

How Healthy Is Your Ability to Lead Out of Your Marriage?

Use the list of statements that follow to do a brief assessment on your ability to lead out of your marriage. Next to each statement, write down the number that best describes your response.

Use the following scale:

5 = Always true of me

4 = Frequently true of me

3 = Occasionally true of me

2 = Rarely true of me

1 = Never true of me Leading Out of Your Marriage

___ 1. I see my marriage as a prophetic sign of God's love for the church and the world.

___ 2. I consider the quality and integrity of my marriage as the most important gospel message I preach.

___ 3. I place the highest priority on investing time and energy to build a healthy marriage that reveals Christ's love to the church and the world.

___ 4. I experience a direct connection between my oneness with Jesus and my oneness with my spouse.

___ 5. A key factor for me in discerning God's will in major ministry initiatives is the impact it will have on my marriage.

___ 6. I am aware of how issues from my family of origin impact my ability to be emotionally available in a healthy way to my spouse as well as to those I serve.

___ 7. I do not overfunction as a leader at the expense of my marriage.

___ 8. I make what is important to my spouse important to me regardless of my leadership responsibilities.

___ 9. The fruit I bear in ministry overflows out of the richness of my marriage.

___ 10. I am comfortable articulating a biblical vision for marrieds and singles on how each serves to bear witness to God's love.

Understanding Your Assessment of Leading Out of Your Marriage

Here are some observations to help you reflect on your responses.

If you scored mostly ones and twos, chances are you have not given much thought to what it might mean — theologically or practically — to lead out of your marriage. Don't worry. You are not alone. Consider further biblical study to expand your understanding. Be careful to avoid any abrupt or disruptive changes to your life and leadership. Instead, ask God for one or two practical steps you can take.

If you scored mostly twos and threes, you may be leading out of marriage to some degree, but still lack a rich theological vision or practical applications of the truths for leading from a healthy marriage. You also may want to consider further biblical study. Let God stretch you. Now is your opportunity to make some adjustments to how you live out your marriage as a leader. Be careful to avoid any abrupt changes. Spend time pondering next steps with God, asking him for clarity on two or three areas he would have you focus on.

If you scored mostly fours and fives, you are blessed. You are leading out of your marriage. What might be an invitation you are hearing from God today? Ask him what your next steps might be in helping others to discern and integrate their marriage with their leadership.

A Prayer for Married Couples

Lord, grant me the strength to answer your call to be a living sign of your love. Make my love for _____ be like your love for him/her: passionate, permanent, intimate, unconditional, and life-giving. May I be as present to _____ as you are to him/her, so that all the world can see your presence manifested in our tender love for one another. Help us both to stay close to you in the body of Christ. And continue to nourish our love with your love. In Jesus' name, amen.