

Values are an integral part of every culture. Along with worldview and personality, they generate behavior. Values color the most important choices you make in life. When you are living your values, you are being true to yourself. Values are deeply rooted from childhood onward.

People who share similar values begin with a common frame of reference that can provide a foundation for understanding.

Marriage is about creating harmony and interdependence as well as long-term love and partnership. So sharing values and principles creates a harmonious atmosphere and the foundation for a strong marriage.

We get married to share our life with another person, so when dating for marriage and choosing a spouse, it's important to be clear about your values to find a partner who shares the ones that are most important to you.

A friend describes this well. He says he likes spicy food and his wife prefers bland; he says he's a morning person and she's a night person. But on the things that matter most--like where to live, how to raise their children, and the way they want to manage finances--they share similar values. They are the greatest of partners and have been married for over 20 years.

Let's consider what happens when couples do not share their most important values. A person who wants children and highly values saving for the future would not be well matched with someone who doesn't want kids and prefers to live in the moment.

Why? These core differences could generate a great deal of conflict and the need for too great a degree of compromise.



Sample Chart:

Category	Level of Importance	What ideals, character traits, and behaviors do you value in yourself and others?
Family	Very Important	I want a big family and to live near my sisters.
Politics	Not Important	
Spirituality/ Religion	Very Important	I go to church every week and attend Bible classes. I was raised with a strong faith and want to meet someone who also values religion.
Pets	Important	I have 2 dogs and value their loyalty and the sense of playfulness they bring to my life. I'd like to marry someone who also values pets.
Travel	Not Important	I'm not a huge fan of travel, but going away once in a while is okay with me.

Complete the chart below, giving as much detail as you can! You have space at the bottom for any values that are important to you that are not already included in the chart.

As you fill out this chart notice: do you feel a clearer vision of your future developing in your mind?

<i>Category</i>	<i>Level of importance</i>	<i>Describe the Role that This Plays in Your Life and Future</i>
Family		
Politics		
Spirituality/religion		
Pets		
Travel		



Category	Level of importance	Describe the Role that This Plays in Your Life and Future
Financial/ Economic		
Educational		
Charity/giving back/ making a difference in the world		
Material Possessions		
Nature/The Environment		
Living Environment		
Beauty and Surroundings		
Work/Life Balance		
Personal Growth and Development		



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