Did either come from a mixed racial background family. Was the mother a stay-at-home mom? If mother and father worked, did the father help with domestic chores? There are many possible scenarios that need to be addressed culturally, and racially, based on one's **family of orientation**.

7. **Cultural**. Culture consists of: language, religion, customs, family dynamics, government structures, economic systems, holidays, and social stratifications. One's heritage, social expectations, family traditions, holidays, siblings and in-law compatibility can have a strong impact on one's marriage. Are there any former or outside relationships that will compete with the marriage relationship? Are the men in your', or your spouse's culture, very patriarchal? How are women viewed, as equals or as servants to their husband's? Or are the women dominating and the men being somewhat effeminate? (I Cor 6:9) What social and psychological expectations are expected of their partner that they do not know (not knowing the culture). Many cultures believe in **polygamy** (having more than one wife) ... make sure you're not just a number in a **foreign marriage scandal**, with a man having other wives in his native country. As an American, one should not be naive and get married to a foreigner, whose intent is to marry a U.S. citizen to **expedite the process of becoming an American citizen**.

8. **Are there stepchildren involved?** The transference of authority and submission must be willingly relinquished by all parties (especially oldest children and their mother, a daughter to her new father, and a son who was the protector of his mother). There may be prolonged interference into the marriage relationship by the outside parent of the stepchild to undermine parental authority and cause contention (legally and physically), and child rebellion, thus creating instability in the marriage relationship. It is **critical to have primatial counseling** for the whole family when there are stepchildren involved.
 - A. **Interference from stepchildren's natural parent** can be a major problem (child custody) even in adulthood. Relationships cannot be forced, and it would be wise for the couple to wait until the children are ready through counseling, before they get married. Moving into a readymade family takes a master builder, much wisdom, and true love by all parties.
 - B. **If there are stepchildren involved, the transference of authority and submission** must be willingly relinquished by all parties (especially oldest children and their mother, a daughter to her new father, and a son who was the protector of his mother). There may be prolonged interference into the marriage relationship by the outside parent of the stepchild to undermine parental authority and cause contention (legally and physically), and child rebellion, thus creating instability in the marriage relationship.

9. **Sexual Compatibility – Incompatibility** - This can depend upon mutual desired outcomes. For example, if one's partner is **infertile** and the other desires to have children, there is a possible impasse here. Or, if they are both fertile, and **one does not want to have children**, we have a serious conflict. Infertility could be the result of a natural cause, such as menopause. Unnatural causes would include reproductive system damage from numerous abortions, a hysterectomy, or STDs. Individuals, due to the aging process may have **health issues**,

complicated by diet, previous lifestyles, and eating habits which can affect their sexual capabilities.

If the male is **impotent** due to age, or health issues, this information must be conveyed before marriage. If the female is going through the natural cycle of **menopause**, she should explain her behavior changes, if any, to her potential mate, so he would understand her possible uncontrollable mood shifts, and know that they are not permanent. **Obesity, high blood pressure, and diet** can affect sexual activity and sexual performance.

Individuals that were very sexually active before marriage, or if one marries the person that they **cohabited** with for several years, will often have a greater chance of divorce for many reasons. One who was sexually assaulted or **molested** as a child, may have intimacy challenges. A female that had an **abortion** may suffer from Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS).

In the spirit of **Full Transparency**, if one has been sexually active, it might be wise for them to have a **Sexual Transmitted Disease Test** for both partners, before marriage. Sins of the past, even though a person may currently be in covenant with Christ, may still have lingering effects in their past life experiences. SHAMEFULLY, in today's Narcissistic culture and LBGQT's environment, it may be wise to see younger pictures of one's prospective spouse's aging, to verify their gender. Why? In the event, there is a lack of transparency. Finally, depending on lifestyles, it may be wise for some to take a drug test prior to marriage.

10. **Divorced.** If a Second or more Marriages (Serial Marriages) occur the more children there are between the couple, the greater the possibility for conflict and divorce, with alimony, palimony, previous spouses, disgruntled former partners, bruised, rejected, rebellious children, and multiple stepparents / children. A possible ball of confusion. Remember, one does not marry an individual, they marry into a family.
 - A. If a marriage ended in divorce or if one lived with their partner prior to marriage, there is a 50% chance that their marriage will end in divorce.
 - B. Interference from stepchildren's natural parent can be a major problem (child custody) even in adulthood. Relationships cannot be forced, and it would be wise for the couple to wait until the children are ready before they get married. Moving into a readymade family takes a master builder, much wisdom, and true love by all parties.
 - C. If either partner was sexually active with others, prior to marriage, this can also increase the future probability for infidelity or sexual dissatisfaction.

Guidelines to Calculate Marriage Compatibility Score ... THE KEY

The first 10 questions can receive a maximum, based on a similarity of 10 points each, only if they are 100% compatible. However, if there is an imbalance (same race, but different culture – Jamaican / Haitian or British / Irish start with a maximum of 10 points and / or decrease). If there is a complete mismatch (different polar religions, one dropped out of high school and the other college, one from a wealthy family verses their partner from one of low income) 1 to 5 points are to be given.

If question #8 - 10 applies to either couple a deduction of 1 point maximum for each infraction. Understanding that it may only take one of these items, if not addressed properly before marriage, to cause the marriage to spiral out of control.

All categorical scores are based on the assumption that the couple will go through **premarital counseling**. If they **choose not to go** through counseling and subsequent post marriage follow up, they will have a greater probability of getting a divorce (current statistics).

A perfect score is 100 points, this score is based on wise decisions and the **reduction of risk** in choosing one's spouse; however, it still takes the power of God to stay married in an ungodly world.

A Score of 75 should be average. (5-7 Sessions)

A Score of 60 or below requires early and extended premarital counseling (7-10 Sessions)