

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...

1. read the Word systematically 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. exercise your spiritual gifts? (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 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)	1	2	3	4	5

HOME CLEANLINESS

The way you keep your home is a refection of your personal priorities. Do you ...

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 the home in good repair?	1	2	3	4	5
4. keep up your yard?	1	2	3	4	5
5. drive a clean car?	1	2	3	4	5

PERSONAL HYGIENE AND APPEARANCE

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

1. eat a well-balanced, sensible diet?	1	2	3	4	5
2. exercise regularly?	1	2	3	4	5
3. keep yourself clean and well-groomed?	1	2	3	4	5
4. dress modestly and attractively?	1	2	3	4	5
5. relax frequently?	1	2	3	4	5

6. get sufficient rest?

12345
7. watch your health?

12345
8. treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?

12345

FINANCES

Financial responsibility is often a problem. Although most of those having 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...

1. have and live within a reasonable budget?

12345
2. resist impulse buying, unnecessary purchases, or things you cannot afford?

12345
3. save regularly?

12345
4. plan and save for large purchases or investments?

12345
5. have adequate insurance (car, health, dental)?

12345
6. keep your checkbook balanced?

12345
7. honor God with your tithes and offerings? (1 Corinthians 16:1,2)

12345
8. use extra money to help needy brothers and sisters in the Lord?  
(2 Corinthians 8:13-15; 9:10-11)

12345

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

1. accept responsibilities joyfully?

12345
2. follow through with plan/promises on a timely basis?

12345
3. take commitments seriously?

12345
4. keep the confidences of others?

12345
5. genuinely care about others?

12345
6. maintain a servant attitude in your relationships?

12345
7. find that people consider you a responsible adult?

12345
8. trust others?

12345

FAMILY LIFE

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

1. available?

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2. interested?

12345
3. loving?

12345
4. giving?

12345
5. forgiving?

12345
6. gentle?

12345
7. empathetic?

12345
8. honest?

12345
9. uncritical and accepting?

12345

10. encouraging?

11. helpful?

12. serving?
- 1

2

3

4

5
- 1

2

3

4

5
- 1

2

3

4

5

INTELLECTUALLY

1. Are you reading good books on a regular basis?

2. Do you know what topics interest you?

3. Are you developing your intellectual/mental strength?

4. Do you look for individuals to with similar intellectual strengths to discuss these with?

5. Are you involved in educational or class learning, of any type?
- 1

2

3

4

5
- 1

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- 1

2

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- 1

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- 1

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5

PHYSICAL LIFE

1. Do you exercise regularly every week?

2. Are you conscious of what you put in your body, God’s temple?

3. Do you get regular physical check-ups by the doctor?

4. Do you know your resting heart rate, cholesterol count, and blood pressure?

5. Do you know your ideal weight?
- 1

2

3

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- 1

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- 1

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- 1

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- 1

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If you have discovered some areas in which you need to grow, sit down and develop goals in those areas. Then write out a detailed plan to reach each goal you have set. Assign starting and completion dates to each step of your plans. And 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 that you are everything you would look for in a date? If not, then 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 and with 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.

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