

1. T F One book in the Bible is so sexually explicit that Jews of Biblical times did not permit young people to read it until after they were married.

1. **True** The Song of Solomon was considered so suggestive and explicit that young people were not permitted to read it in Biblical times prior to marriage. The book is a dialogue between a man and women who are courting and then marry. It is written in poetry, using vivid imagery to describe her body and their love making.

2. T F In Old Testament times a good start to marriage was considered so important that men were exempt from military service for the first year after the wedding.

TRUE or False

2. True It was important that a new marriage get off to a good start. The separations and risks of death associated with military service were recognized as a detriment to a strong marriage. Deuteronomy 24:5 gave a man one year to "... be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married." NIV (This honeymoon period is also alluded to in Deuteronomy 20:7.)

3. Genesis tells us that the wife was created as a "helpmate" for the husband. This means a servant of the husband.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

3. False The Hebrew words we translate as "helpmate" (ezer kenedgo) actually refer to a helper who brings balance. Ezer is a very complimentary word. In Psalm 46:1 God is referred to as an ezer, i.e. a helper. The helper is the full equal of the man, however. The ezer is the expert brought in to complete, or bring balance to, the team.

4. The New Testament word for pure, constantly giving, unconditional love, even to those who are totally undeserving, is "agape." The Bible limits this type of love to God, recognizing that it is far beyond the ability of humans to strive for.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

4. False God expects each of us to show unconditional love to our spouse. The book of Hosea is an example of the love God want us to show our spouse. In Ephesians 5:25 husbands are specifically told to love (agape) their wives. In John 13:34 we are all told to love (agape) one another as Christ has loved us.

5. The Bible actually instructs husbands to let their wives' breasts satisfy them at all times and to always be exhilarated with her love.

TRUE or False

5. True The Bible is a passionate document, full of life and vitality with instructions designed by a loving God to bring joy into our lives. Proverbs 5:18-19 states:

"... Rejoice in the wife of your youth....

Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love." (NAS) Other translations tell us that husbands should be "captivated" (NIV),

"enraptured" (NKJV), "ravished" (KJV), or "infatuated" (RSV) with the love of their wives.

6. The Bible tells us we are to divorce where there has been an act of adultery.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

6. False God invented marriage. He did NOT invent divorce. Divorce is the result of sinful people departing from God's plan. Scripture permits divorce in limited circumstances, recognizing the sinful state people often create, but even then it is not encouraged. Hosea's wife, Gomer, was a prostitute, having numerous adulterous relationships, which she made no effort to hide. Even then, God told Hosea to go and love her and win her back with his love. Christ gives no valid basis for divorce.

(Mark 10:2-12) Divorce may be necessary due to the actions of one or both of the parties, however, it is still the result of sin. God may understand it and permit it, but Scripture does not state that He ever approves or encourages it.

7. If love is to continue in marriage, there must be a positive response from the other spouse.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

7. False Marriages built on the popular notions of love sold by Hollywood say this statement is true. The Bible says otherwise. God tells us to love our spouse, using the word agape. Agape is a form of love which is unconditional, unending, inexhaustible and constantly giving. Agape is a conscious decision to love another person, no matter what. We regularly see agape in everyday life: the parent who loves the newborn or who loves and cares for the child who is in a coma for years, spending day after day with them; the spouse who loves and cares for their mate who is stricken with Alzheimer's or a debilitating stroke. We can decide to love (agape) even when our mate is incapable of returning love.

8. King Solomon is famous for his lovely poetry in the Bible. However, the first song of love and joy in the Bible is in the Book of Psalms.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

8. False The first love poem appears in Genesis 2:23, when Adam first saw Eve and said: "This at last is bone of my bone ..." Unlike the rest of the text in Genesis, this passage is even printed in the form of a poem. Hebrew experts tell us that Adam was expressing a tremendous excitement, a joyous astonishment. As Dr. Ed Wheat has stated: "Here is the world's first love song!" (Love Life For Every Married Couple, page 18)

9. The Bible uses four words to describe the different aspects of what we call, with a single word, "love."

TRUE or False

9. True

- A. Agape: unconditional, consistent love
- B. Philios: the cherished affection of friendship.
- C. Storge: a sense of belonging and devotion to another.
- D. Epithumea: sexual attraction or desire.

HOWEVER, if you really want to get technical, the answer could be five, since the Greek concept of eros, i.e. romantic love, is apparent in the Song of Solomon as part of the Hebrew word Ahava. BUT, THEN if you want to nitpick, epithumea is often translated as "desire" when used in a positive way, and as "lust" when used in a negative way.

10. The Bible uses words for "love" other than agape to describe God's love for mankind, some of which indicate that God hopes to have a personal relationship with us.

TRUE or False

10. True God loves us even in our sinfulness and when we reject Him. But, it is clear from both the Old and New Testaments that God very much wants to have a close relationship with us. (Amos 4:4-13; Micah 6:3-8; Matt 23:37)

11. The "missionary position" is the only one approved of in Scripture, it is even mentioned approvingly in the Bible.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

11. False There is nothing in Scripture suggesting that husbands and wives are limited to one position when having sexual relations. Neither the phrase "missionary position" nor the idea even exists in Scripture. On the contrary, the Song of Solomon (4:16 - 5:1) implies that we are to enjoy marital sex to the fullest, without limitations. It appears that the missionary position was invented by missionaries, not by God.

12. The Bible specifically approves of husbands and wives having sex out-of-doors, it is even mentioned approvingly in the Bible.

TRUE or False

12. True The Song of Solomon is a description of the ideal marriage. In Song of Solomon 7:12 the wife tells her husband: "Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom\_ there I will give you my love." NIV This is a clear invitation to have sexual relations outside. As long as no one else is around, a married couple having sex in the woods, on the beach or in an apple grove is perfectly acceptable.

13. The Bible tells us that the wife's body is not hers to control, but that the husband is also the owner of it.

TRUE or False

13. True

This is clearly stated in Scripture. In the Song of Solomon the wife frequently refers to her body as a "garden." On their wedding night she invites her husband to come to her, but refers to her body as "his garden." This is a two way street, however. 1 Corinthians 7: 4 states: "The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife." NIV The concept of her belonging to him and him belonging to her also appears

in Song of Solomon 2:16; 6:3 and 7:10. The Bible clearly establishes an equality between men and women, which is demonstrated by their equal obligations to each other in marriage.

14. The Christian wife should never initiate sex by explicitly inviting her husband to make love to her. It is the duty of the husband to initiate sex.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

14. False Not only does the wife initiate sexual relations in Song of Solomon 7:12, but she is also inviting her husband to come to her on their wedding night in 4:16.

15. The only time Scripture tells us to be intoxicated is when we are intoxicated by the Holy Spirit.

TRUE or False

The correct answer is...

15. False

We are, indeed, to be intoxicated with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) but, we are also to be intoxicated with the love of our spouse. On the wedding night, after the couple has consummated their marriage, God reacts with a joyous blessing: "Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers." Song 5:1 NIV The poetic reference is to drinking in the love of our spouse as if it were wine. (Note: Song 1:2 where the woman says that Solomon's "love is more delightful than wine." NIV) Drinking our "fill" of love, as with wine, leads to intoxication and a loss of inhibitions. Proverbs 5:19 tells husbands about their wives: "Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love." (NAS) The Hebrew words for "satisfy" (ravah) and "exhilarated" (shagah) both refer to the feelings we have when we are intoxicated.