

## PEOPLE TESTING PEOPLE

**Request:** “Would you please do a study on people testing people?”

This request intrigued me as a subject. I have done studies on God testing people and people testing God but not on people testing people.

I am assuming that the request of 'people testing people' was stated as a negative resulting in conflict.

As I began to think about this subject, I realized there was a lot of examples of people testing people in the Scriptures.

The following six areas of people testing people came to my mind.

- **Courtship** – Samson and Deliah – Judges 16:4-21
- **Marriage** – Abraham and Sarah – Gen.12:10-20
- **Family** – Saul and Jonathan – 1 Sam.20:24-34
- **Church** – Peter and Paul – Gal.2:11-21
- **Work** – Saul and David – 1 Sam.18:10-29
- **Neighborhood** – Nabal and David – 1 Sam.25:3-13

**Today’s lesson will study FIVE aspects of People testing People, in courtship using Samson and Deliah as a case study.**

**1. Some individual’s are attracted to certain types of people and then put up with constant conflict, even abusive behavior for the sake of having a courtship relationship. This person can’t stand to be alone.**

Samson was a believer who was in love with the 'concept of love' more than the reality of love. He settled for less than he wanted and was unwilling to give more than the other person needed.

*“After this it came about (hayah/ kal impf/ divorce and recent romantic break-up) that he loved (acheb/ kal impf) a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Deliah.” (16:4)*

Deliah was a realist, while Samson was a romantic in the courtship. You can see this in the way they handle each other in the courtship relationship.

They were attracted to the superficial characteristics of a person and later were repelled by the substance of the character of that person.

However, in between they would become romantically involved - with the image rather than the real person of the courtship.

*Why did Samson fall in love with a person who was not capable of being a spiritual partner?  
Why don’t they break-up once either experienced the reality of relationship pain?*

**2. They both functioned from the power lust of the OSN, operating under cosmos diabolicus of old man thinking that resulted in 'people testing people' to the max.**

Their relationship revolved around conquest and control and self-gratification (you make me happy or unhappy). It was mostly a one-sided relationship. It amounts to a lot of work, frustration, emotionally draining, little spiritual emphasis, and costly in money and time.

Because of these similarities, their relationship was a constant challenge and contest and conflict. Two people in a power struggle with neither willing to give up.

*Their trade-off is what kept them in the relationship.* He wanted sexual favors and she wanted monetary favors. They were very good at people pleasing in order to get what they wanted (conditional).

The Hebrew word for Deliah refers to a *coquet* person. A coquet woman attracts men merely to please herself. She is a woman who trifles with love and does not take it seriously.

She has met her match in coquet Samson. He believed the same way about love (CD of OM).

### **3. They both toyed with each other's affections, considering them unimportant in developing a healthy relationship (16:7-14).**

“Then Deliah said to Samson, behold, you have *deceived (talal/hiphil pf.) me and told (dabar/piel impf) me lies*, now, please tell me, how you may be bound.” (16:10)

They played deadly games with each other's affections. They never intended to take their affections to the altar of holy matrimony, yet they played the courtship game as if it was for real.

“Then she said to him how can you say, ‘I love you,’ when your heart is not with me? You have deceived me these three times and have not told me where your great strength is.” (16:15)

### **4. They used and abused each other's affections, of the heart as if it wouldn't effect their future 'dream' relationship (Prov.5: 15-23).**

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Prov.4”23/NIV)*

*“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” (NAS)*

*“Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.” (Prov.4:26-27)*

“When Deliah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, ‘come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her, and brought the money in their hands.’” (16:18)

### **5. The saddest words in 'people testing people' are given at the end of this relationship - aren't they always!**

Deliah: “Then she began (chalal/hiphil impf/ to pollute, defile, profane, dishonor his relationship with Lord) to afflict (anah/piel infin) him.” (16:19)

Samson: “I will go out as at other times and shake myself free. BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW (lo yada/ kal pf) THAT THE LORD HAD DEPARTED (sur/ kal pf) FROM HIM.”

Samson's spiritual eyes had been gouged out by cosmos diabolicus long before his physical eyes were. (16:21).