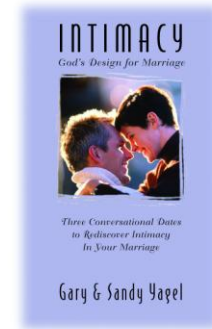


Intimacy: God's Design For Marriage

Three Conversational Dates To Rediscover Intimacy In Your Marriage

Sample: Introduction



Dear Husband and Wife,

A careful examination of what divorcees say was missing in their marriages reveals time and again that what was lost was the closeness that we call “intimacy.”

What causes this intimacy break down? Certainly there are many factors, but here is a very common one. During the dating and engagement phases of the relationship, sharing hearts and lives is easy. Feeling close is effortless. So, we enter marriage expecting intimacy to just happen, especially with the additional benefit of living together and having regular sex.

The mistaken idea that intimacy in marriage happens automatically is responsible for countless failed marriages across America. It does not happen effortlessly. The intimacy required for successful marriage happens because a couple devotes themselves to pursuing that intimacy in their relationship. Without such a commitment, most marriages fail. Even if they don't result in divorce, the spouses end up distant partners who function more like roommates than lovers and best friends.

“Intimacy” is a wonderful word to describe the partnership that God created marriage to be. It is being knit together as soul mates, having someone to cry with and someone to laugh with. It is being head over heels in love with your best friend.

Intimacy also involves sexual union. Someone has said, “We Christians should not be ashamed to talk about what God was not ashamed to create.” Yet millions of Christian couples never fully talk about the differences, hurts, and misunderstandings that are a part of every couple's sexual relationship.

As if true intimacy weren't hard enough to achieve, we've discovered over the years that there is very often an intimacy misconnect between husbands and wives. Wives spell intimacy, “TALK” and husbands spell it “SEX.” We had to struggle through some painful misunderstandings in our own marriage because of this misconnect and then discovered that we were not alone. We discovered that 83% of wives say that their husbands don't understand their need for emotional intimacy and the identical percentage of men (in a different study) say that their wives don't understand their need for sexual intimacy.

This booklet is written to overcome any intimacy misconnect that might be occurring in your marriage. It gives you a picture of the spiritual, emotional, and sexual intimacy that God wants for your marriage. It also provides questions to assist you to discuss how you can better understand each other's intimacy needs, and work together to satisfy them. It is written in the form of 3 dates to experience together as you cover the material.

The insights we share come from three sources: 1) Scripture, 2) over 25 of the best Christian marriage counselors and writers we could find, 3) our own misunderstandings, failures, and mistakes. It does take a good amount of time to cover the material, but we are confident that your time and efforts to read through all the material and to be honest with each other will be rewarded as God knits your hearts together.

May your relationship be greatly enriched as you enter more fully into the experience for which God brought you together—intimacy!

Gary and Sandy Yagel