

0 = seldom
1 = occasionally
2 = frequently

Marriage Readiness Check

This quiz is for people who are dating or considering marriage. Answer these 25 questions about your relationship by putting a 0, 1 or 2 in front of each question. At the end of the quiz, you will total your responses and evaluate your readiness for marriage. If any of these areas are problems before marriage, the likelihood that they'll become greater problems is high. These issues often become more problematic after the commitment to a life-long relationship is made.

1. How often do you have a general uneasy feeling about the relationship? A lack of inner peace? (This is different from a nervous or skittish feeling people often get days before a wedding takes place. Most people experience some anxieties just before the event because it is a brand new experience for them.)
2. How often do you have arguments?
3. How often do you avoid discussing sensitive subjects because you are afraid of hurting your partner's feelings or starting an argument?
4. How often do you find yourself involved physically but you are still uncomfortable with 'who' the person is or 'how' they act?
5. How often do you find yourself always doing what your partner wants to do? Could this mean your partner is dominating the relationship and may be the controlling type?
6. How often do you detect serious emotional disturbances such as extreme fears, extreme shyness, bizarre behavior, irrational anger etc.?
7. How often do you worry about your partner's lack of interest in spiritual things or how seldom you see him/her reading the Bible or mentioning prayer?
8. How often do you have a nagging fear that your partner may not even truly know Christ?
9. How often are you the one who is always trying to bring up spiritual matters? Are you trying to prop up your partner spiritually whose spiritual desires are lagging?
10. How often do you think that you staying in the relationship through fear?
11. How often does your partner complain about apparently unreal aches and pains or how often does he/she go from doctor to doctor?
12. How often does your partner make excuses for not finding a job or have reasons for quitting often?
13. How often are you bothered by your partner's spending habits and inability to budget?
14. How often does your partner seem overly jealous and suspicious - questioning your word and feeling that everyone is against her/him?
15. How often is the one you date critical and picky about things - even about you?
16. How often do your parents or the significant people in your life express concern about your relationship? Do you sense they are worried for you?
17. How often do you have difficulties finding areas of common interest?

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18. How often do you get upset with the amount of time your partner spends on a hobby or with friends? Do you sense that you come second or third?
19. How often does your partner find it difficult to accept constructive criticism? How often does he/she have trouble apologizing for wrongs?
20. How often do you feel bothered by your partners career or business aspirations because of your sense of priorities?
21. How often do you have major disagreements over having children and family values?
22. How often does your partner make sarcastic comments that are supposed to be funny but they are hurting you?
23. How often do you find there is a constant hassle about 'how' to spend your free time or an ongoing conflict about time spent with family or friends - especially during vacations and holidays?
24. How often do you sense intolerance for your future in-laws and their 'control and interference' in your relationship?
25. How often does your partner feel defensive or self-justified when you try to discuss any of the conflict issues mentioned above?

Total
Score

Evaluation:

Add together the numbers you assigned to each of these issues. Any one of the above issues could be a warning sign of serious problems ahead. If you scored:

- 0 to 7** You and your partner are likely two compatible people who will be able to deal with differences and conflicts effectively. Address the warning signs that you indicated.
- 8 to 15** Put your wedding plans on hold. You should seek counsel about the issues you indicated. If they won't change before marriage, what makes you think they'll change afterwards?
- 16 or more** You definitely should **not** get married at this time. Either you are dating the wrong person or you need to assess your own personality and habits.

There are always some differences and even irritants in a relationship. Adjustments and some 'give and take' in relationships are perfectly normal. Not everything is perfect. But if there are things that are increasingly causing you concern - then take heed. They are flashing lights - if not flashing yellow for 'proceed with caution' then perhaps it is 'red' - stop until the light turns green.

Marriage is a very serious matter and it's for life. If any of these warning lights are 'increasingly' flashing, disturbing or annoying you greatly, you should be having second thoughts about whether to proceed. As hurtful and embarrassing as it will be to back out of a commitment a short time before the marriage is to take place - if you don't have peace about it before the Lord do NOT proceed any further. With the passing of time hurts will heal and embarrassments will fade.

Remember, it's too late after the wedding to change your mind. Marriage is for life. Go over this list thoughtfully and prayerfully and don't try to ignore any of the lights that flash for you. Don't sweep your worries under the carpet. Face them head on.

About this Quiz

These questions were adapted from the article "25 Flashing Lights Before Marriage" by Peter Ramsey. Originally published at www.heaven4sure.com. Used with permission.