



Evaluation:

Personal 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. We share a common desire to honor God in all we do with our life.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
2. We agree on what it means to honor God in all we do with our life.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
3. We share a common understanding of what “a successful life” would mean.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
4. We accept that joy and fulfillment do not exist apart from a God-honoring life.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
5. We think about God’s heart for the world when we make family decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
6. I am aware of my strengths, weaknesses, and tendencies when making decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
7. My spouse is aware of his/her strengths, weaknesses, and tendencies in making decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
8. I process my personal-emotional struggles in a healthy and wise manner.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
9. My spouse processes his/her personal-emotional struggles in a healthy and wise manner.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
10. I can make decisions without fear or excessive “what if” thinking.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
11. My spouse can make decisions without fear or excessive “what if” thinking.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
12. I do not have a desire or activity that impedes our ability to make wise decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
13. My spouse does not have a desire or activity that prevents us from making wise decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
14. I resist being impulsive in decisions that would be harmful to our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
15. My spouse resists being impulsive in decisions that would be harmful to our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
16. We believe that God wants to make His will known and doesn’t play “hard to get.”	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
17. Our first priority in decision making is to glorify God.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
18. Our second priority in decision making is to avoid sin.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
19. Our third priority in decision making is to pursue what God says to pursue.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
20. Outside of these priorities we believe we have freedom to choose based on preference.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
21. We pray together about significant decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
22. I believe I know how to use the Bible in guiding my decision making.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
23. I believe my spouse knows how to use the Bible in guiding his/her decision making.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
24. I humbly seek the guidance of others when making a decision.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
25. My spouse humbly seeks the guidance of others when making a decision.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
26. My spouse trusts those with whom I seek counsel in making decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
27. I trust those with whom my spouse seeks counsel in making decisions.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
28. I resist making decisions just to please others at the expense of my marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
29. My spouse resists making decisions just to please others at the expense of our marriage.	CD	SD	NS	SA	CA
30. We evaluate significant decisions to learn how we can improve as decision makers.	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 1-5: (Total: _____ in 5 questions)

This set of questions examines the “**decision making agenda**” necessary for a gospel-centered marriage. We often get distracted and confused in decision making because we lose sight of the overarching agenda of our lives.

Recommended Resources: *The Cross-Centered Life* by C.J. Mahaney, *Desiring God* by John Piper

➤ Questions 6-15: (Total: _____ in 10 questions)

This set of questions examines the “**temptations of decision**” to be avoided for a gospel-centered marriage. Our decision making is the battle ground on which the vast majority of spiritual warfare is fought. If we know and address our weaknesses (personally and martially) in decision making, it prepares us to “stand firm” (Eph. 6:13) against the majority of things Satan would use to disrupt or destroy our marriage.

Recommended Resources: *The Enemy Within* by Kris Lungaard

➤ Questions 16-20: (Total: _____ in 5 questions)

This set of questions examines the “**beliefs and priorities for decision making**” necessary for a gospel-centered marriage. What we believe about God and how He reveals His will for our life determines how we make decisions.

Recommended Resources: *Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God’s Will* by Kevin DeYoung

➤ Questions 21-30: (Total: _____ in 10 questions)

This set of questions examines the “**the process of personal decision making**” necessary for a gospel-centered marriage. Right beliefs about God’s will still require a process of implementation, especially in cases where there is no clear right-wrong or even wise-unwise criteria to eliminate all the available options.

Recommended Resources: *Step by Step: Divine Guidance for Ordinary Christians* by James C. Petty

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 questions 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 22, 24, 26, and 28.

_____ **Spouse’s Score** – Using the same scoring system as above add together the score for questions 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 23, 25, 27, and 29.