

The Covenant Orchard Assessments

We often think about what we have in common, but do we go deeper to know if we are compatible spiritually and what things in our lives and character would bring opposing fruit to the relationship for potential marriage. Do we already have some opposing fruit within our relationship or potential marriage that is hurting us or will hurt us down the line? I pray this bonus quiz will help you with some answers you're seeking about yourself, your partner, and your readiness for eventual marriage.

Existing premarital assessments commonly explore areas such as communication, conflict, finances, intimacy, spiritual beliefs, family background, expectations, and commitment.

The Following Three Covenant Assessments

The following assessments for this *Opposing Fruit* book progresses through each stage:

Before The Orchard: *For singles*

“What fruit am I preparing to bring into covenant?”



The Covenant Orchard: *For dating, courting, and engaged couples*

What kind of marriage are we preparing to plant together?



Tending The Orchard: *For married couples*

What is growing in our marriage now?

The assessments on the following pages use some of those broad relationship domains, but the **questions, structure, terminology, scoring system, and “Opposing Fruit” framework are original** and built specifically around biblical Christian singleness, relationships, and marriages.



The 50-Question *Opposing Fruit* Christian Marriage Readiness Quiz

Are we growing toward covenant—or cultivating opposing fruit?

For dating, courting, and engaged couples.

Primary Scripture: Galatians 5:22–23; Additional biblical foundations include Genesis 2:24; Matthew 7:16–20; Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Ephesians 4:25–32; Philippians 2:3–4; Colossians 3:12–14; Hebrews 13:4; James 1:19; and Romans 12:9–18.

Theme Scripture: Proverbs 18:22, *"He who finds a wife finds a good thing; and obtains favor from the Lord."*

So, ladies, from experience, let him find you and make sure you hear from God.

Men, make sure you hear from God and not your lustful flesh.

This assessment is designed for *How I Survived: Opposing Fruit* as a personal reflection tool. It is not a psychological diagnosis, prophecy, or formula for determining when God will bring someone into your life. Its purpose is to help a person in relationship/Fiancé's examine spiritual fruit, emotional readiness, relationship patterns, expectations, boundaries, stewardship, and covenant preparation. It is a conversation and discernment tool designed to expose the fruit already growing in a relationship and if the shoe fits, wear it.

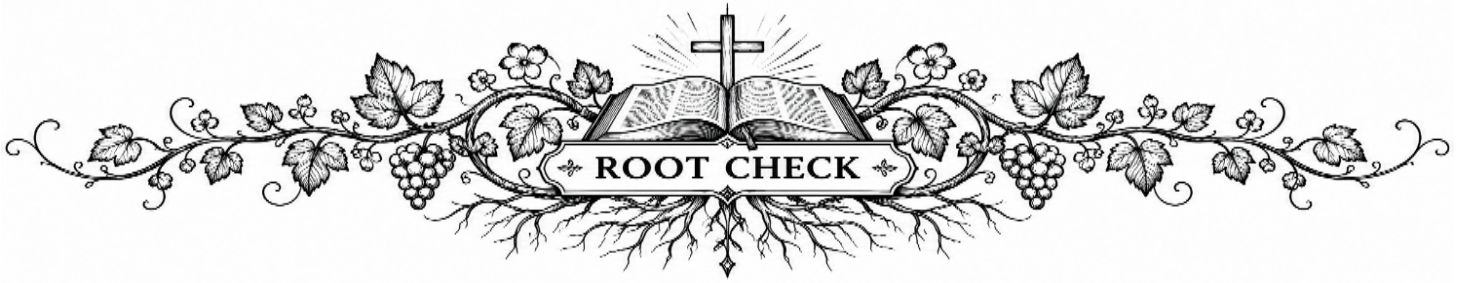
How to Take the Quiz

Each person should complete the quiz separately before discussing the answers.

Score every statement from 1–5:

- 1 — No / Almost Never
- 2 — Rarely
- 3 — Sometimes / I'm Unsure
- 4 — Usually
- 5 — Yes / Consistently

Don't answer according to who you hope your partner will become. Answer according to the relationship **as it exists today**.



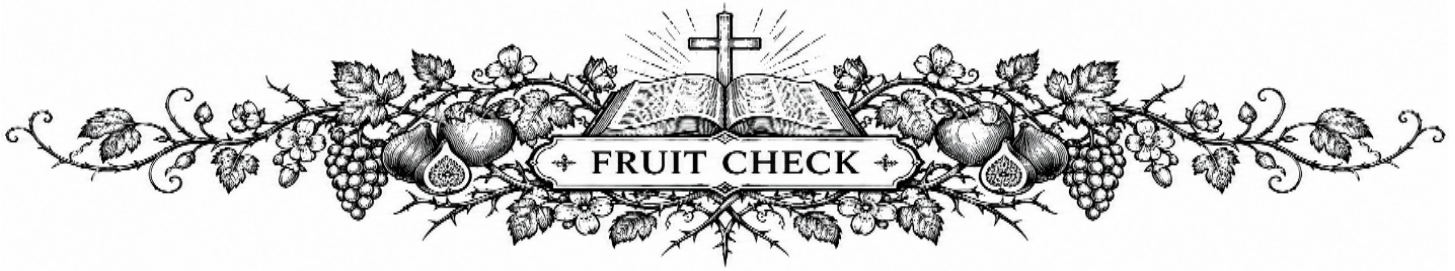
Faith, Salvation & Spiritual Direction

Fruit being examined: Faithfulness, Love, Self-Control

1. ____ Jesus Christ is genuinely central to my life rather than simply part of my religious identity.
2. ____ My partner and I agree about the essential Christian beliefs that will guide our marriage.
3. ____ I can openly pray, read Scripture, worship, and talk about God with my partner without ridicule, resistance, or manipulation.
4. ____ When Scripture challenges what I want, I am willing to let God's Word correct me.
5. ____ My partner's relationship with God encourages my own relationship with God rather than pulling me away from Him.
6. ____ We have discussed what spiritual leadership, service, submission to God, church involvement, and prayer will look like in our home.
7. ____ I would still pursue God faithfully even if my spouse were spiritually struggling.

Opposing Fruit to watch for:

Spiritual indifference, hypocrisy, contempt for faith, manipulation through Scripture, unwillingness to repent, or expecting a spouse to take God's place.



Character When Nobody Is Performing

Galatians 5:22–23; Matthew 7:16–20

8. _____ I regularly see love expressed through my partner's behavior, not merely through words.
9. _____ My partner can experience disappointment without becoming cruel, vindictive, or intentionally hurtful.
10. _____ Patience is visible when circumstances do not go my partner's way.
11. _____ My partner treats people kindly even when there is nothing to gain from them.
12. _____ My partner demonstrates integrity when no one is watching.
13. _____ My partner can control impulses, words, anger, sexual behavior, spending, and other appetites rather than allowing desires to control them.
14. _____ When my partner behaves contrary to the Fruit of the Spirit, they can recognize it, repent, and make meaningful changes.

Opposing Fruit to watch for:

Hatred, misery deliberately inflicted on others, impatience, cruelty, meanness, unfaithfulness, uncontrolled behavior, manipulation, and persistent refusal to repent.



Communication & Emotional Safety

James 1:19; Ephesians 4:29

15. _____ When I speak about something important, my partner listens to understand rather than merely waiting to defend themselves.
16. _____ I can disagree with my partner without fearing punishment, abandonment, intimidation, humiliation, or retaliation.
17. _____ We can discuss difficult subjects without routinely yelling, mocking, stonewalling, threatening, or shutting one another down.
18. _____ My partner asks questions when they do not understand me instead of automatically assuming the worst.
19. _____ We can acknowledge one another's feelings without requiring agreement about every detail.
20. _____ Neither of us uses private vulnerabilities later as weapons during arguments.
21. _____ We can apologize specifically—without adding excuses such as, "I'm sorry, but you made me do it."

Opposing Fruit to watch for:

Contempt, silent punishment, gaslighting, insults, chronic defensiveness, dismissiveness, intimidation, and refusing to listen.



Conflict, Correction & Forgiveness

Proverbs 15:1; Colossians 3:12–14; Ephesians 4:26–32

- 22._____ We can identify a problem without automatically treating one another as the problem.
- 23._____ Both of us are willing to receive correction when our behavior is wrong.
- 24._____ Neither of us needs to "win" every disagreement.
- 25._____ We know how to take a healthy break during conflict and return to finish the conversation.
- 26._____ Forgiveness in our relationship does not mean pretending harmful behavior never happened.
- 27._____ When trust has been damaged, the person who caused the damage accepts that rebuilding trust may require time, honesty, and changed behavior.
- 28._____ We are willing to seek wise Christian counseling, pastoral guidance, or professional help when a problem is beyond our ability to resolve alone.



Honesty, Fidelity & Intimacy

Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 13:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5

29. _____ I trust my partner to tell me difficult truths rather than hiding information to control my reaction.
30. _____ We have openly discussed our expectations regarding sexual fidelity, pornography, flirting, friendships, social media, and emotional affairs.
31. _____ Neither person uses sex, affection, attention, or emotional withdrawal primarily as a weapon, reward, punishment, or bargaining tool.
32. _____ Sexual boundaries and intimacy are approached with mutual respect rather than coercion, pressure, entitlement, humiliation, or manipulation.
33. _____ We can honestly discuss sexual expectations, fears, health concerns, previous experiences, and boundaries.
34. _____ My partner's words and actions give me substantial reason to trust their faithfulness.
35. _____ If betrayal occurred, I would expect truth, accountability, repentance, boundaries, and healing rather than simply pretending nothing happened.

Bruised-Fruit Alert

Marriage does not transform chronic deception into honesty. A wedding ceremony does not cure pornography addiction, infidelity, coercion, uncontrolled lust, or habitual secrecy.



Money, Work & Responsibility

Luke 14:28; Proverbs 21:5; 1 Timothy 6:6–10

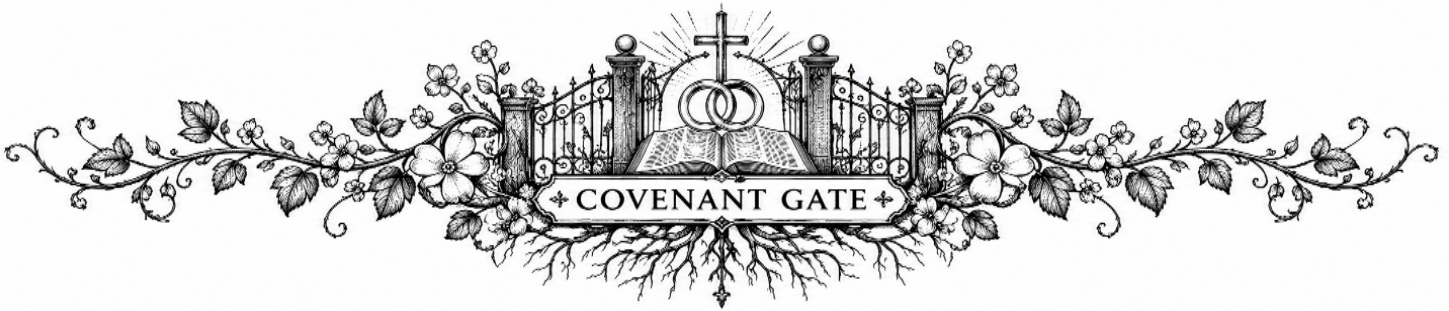
- 36._____ We have fully disclosed significant debts, income, financial obligations, spending habits, assets, and financial problems to each other.
- 37._____ We can discuss money without deception, intimidation, hiding purchases, or using finances to control one another.
- 38._____ We have discussed expectations concerning employment, household responsibilities, saving, giving, debt, and lifestyle.
- 39._____ Both of us demonstrate enough personal responsibility that one person will not automatically become the other's parent, rescuer, or permanent caretaker.
- 40._____ Our financial expectations are realistic enough that we can build a life together without constantly comparing ourselves with other couples.



Children, Families & Boundaries

Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 6:1–4

- 41._____ We have discussed whether we want children and what we would do if fertility, pregnancy, adoption, or parenting does not unfold as expected.
- 42._____ We have discussed how children would be taught about God, disciplined, educated, and cared for.
- 43._____ We can establish healthy boundaries with parents, relatives, former partners, friends, and other people who might interfere with our marriage.
- 44._____ We understand enough about each other's family history to recognize patterns we do not want to repeat.
- 45._____ We can respect meaningful cultural, racial, ethnic, family, and personality differences without treating difference as inferiority.



Commitment, Calling & the Future

Genesis 2:24; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; Philippians 2:3–4

46. _____ I want to marry this person because of who they are—not primarily because I am afraid of being alone, getting older, starting over, disappointing people, or losing the relationship.
47. _____ I do not depend on marriage to fix behavior that already deeply concerns me.
48. _____ We have discussed major future expectations including where we will live, career decisions, ministry, children, caregiving, retirement, and major life goals.
49. _____ I believe both of us understand that marriage requires sacrifice without confusing biblical sacrifice with tolerating abuse, coercion, chronic betrayal, or destruction.
50. _____ After prayer, honest observation, wise counsel, difficult conversations, and examining the fruit of this relationship, I have peace about moving toward covenant rather than feeling pressured to ignore serious concerns.

The Covenant Orchard Score.

Add all **50 responses**. **Maximum score: 250**

Use the score as a **conversation starter**, not **God's personal verdict about the relationship**.

Score Covenant Orchard Reading

225–250 **Fruitful Ground** — Many foundational qualities for marriage appear established. Examine any individual low scores before moving forward.

195–224 **Growing Orchard** — A generally healthy foundation may be present, but several areas deserve intentional discussion and cultivation.

160–194 **Mixed Fruit** — Important differences or unresolved issues are present. Premarital counseling and honest evaluation would be wise before setting them aside.

125–159 **Opposing Fruit Is Growing** — Significant concerns appear across important marriage areas. Slow the process down and address the roots, not merely the symptoms.

50–124 **Root Trouble** — The relationship currently shows substantial areas that conflict with healthy covenant marriage. A wedding should not be expected to repair what is presently unhealthy.

The Harvest Gap

The **total score is not the most important part**.

After both people finish, place the answers side by side.

For each question:

0—1 point difference: generally aligned

2—point difference: needs conversation

3—4point difference: Harvest Gap — you may be experiencing the relationship very differently.

Circle every question where **either partner scores 1 or 2**, even when the overall score is high. That prevents a couple from hiding one serious problem underneath forty-five strong answers. For example, excellent scores in finances, family, church attendance, and communication should not erase a **1** on sexual coercion, physical safety, chronic deception, fidelity, or intimidation.

The Opposing Fruit Override: Some issues are too important to average into a numerical score. If the relationship includes **physical violence, threats, stalking, sexual coercion, coercive control, serious financial control, persistent infidelity, deliberate isolation, or fear for personal safety**, don't use a high total score as evidence that the relationship is ready for marriage. Likewise, active addiction, major undisclosed debt, repeated deception, or persistent refusal to accept responsibility deserves attention **before** marriage rather than the assumption that marriage itself will produce change.

The Final Three Questions

After calculating everything, each person should answer these privately:

? **What fruit am I bringing into this marriage?**

? **What opposing fruit am I asking my future spouse to tolerate?**

? **If nothing about this person changed after the wedding, would I still willingly enter this covenant?**

That last question is especially important for *Opposing Fruit*. Marriage should be entered with eyes open to the person standing there **now**, not only the person you pray they may someday become.