

WoW Nation

Scripture: "For your Maker is your husband--the LORD Almighty is his name--the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth." (Isa. 54:5 NIV)

Relationship Status

With more than 800 million active users, Facebook has become a global phenomenon in just 7 short years. Though there are more than 7 million applications and websites integrated with the social network and nearly a billion objects (e.g. pages, pictures and events) connected to it, one of the more interesting features of the site is the ever-popular "Relationship Status" data point on each user's profile. Facebook junkies use the feature religiously to update their friends on the current status of their love lives. Some of the options in the Relationship Status drop-down menu are pretty traditional. They include "Single", "Engaged", "Married", "Widowed", "Separated" or "Divorced". Some of the other more colorful, less conventional menu options are "In a Relationship", "In an Open Relationship" and "It's Complicated". While those last two options are subject to interpretation, one thing is clear—people were created for relationships. It's no coincidence either that we long for relationships. Our Heavenly Father created us that way because He, Himself, longs to be in relationship with us. Hence, He created us in His image. He created us with the same desire. Curiously, some people are more concerned with the status of their human relationships than they are with the status of their relationship with the Father. That is not good. Married, single or otherwise, God wants and deserves to have first place in our lives (Exo. 20:3). After all, Isaiah 54:5 states, "For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth." That means God is our Creator, Sustainer, Provider, Protector and Redeemer. In view of whom He is and all that He does for us, why shouldn't He have first place in our lives? Aside from God, who deserves that honor? No one does, that's the honest answer. With that in mind, ask yourself, "How would God describe my relationship status with Him?" To help you formulate your response, consider the following:

- **Friend Request** – Are you friends with God the Father? Have you invited God the Son into your life to be your Lord and Savior? Are you filled with God the Holy Spirit? Do you live under His control? Do you receive comfort and counsel from Him daily?
- **Power** – Have you surrendered your life to the Lord? Do you live in a way that's pleasing to God? Do you seek to do His will above all else? Or is doing your will your priority?
- **Money** – Does your checkbook adequately reflect your love for God? Do you return to Him a generous portion of the resources that He's given to you?

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- **Communication** – Do you communicate with the Lord frequently through prayer? If so, what's the primary focus of your prayers—praise and worship, confession, thanksgiving, communion, intercession or personal petitions (requests)?
- **Time** – Do you spend time worshipping the Lord by attending church services frequently? Do you spend time serving the Lord by participating in ministry or outreach activities? Do you spend time studying the Word of God during personal devotional time or in a more formal setting such as a Bible study/Small Group, Sunday School or other Christian education class?
- **Obedience** - Do you obey the Lord's commands (e.g. Thou shalt not have any other gods before Me; Thou shalt not lie, steal, commit adultery, murder, etc...)? Do you abstain from sinful behavior particularly that which is harmful to your body, the temple of the Holy Spirit (e.g. intoxication, substance abuse, sexual sin)? Do you live out your faith so that others may see your good works and glorify God in Heaven (Matt. 5:16)?

Based on your responses to those questions, how do you think God would describe your relationship status with Him?

- **Single** – You have no relationship whatsoever with Him
- **In a Relationship** – You're spending time together and you're getting to know Him but you have yet to commit to a permanent and exclusive relationship with Him
- **Engaged** – You've accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; you're making plans for the public ceremony as well as the rites and rituals to confirm your commitment to Him (e.g. joining a local church, baptism, Holy Communion, new members' orientation, discipleship class, joining a ministry/team and a Bible Study/Small Group)
- **Married – On the Rocks** (*choose this option if any of the following apply*)
 - You've accepted salvation but that's as far as you've gone with God; you live to please yourself rather than to please Him
 - You acknowledge your relationship with God on the Sabbath and don't give it much thought or care the rest of the week; you live according to the faith on Sunday and you live according to the law Monday through Saturday
 - You're in a committed relationship with the Lord but its temperature is lukewarm—you're not passionate about Him; you worship or serve Him half-heartedly, if at all
 - Your relationship with God is one-sided rather than mutually beneficial—He's always the giver and you're always the receiver
 - Your commitment to God lacks conviction—you favor popularity over piety, you favor individuals' rights over righteousness and you live life according to the world (by man's law) rather than the Word of God (by God's law)
- **Married – Changes With the Tides** (*choose this option if any of the following apply*)
 - Your relationship with God ebbs and flows—most days you're close to Him but occasionally you drift away from Him

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- You're in a committed relationship with God and you give Him your best praise, your best worship and your best service when things are going well for you
- You're in a committed relationship with God, but when challenges come your way, you worry or wonder whether God has forgotten you
- You're in a committed relationship with God, but it's hard for you to trust Him when trials come your way; when trouble comes, you want to take matters into your own hands rather than lean on the Lord
- You're in a committed relationship with God, but when tragedies strike, you become frustrated or angry with God—you question why He allows such things to happen
- **Married – Soul Mates** (*choose this option if all of the following apply*)
 - Your relationship with God is *thriving* and your bond with Him is growing stronger daily
 - You refuse to compromise your Christian faith and values under any circumstance (e.g. upward mobility, popularity, social acceptance); you take a stand for righteousness' sake when and where necessary
 - Your relationship with God is fireproof—it can withstand any test or any trial for any length of time and it emerges stronger, more secure, intact and un-singed
 - You trust God implicitly; you praise God even through tragic situations and painful or difficult circumstances; trouble doesn't challenge your commitment to Christ, it strengthens your resolve
 - You're committed to the Christian faith and you pledge your unwavering loyalty and undying love to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for the rest of your life
- **Widowed** – You're in a relationship with God; however, you're neglecting Him in favor of someone or something you deem more captivating (as in the case of a “golf widow”)
- **Separated** – You've abandoned God and strayed from the faith
- **It's Complicated** – You're lost, confused and in need of a savior

Whatever your response, know that God loves you. In fact, He loves you so much that He gave His only Son for you (John 3:16). Your love is all He wants in return for that incredible sacrifice. So give God His due. Return to your first love. Famed American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “The greatest gift is a portion of thyself.” Give God a portion of yourself. Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind (Matt. 22:37), for that's what He desires and that's precisely what He deserves.