

PREPARING FOR A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP

A positive aspect of a period of singleness is the time for personal housekeeping and putting your life in order. This is the time for individual evaluation and growth. As you discover areas in which you need to develop discipline, seek the help of the Holy Spirit in those areas. Strive to improve your life, not just to become attractive to or prepared for a potential mate, but to please the Lord.

How do you measure up in each of the following areas?

1	2	3	4	5
Always	Most of the time	Much of the time	Less than half the time	Almost never

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Every Christian needs a committed devotional life. How is your personal relationship with the Lord, and the body of believers? Do you...

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| 1. Read the Word regularly for understanding and guidance? (John 15:1-14) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. Commune with the Lord, regularly, offering thanks and praise, making your request known to Him? (I Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Faithfully attend church? (Hebrews 10:25) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. Fellowship with the body of believers, caring and sharing together? (Gal. 6:2) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. Know your spiritual gifts and use them regularly? (Ephesians 4:7-14) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. Memorize Scripture? (Psalms 119:11) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. Have the fruit of the Spirit continually evident in your life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control? (Galatians 5:22,23) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. Live a forgiven life? (1 John 1:9-2:3) | |
| 9. Forgive others? (Luke 6: 37) | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. Serve others? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. Keep a positive attitude? | 1 2 3 4 5 |

HOME/AUTO MAINTENANCE/CLEANLINESS

The way you keep your home and vehicle is a reflection of your personal priorities. Do you...

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| 1. Have a regular schedule of housekeeping? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. Keep your home reasonably clutter-free? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. Maintain your home/apartment in good repair? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. Have a regular schedule of washing clothes? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. Maintain your yard? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. Keep a clean vehicle? | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. Mechanically maintain your vehicle? | 1 2 3 4 5 |

PERSONAL HYGIENE/APPEARANCE

If we truly accept the concept that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19,20), we may need to become better keepers of His house. Do you...

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| 1. Eat a well-balanced, sensible diet? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Keep yourself clean and well-groomed? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Dress modestly and attractively? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Relax frequently? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Get sufficient rest? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Maintain good health? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

FINANCIAL LIFE

Financial responsibility is often a problem. Although most who have money problems cite inadequate incomes or resources as the cause, the real culprit is usually poor management of what they do have. Unnecessary purchases, keeping up with the Joneses, and over-extended credit can create financial nightmares. Do you...

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| 1. Have and live within a reasonable budget? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Resist impulse buying, unnecessary purchases, or things you cannot afford? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Save regularly? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Plan and save for large purchases or investments? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Have adequate insurance (car, health, life, dental)? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Keep your checkbook balanced? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Honor God with your tithes and offerings? (1 Corinthians 16:1,2) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Use extra money to help needy brothers and sisters in the Lord?
(2 Corinthians 8:13-15; 9:10-11) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Plan and save for retirement? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of the basics of a good relationship is trust. Trust is built by making and keeping commitments. If you want someone to trust you enough to want to spend the rest of his/her life with you, you must demonstrate your trustworthiness in all of your relationships. Do you...

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| 1. Accept responsibilities joyfully? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Follow through with plan/promises on a timely basis? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Take commitments seriously? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Keep the confidences of others? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Genuinely care about others? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Maintain a servant attitude in your relationships? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Find that people consider you a responsible adult? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Trust others? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Set and maintain priorities? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Set and maintain healthy emotional boundaries? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Set and maintain healthy physical boundaries? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

FAMILY LIFE

Our relationship with our parents and siblings are a good indicator of how we will relate to spouse and children, because we tend to repeat familiar habit patterns. How is your relationship with/toward them?

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| 1. Are you available? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Are you interested? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Are you loving? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Are you giving? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Are you forgiving? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Are you gentle? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Are you empathetic? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. Are you honest? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Are you uncritical and accepting? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Are you encouraging? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. Are you helpful? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Are you serving? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

INTELLECTUAL LIFE

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| 1. Are you reading good books on a regular basis? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Do you know what topics interest you? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Are you developing your intellectual/mental strength? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Do you look for individuals with similar intellectual strengths to discuss these with? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Are you involved in educational or class learning of any type? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

PHYSICAL LIFE

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| 1. Do you exercise regularly every week? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Are you conscious of what you put into your body, God's temple? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Do you get regular physical check-ups by the doctor? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. Do you know your resting heart rate, cholesterol count, and blood pressure? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. Do you know your ideal weight? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Are you working to achieve and maintain a healthy weight? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Personal Evaluation

150 or less Feel confident you are strong enough to become involved in a permanent relationship. However, continue to maintain your strengths and improve weaker areas.

150 – 200 Have confidence you are ready for a permanent relationship with the understanding there is still room for improvement. Strive to make improvements in the weak areas.

200 – 225 Become more consistent in managing your personal life. It would be wise to look at areas of low scores and work to become stronger in them **before** becoming involved in a permanent relationship.

225 or Higher Improvement is necessary in your personal life before you should become involved in a permanent relationship.

Ask someone you know well who is honest, and you trust, to mentor you during the next 6 – 12 months, and pursue reading articles and books which address weak areas. You likely discovered areas in which you need to grow, so develop goals in those areas. Write a detailed plan to reach each goal you have set. Assign starting and completion dates to each step of your plans, then implement your plans. Finally, periodically review your progress and celebrate your successes. You are becoming conformed to the image of Christ.

WOULD YOU DATE YOU?

The decisive question is “would you date you?” Knowing yourself as well as you do, could you honestly say you are everything you would look for in a date? If not, you probably have some growing to do (along with the rest of us).

MATT. 22:37 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart all your soul and with all your mind.”

Everyone longs to give themselves completely to someone – to have a deep soul relationship with another – to be loved thoroughly and exclusively. But God says to a Christian, “No, not until you are satisfied, fulfilled and content with being loved by me alone – with giving yourself totally and unreservedly to me – to having an intensely personal and unique relationship that I have planned for you. You will never be united with another until you are united with me – exclusive of anyone or anything else – exclusive of any other desires or longings.

I want you to stop planning – stop wishing – and allow me to give you the most thrilling plan existing – one that you cannot imagine. I want you to have the best. Please allow me to bring it to you. You just keep watching me – expecting the greatest things. Keep experiencing the satisfaction that I am. Keep listening and learning the same things I tell you. Just wait. That’s all.

Don’t be anxious. Don’t worry. Don’t look around at the things others have gotten or that I’ve given them. Don’t look at the things you think you want. Just keep looking off and away up to Me or you’ll miss what I want to show you.

And then, when you are ready, I’ll surprise you with a love far more wonderful than any you would dream of. You see, until you are ready, and until the one I have for you is ready (I am working even this moment to have both of you ready at the same time), until you are both satisfied exclusively with Me and the life I have prepared for you, you will not be able to experience the love that exemplified your relationship with Me, and is, thus, perfect love.

And dear one, I want you to have this most wonderful love. I want you to see in the flesh a picture of your relationship with one and to enjoy materially and concretely the everlasting union of beauty, perfection, and love that I offer you with myself. Know that I love you utterly. Believe it and be satisfied.

--Author Unknown