The Intimate-Marital Relationship

Its Problems And Their Corrections

Book Discussion Guide

All day and every day we're engaging in relationships, whether at work, among family and friends, or at social events.

Of all these relationships, one stands out above all others.

This book is about that special interaction called the Intimate–Marital (IM) relationship.

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q 1.   Did this book change your views on the Intimate–Marital (IM) relationship ? Are your opinions different now than they were before reading the book?

Q 2 . What do you think makes this book different from others about relationships that you may have read or heard about?

Q 3.   In writing about the Four Factors, Dr. Houle says "...the purpose factor could be considered the most important of the four factors. If the purpose factor is intact then the relationship has a reason for existing. If the purpose factor is impaired, then there is little reason for the IM relationship to exist, or for the participants to remain in the IM relationship."

Which of the Four Factors do you feel is most important in a relationship? Why?

Q 4.   Discuss your favorite passage or chapter from the book and explain why you liked it or what it made you think about.

Q 5.   One of Dr. Houle's premises is that all functional relationships have rules. Even though the participants in I-M relationships may be unaware that these rules exist, each has his/her own set of expectations of how the other person should behave in the relationship. These expectations are essentially rules, and if they are violated, problems are sure to follow.

The rules he writes about are:
  ✔ politeness
  ✔ joint participation
  ✔ time apart
  ✔ outside relationships
  ✔ married time
  ✔ accountability
  ✔ unequal workload
  ✔ recognition
  ✔ teasing

Which of these rules do you think is the most important? Why?

Q 6. The way a non-fiction book is written can impact a reader's enjoyment and understanding of it. Is the book written in a way that is easily accessible/understandable?