

A Quiz - Are You a Contentious Woman?

1. Do you feel that it is your **duty** to remind your husband that it is time to: (a) mow the lawn, (b) take out the trash, (c) wash the car?
2. Are you convinced that if you tell your husband often enough that it is important for him to spend more time with the children, he will do just that?
3. Does the thought of asking your husband to complete a task **just one time** and then waiting until he gets ready to do it make you feel anxious and frustrated?
4. Do you frequently correct your husband in front of others or challenge his parenting in front of the children....even and especially when you don't agree with him?
5. Can you list 3 bad points about your husband's personality right now?
6. In the last 24 hours, have you begun a conversation with your husband by saying one of the following: (a) You don't ever, (b) If you would just, or (c) I already told you.....?
7. If your husband is not a believer or a practicing Christian, do you think that tricking, begging, or developing insidious plans that will get his heathen-self into church will actually do any good?
8. When your husband doesn't respond to a request just the way that you want or when you want....do you withhold intimacy (read that sex) as a form of manipulation?
9. When your husband sees you coming, does his expression change to one of fear and or withdrawal?
10. As you left your husband today, could your last encounter with him best be described as: (a) warm and loving, (b) casual, (c) cold?

Okay, do you have a tally? Let's move on to a damage-control report now. Ready? Here is our rubric....a fancy educational piece of jargon that means....**criteria**.

If you answered YES to fewer than 3 of the items: Congratulations! You are either: (a) a saint, (b) married 15 years or longer and have figured this thing out, or (c) constantly studying Scripture and praying for God's blessing on your marriage.

If you answered YES to 4-7 of the items: Caution is needed. You are treading on dangerous ground in your marriage. Your nagging and lack of respect for your spouse could result in one of the following: (a) an uneasy truce and co-habitation instead of a loving marriage, (b) outright hostility, or (c) an affair on one or both parts.

If you answered YES to more than 7 items: Your middle name is Contentious Woman. Your husband refers to you, and he isn't joking....as SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED. You probably spend most of your time: (a) complaining about your spouse, (b) dreaming of ways to get rid of your spouse, or (c) so busy with other projects that you forget that you have a spouse. Your husband, on the other hand...has retreated to the corner of the roof, which today translates to: (a) his workplace, (b) the golf course or fishing boat, or (c) fantasizing about another (less crabby) woman.

How did you do? What are you thinking? I'll bet many of you, especially those of you who scored 4 or more are thinking one of the following:

1. What about the man.....isn't HE responsible?
2. You don't know what you're talking about lady....I don't care how many letters you have after your name.
3. It's not my fault....it is my personality that makes me that way or my dysfunctional family upbringing or the fact that I got married: (a) too young, (b) to the wrong man, or (c) before I was saved.

Actually, you are all right at some level. Each of the above items has a touch of truth in them. Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 11:11, "However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman." In truth, marriage is a covenant in which both partners are to place the other's well-being above his or her own. But here's a flash, there is no caveat* in that scripture that says: "But you don't have to follow this if your partner isn't cooperating."

caveat - **a: a warning enjoining one from certain acts or practices **b**: an explanation to prevent misinterpretation **c**: a modifying or cautionary detail to be considered when evaluating, interpreting, or doing something*

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