

Compatibility:

Being able to exist, live, or work with someone else.



There are *so* many definitions of compatibility! One person wrote that; “Being compatible means the ability to co-exist or live together in unity and harmony (*good so far*), without any disagreement.” What? No disagreement? I guess that person doesn’t live in the real world. Another wrote that compatibility is, “a state in which two things are able to exist or occur together without problems or conflict.” No wonder the match making services focus so much on compatibility - it seems that people believe they must find the perfect mate, the one who is perfectly compatible and right for them. Except, that person doesn’t exist!

Friends, compatibility is something we work towards, not something that we have to find. Carmen and I would have never got together if we had been looking for “compatibility” as our criteria for a marriage partner. Yes, we didn’t start off the right way - we had just become Christians, but we have grown in our compatibility over the years. The perfectly compatible person simply does not exist; in our journey through life together, husbands and wives learn to exist, live and work with someone else. Many years ago, Carmen and I looked into opening a restaurant together; but our incompatibility would have kept us from being successful. Fast forward 20 years and the Lord moved us into full-time ministry together. Our life together is much different now and we *are* compatible - able to exist, live, and work together - *successfully* we might add!

One author wrote; “Compatibility is not about how similar you are, but more about how you complement each other.” Marriage is not about marrying the perfectly compatible person, it is about working to understand, accept and utilize our differences to meet the challenges *every* couple will face in life. As we grow together as a couple in the *oneness* God wants for our marriage, our compatibility *should* increase. It is not something that just happens, we must choose to work and grow together. We are still different people with different likes and dislikes - we may do some things separately, but the couple growing in oneness will desire to be together more. Carmen and I see that in our lives as we approach 42 years of marriage.

Are you seeing more compatibility in your marriage? Not sameness, but being able to live and work together better? Are you able to work through the challenges of life together with your spouse and experiencing the growth that comes from that work? Be purposeful about working with your spouse and *being* compatible.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook helps couples grow in their compatibility.

Articles to check out:

How Can You Develop Greater Compatibility With Your Spouse? by Steve Carr - www.covenantkeepers.org

Pursue Complementarity, Not Compatibility by Owen Strachan - www.thegospelcoalition.org