

Evaluation for *Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage: Foundations*

Each seminar in the *Creating a Gospel-Centered Marriage* series has an evaluation tool to help you assess your marital / pre-marital strengths and weaknesses. *Completing this evaluation before studying the material, allows you to engage the content with greater self-awareness and intentionality about relational growth areas.*

Instructions: Read the following descriptive statements. Mark the answer that best fits how your experience or beliefs.

- **If Married:** Consider how well each statement describes your experience or perspective on your marriage.
- **If Engaged:** Consider how well each statement describes your courtship experience or your beliefs about what you anticipate marriage should be (i.e., foreshadowing).
- **Please Note:** This is not a scientific instrument. It is a self-report survey that collates the data you provide into categories that correspond with this seminar. *It is meant for educational rather than diagnostic purposes.*

A self-scoring version of this evaluation is available at bradhambrick.com/GCMfoundations.

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

1. I recognize that marriage is a living relationship that requires work and attention.	CD SD NS SA CA
2. I recognize that we will both change significantly throughout our marriage.	CD SD NS SA CA
3. We have shown the ability to love and support one another in good times and in bad.	CD SD NS SA CA
4. I resist the urge to think that marriage or my spouse should solve life’s struggles.	CD SD NS SA CA
5. I have resisted making a list of things that I want to change about my spouse.	CD SD NS SA CA
6. I recognize marriage requires me to willingly do things I’m not good at or don’t enjoy.	CD SD NS SA CA
7. I know the important life events that shaped my spouse’s character and beliefs.	CD SD NS SA CA
8. I enjoy hearing about the day-to-day events of my spouse’s life.	CD SD NS SA CA
9. I regularly think about how to bless my spouse based on what I know of them.	CD SD NS SA CA
10. I know how to encourage my spouse when he/she is down.	CD SD NS SA CA
11. I actively learn about my spouse’s preferences, interests, goals, and dreams.	CD SD NS SA CA
12. I know my spouse’s fears and insecurities. We can talk about them comfortably.	CD SD NS SA CA
13. I naturally think of consulting my spouse when making plans or spending money.	CD SD NS SA CA
14. I spend time thinking about how my spouse can realize their dreams and ambitions.	CD SD NS SA CA
15. I do not feel like I have to compete with anyone in my spouse’s life.	CD SD NS SA CA
16. I voluntarily abstain from habits or practices that bother my spouse.	CD SD NS SA CA
17. I have made the changes that marriage necessitates without resentment or bitterness.	CD SD NS SA CA
18. We have or discussed a set of traditions that we enjoy and give us a sense of family identity.	CD SD NS SA CA
19. We have a home that represents us more than recreates our parents’ marriages.	CD SD NS SA CA
20. We have a good relationship with our extended families.	CD SD NS SA CA
21. I have a healthy separation from my family and allegiance to my spouse/fiancé.	CD SD NS SA CA
22. My spouse has a healthy separation from his/her family and allegiance to me.	CD SD NS SA CA
23. I am free from any bitterness towards my parents or family.	CD SD NS SA CA
24. I put the benefit of my spouse/fiancé ahead of my parent’s expectations or preferences.	CD SD NS SA CA
25. We agree on the moral principles by which we ought to live.	CD SD NS SA CA
26. I actively strive to be mature and exemplify the fruit of the Spirit.	CD SD NS SA CA
27. My spouse actively strives to be mature and exemplify the fruit of the Spirit.	CD SD NS SA CA
28. I have a regular time of Bible reading and prayer.	CD SD NS SA CA
29. We agree on the importance and frequency of church attendance and small group.	CD SD NS SA CA
30. Our friends are a positive influence and a blessing to our relationship.	CD SD NS SA CA
31. I enjoy and agree with how we have divided the responsibilities of managing our home.	CD SD NS SA CA
32. We are able to peacefully talk about new responsibilities when they emerge.	CD SD NS SA CA

33. We agree about what it means to be a Christian husband and wife.	CD SD NS SA CA
34. Our marriage is free from negative gender role influences from our homes of origin.	CD SD NS SA CA
35. I trust my spouse to be a spiritual leader and teacher for our children/future children.	CD SD NS SA CA
36. Neither of us get offended at the expectations of the other.	CD SD NS SA CA
37. I believe my spouse puts an appropriate amount time and energy into our relationship.	CD SD NS SA CA
38. I believe my spouse is as invested in realizing my dreams as I am his/her dreams.	CD SD NS SA CA
39. I believe my spouse puts an appropriate amount of energy into his/her faith.	CD SD NS SA CA
40. I believe my spouse invests an appropriate amount of work and energy into our home.	CD SD NS SA CA
41. I trust my spouse to follow through on the commitments he/she makes to me.	CD SD NS SA CA
42. I like the balance my spouse has between family, work, hobbies, and friends.	CD SD NS SA CA
43. Our marriage is free from any use of illegal drugs or excessive use of alcohol.	CD SD NS SA CA
44. Our marriage is free from lying to cover up painful or embarrassing events.	CD SD NS SA CA
45. Our marriage is free from verbal, emotional, or physical abuse.	CD SD NS SA CA
46. Our marriage is free from controlling behaviors or jealousy.	CD SD NS SA CA
47. We resist the temptation to threaten separation, divorce, or abandonment during conflict.	CD SD NS SA CA
48. Past romantic relationships do not cause distrust between us.	CD SD NS SA CA

Key to Survey Scoring: Tabulate your score for each set of question using the following numerical values. The scoring is weighted with the “neutral” *Not Sure* 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.

Completely Disagree (CD) –	Negative 3 points	Somewhat Agree (SA) –	Positive 1 points
Somewhat Disagree (SD) –	Negative 2 points	Completely Agree (CA) –	Positive 2 points
Not Sure (NS) –	Negative 1 point		

If your total score...

...is **6 or higher**, then this is an area of strength.

...is **between 1 and 5**, then this area could use attention or refinement (unless you are an engaged couple who consistently answered NS because of lack of experience in this area).

...is a **negative number**, then this area should be given immediate and concentrated attention.

➤ Questions 1-6: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines your **expectations for marriage**. If we have unrealistic expectations, then marriage will inevitably disappoint us; not because our marriage is bad, but because the measure of our contentment is not realistic. **Lesson 1** in *GCM: Foundations* helps you in this area.

➤ Questions 7-12: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines how well you **know each other**. A common temptation in marriage is to neglect continually learning your spouse. Familiarity has a tendency to produce laziness in any area of life. The time and energy you devote to learning your spouse and family should rival your passion for your career or favorite hobby. **Lesson 2** in *GCM: Foundations* helps you in this area.

➤ Questions 13-18: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines your **shared marital identity**. When you marry you must begin to think not only as a “me” but also a “we.” This is part of the truth that married couples become “one flesh.” Thinking primarily or exclusively as an individual harms a marriage. **Lesson 3** in *GCM: Foundations* helps understand this transition.

➤ Questions 19-24: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines the **leave and cleave** aspect of marriage. Marriage is a relationship that changes our identity and, thereby, changes (to a greater or lesser degree) all our other relationships. Scripture particularly

emphasizes how this change affects our relationship to our parents. **Lesson 3** in *GCM: Foundations* helps you in this area.

- Questions 25-30: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines the **personal character** necessary to undergird a healthy marriage. Your marriage will not be healthier than you are mature, at least not for long. If you do not own your need to be a mature adult, you will likely blame your spouse for what life requires of you. **Lesson 4** in *GCM: Foundations* helps you in this area.

- Questions 31-36: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines the **role expectations** between you and your spouse. Any ongoing relationship which cooperatively manages as much time, money, emotion, ambitions, children, and “life” as a marriage does, will naturally develop roles and responsibilities. **Lessons 5 and 6** in *GCM: Foundations* help you think biblically and practically about these expectations.

- Questions 37-42: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines the **perceived mutual commitment**. Healthy marriages are relationships marked by mutual commitment. A perceived imbalance of commitment in a marriage is an indication that pursuing **marriage counseling** would be a wise step to take (for help finding a counselor: summitchurch.com/counseling in RDU or bradhambrick.com/findacounselor outside RDU).

- Questions 43-48: Total Score: _____

This set of questions examines **red flags** that would destroy a marriage. Love can cause us to want to overlook significant problems. *While love does cover a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8), it does not call us to ignore destructive patterns.* The most loving and healthy response to a red flag is to take the steps necessary to remove it. If you are engaged, these are reasons to **postpone the wedding**. If you are married, it is wise to **seek counseling** from a counselor experienced in the subject area affecting your marriage.