



Evaluation: Consensus Decision Making

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

1. When I make decisions I consider how they will affect my spouse.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
2. When my spouse makes decisions he/she considers how they will affect me.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
3. I am patient and understanding with the pace at which my spouse makes decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
4. My spouse is patient and understanding of the pace at which I make decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
5. I am willing to sacrifice my personal dreams for the betterment of our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
6. My spouse is willing to sacrifice his/her dreams for the betterment of our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
7. We are willing to live simply enough to give time to the things that really matter.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
8. We agree on the distractions that interfere with our time priorities.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
9. We agree on the lesser priority things we are prone to which we give too much time.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
10. We have and continue to share the dreams that we have for our individual lives.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
11. We have and continue to share the dreams that we have for our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
12. We have and continue to share the dreams that we have for our children (if applicable).	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
13. We are intentional with and agree concerning the use our time.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
14. We make enough time for personal and corporate worship to remain spiritually healthy.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
15. We make enough time for each other to remain martially healthy.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
16. We make enough time for personal and mutual friendships to remain relationally healthy.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
17. We make enough time for rest, exercise, and interests to remain personally healthy.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
18. We agree on the major variables to consider before making a decision.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
19. We can discuss decisions together without feeling like we are asking permission.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
20. We both consistently remember that our marriage is more important than a decision.	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 SD – Negative 2 points NS – Negative 1 point
CA – Positive 2 points SA – Positive 1 points

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 the “**consensus decision making**” necessary for a gospel-centered marriage. Most decisions in marriage should be made on the basis of consensus. Over utilization of the headship-submission dynamic of a Christian marriage is an indicator that a couple needs to examine their personal character or work on creating more unity in their life goals.

Recommended Resources: *Who Does the Dishes? Decision Making in Marriage* by Winston Smith

Sometimes within a marriage the problem is not one specific area or issue but an overall imbalance in the effort, skill, thoughtfulness, and awareness being put into the marriage. Below is a list of questions that reveal your perspective on your effort and your spouse’s effort in the marriage. Use the same numerical scoring system as you used above. In this case, the closer your scores are to another, the more mutual (and typically healthy) the marriage.

_____ **My Score** – Using the same scoring system as above add together the score for questions 1, 3, and 5.

_____ **Spouse’s Score** – Using the same scoring system as above add together the score for questions 2, 4, and 6.