

feeling. Too often when a new baby comes, the husband gets left behind. (More on this and ways of dealing with it in chapter 10.) He can't keep up with his wife's metamorphosis, which he may not understand or be happy about. Knowing Maggie had always been a priority to Ken, so he didn't do what too many new fathers do—he didn't back away from this new charmed circle of mother and child. As a result, they went through the transformation to parenthood together, without losing sight of each other or their marriage.

Having a baby is just one life event that can cause couples to lose their way if they don't have a detailed love map. Any major change—from a job shift to a move to illness or retirement—can have the same effect. Just the passage of time can do it as well. The more you know and understand about each other, the easier it is to keep connected as life swirls around you.

## LOVE MAPS QUESTIONNAIRE

By giving honest answers to the following questions, you will get a sense of the quality of your current love maps. For the most accurate reading of how your marriage is doing on this first principle, both of you should complete the following.

Read each statement, and circle T for “true” or F for “false.”

1. I can name my partner's best friends. **TF**
2. I can tell you what stresses my partner is currently facing. **TF**
3. I know the names of some of the people who have been irritating my partner lately. **TF**
4. I can tell you some of my partner's life dreams. **TF**
5. I am very familiar with my partner's religious beliefs and ideas. **TF**
6. I can tell you about my partner's basic philosophy of life. **TF**
7. I can list the relatives my partner likes the least. **TF**
8. I know my partner's favorite music. **TF**
9. I can list my partner's three favorite movies. **TF**
10. My spouse is familiar with my current stresses. **TF**
11. I know the three most special times in my partner's life. **TF**

12. I can tell you the most stressful thing that happened to my partner as a child. **T F**
13. I can list my partner's major aspirations and hopes in life. **T F**
14. I know my partner's major current worries. **T F**
15. My spouse knows who my friends are. **T F**
16. I know what my partner would want to do if he or she suddenly won the lottery. **T F**
17. I can tell you in detail my first impressions of my partner. **T F**
18. Periodically I ask my partner about his or her world right now. **T F**
19. I feel that my partner knows me pretty well. **T F**
20. My spouse is familiar with my hopes and aspirations. **T F**

**Scoring:** Give yourself 1 point for each "true" answer.

**10 or higher:** This is an area of strength for your marriage. You have a fairly detailed map of your spouse's everyday life, hopes, fears, and dreams. You know what makes your spouse "tick." Based on your score, you'll probably find the love map exercises that follow easy and gratifying. They will serve as a reminder of how connected you and your partner are. Try not to take for granted this knowledge and understanding of each other. Keeping in touch in this way ensures you'll be well equipped to handle any problem areas that crop up in your relationship.

**Below 10:** Your marriage could stand some improvement in this area. Perhaps you never had the time or the tools to really get to know each other. Or perhaps your love maps have become outdated as your lives have changed over the years. In either case, by taking the time to learn more about your spouse now, you'll find your relationship becomes stronger.

There are few greater gifts a couple can give each other than the joy that comes from feeling known and understood. Getting to know each other shouldn't be a chore. That's why the first love map exercise below is actually a game! While you're having fun playing, you'll also be expanding and deepening your knowledge of each other. By the time you complete all of the exercises in this chapter, you'll know there's truth in that old song "To Know You Is to Love You."