



422B1

Keeping Your Vows While Keeping Your Vows

PART 2: APPLICATION • BY INGO SORKE, PHD



On a scale from 1-10, how close are you to each other? Does your partner agree? ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩

QUESTIONS

Who am I? Who are you?

INVENTORY

Note: This is not about psychology, nor a prying into your personal life, but simply a prompt towards brutal honesty before God and each other - and yourself. Raw authenticity. Transparency. Truthfulness. Be honest.










- How did you meet? What attracted you to each other?
- Describe your relationship to 1) God 2) self 3) father 4) mother 5) siblings
- Does your partner draw you closer to God or farther away? How? Why?
- The best and worst part about our relationship:
- My partner doesn't know that . . .
- What one question would you like to ask your partner?
- What helps unity in your relationship? What hinders it?
- How do you talk to your spouse? Describe the tone in your voice.

“The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought” (SC 43).

THE TOP TEN

Are you together?

THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE



 Prayer	 Bible	 Love	 Time	 Money	 Character	 Communication	 Community	 Health	 Service	
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CONVERSION



YOUR HEART

Is your heart converted? Really?! “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor 5:17). Are you new? Re-created? Would you like to be?!

1 Corinthians 12 . . .  13  . . . 14 - Love is a gift . . . to be passed on!

PRAYER & FASTING



Your Priority

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Ps 50:15).

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mk 1:35).

“The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power” (GW 259).

“This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (Mt 17:21).

BIBLE STUDY



YOUR STUDY

Suggestions: Gen 1-3; 39:9; Deut 7:1-4; 2Sam 13:15; 1Kgs 11:4; Psalms (esp. 32; 51; 119:9-11); Proverbs; Song of Songs; The Gospels; Acts; 1 Cor 13; Eph 5. Study couples in the Bible!

Of FINANCES & FIANCEES



MONEY. MATTERS.

Money is a sacred trust. Do you practice good and faithful stewardship? Do you give?

Past: Do you have a plan to eliminate/reduce debt? Get out of debt with determination!

Present: Do you have a budget? Are you spending less than you make? How could you cut expenses?

Future: Do you have an emergency fund? Short-term savings? Long-term savings?

MEN: ADAM, WHERE ARE YOU?



LADIES: ARE YOU FEMININE?

Heart Questions · Hard Questions

- Are you a responsible person? Do you get done what needs to be done? Are you staying on top of things? Is your house in order? Are you sloppy? Do you keep promises? Do you act mature? Are you serious? What excuses do you make? Are you financially responsible? Do you make good choices?
- Do you help people? Do you treat women well? Are you careful with men? Do you talk appropriately?
- Do you take care of your body? Do you eat healthy? Are you clean? Do you have an anger problem?
- Are you conquering lust? Do you control your inner fantasies and thoughts? Do you need cleansing from lust? A make-over of your mind? Do you manage the 3 screens: TV, Computer, Cell phone? What do you do when no one is watching? What is your internet history? Would Jesus be comfortable with you 24/7? Are you an overcomer?

Jesus is your victory!

Flee lust like the plague! Flee! Like Joseph (Gen 39)! Run for your life!

- Do you need to apologize? Have things gone wrong in your life? Terribly wrong? Do you need restoration? Do you listen? *Really?! Do you listen patiently (like you would like to be listened to)?*

FORGIVENESS



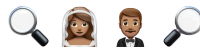
FORGIVE TO LIVE.

Forgiveness is a most difficult decision and process. But (because?!) it is life-essential.

- **BDAG:** “to dismiss or release someone or something from a place or one’s presence; let go, send away, give up, emit, divorce; to release from legal or moral obligation or consequence, cancel, remit, pardon - Mt 6:12 referenced!”
- **Forgiveness** is the only indicative (fact & reality-oriented) in the Lord’s Prayer (Mt 6:12).
- **Human forgiveness** (Mt 18:21-22) is based on God’s own example of 490 years (457 BC - 34 AD)!

Case Study: Joseph thrown in the pit by his brothers (Gen 37) → **Gen 50:20!**

FINAL EXAM



“I REALLY LOVE YOU!”

Being absolutely honest to God, your (future) spouse, and yourself . . .

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|--|-------|----|
| 1. I have surrendered my life to God. | Yes | No |
| 2. I really want to marry _____. | Yes | No |
| 3. I honestly believe God will be pleased with our marriage: | Yes | No |
| 4. If I could somehow, someday, still get out of this relationship (and save face), I would: | Yes | No |
| 5. I’m only staying in this relationship because I’ve already invested too much into it: | Yes | No |
| 6. I can tell my future spouse anything and everything: | Yes | No |
| 7. There is still something I haven’t told my future spouse that he/she needs to know: | Yes | No |
| 8. I accept my future spouse for who she/he is and grant her/him space to grow: | Yes | No |
| 9. I am committed to unconditional loving, undistracted listening, and unending learning: | Yes | No |
| 10. Thinking about marrying you, my greatest concern is: | _____ | |
| 11. In this marriage, I see the biggest problem on my part being: | _____ | |
| 12. Thinking about marrying you, I’m most excited about: | _____ | |
| 13. My greatest contribution to this marriage will be: | _____ | |
| 14. The top reason we should get married is: | _____ | |
| 15. The top reason we shouldn’t get married is: | _____ | |
| 16. If this relationship ever failed, it would be because: | _____ | |
| 17. If I died before our wedding day, I want you to know that: | _____ | |
| 18. I still need to tell you that | _____ | |
| 19. I struggle with | _____ | |
| 20. “For better or for worse” means that | _____ | |

I am praying for you. I really am. God is mightier than anything/anybody in the entire Universe. Cling to Him!