

The Financial Compatibility Quiz

When it comes to life and marriage, love may make the world go round, but it's money that makes the down payment on a house. For this reason, couples who are planning a lifetime of happiness together need to be aware of the saving and spending patterns of their future spouses. And today, with so many couples entering into marriage with enormous debts and bad credit histories, it is all the more important for couples to discern their financial compatibility – the patterns and habits which can lead to a lifetime of financial security or a struggle for survival. Here's a quick quiz to help you determine the attitudes and tendencies which you and your fiancé or spouse share in regard to money.

Each of you should take the quiz independently and then compare your scores and answers.

1. Generally, when it comes to money, I:
 - a. try to spend as little as possible, save for the future, and give as much as I can.
 - b. tend to spend my money on the things I enjoy now and worry about saving later.
 - c. try to live comfortably but within my means.
2. As for credit cards, I:
 - a. use them, but always pay of the full balance each month.
 - b. use them to buy whatever I want and usually pay the minimum each month.
 - c. never use them, never will.
3. My financial goals include:
 - a. saving for the future and planning for the life I want to have along the way.
 - b. acquiring nice things now and worrying about how to pay for them tomorrow.
 - c. depriving myself of comforts now so that I can build a nice bankroll and retire early.
4. My financial record keeping and budgeting consists of:
 - a. carefully organized accounts and a budget which I keep faithfully.
 - b. an unbalanced checkbook and a few check stubs to keep track of my income.
 - c. adequate records, with a consistent pattern of saving, giving and spending.
5. When I receive an unexpected amount of money I usually:
 - a. consider it as income and use it in accordance with my financial goals.
 - b. spend it on items I've always wanted.
 - c. save or invest the entire amount.
6. When I see something I really want I generally:
 - a. save for it until I can afford to buy it.
 - b. buy it on credit and pay it off later.
 - c. forget about it or get something less expensive.
7. When it come to planning for retirement I:
 - a. believe in starting early and putting aside some money each year.
 - b. don't worry about it, since I may be dead or incapacitated by that time.
 - c. think it is best to wait until mid-life or after I have raised a family.

8. When it comes to seeking financial help I:
 - a. seek the guidance of a financial planner or stock broker.
 - b. do my own thing and make my own decisions.
 - c. sometimes get the help I need to make important financial decisions.
9. When it comes to planning for emergencies such as unemployment or illness I:
 - a. put nothing aside for the unexpected.
 - b. try to save money to get me through in a pinch.
 - c. believe in insuring myself to the hilt and saving a tidy sum for a major disaster.
10. In regard to my lifestyle I want:
 - a. a comfortable life with a decent house, nice car, and a stable family.
 - b. to be rich and famous, and I'll settle for nothing less.
 - c. a few nice things, but nothing pretentious or fancy.
11. The thought of talking about money with my spouse:
 - a. doesn't bother me at all.
 - b. fills me with dread.
12. I'd like for our financial arrangement in marriage to include:
 - a. separate checking/savings accounts so we can establish our own saving/spending patterns.
 - b. joint accounts, but separate retirement and emergency funds.
 - c. I don't want my spouse to know anything about my assets or spending.

Scoring Your Quiz

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|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | a = 1 | b = 5 | c = 3 |
| 2. | a = 3 | b = 5 | c = 1 |
| 3. | a = 3 | b = 5 | c = 1 |
| 4. | a = 1 | b = 5 | c = 3 |
| 5. | a = 3 | b = 5 | c = 1 |
| 6. | a = 3 | b = 5 | c = 1 |
| 7. | a = 1 | b = 5 | c = 3 |
| 8. | a = 1 | b = 5 | c = 3 |
| 9. | a = 5 | b = 3 | c = 1 |
| 10. | a = 3 | b = 5 | c = 1 |
| 11. | a = 1 | b = 5 | |
| 12. | a = 3 | b = 1 | c = 5 |

What Your Score Means:

45-60 – The way you handle money could lead to financial stress

20-44 – Stay focused and don't sweat the small stuff.

12-20 – No stress. Are you even worried?

This quiz was developed by Rev. Todd Outcalt, Senior Pastor, Calvary United Methodist Church, Brownsburg, IN, and author of several books including Before You Say I Do.