

List of Needs and Books for Relationships and Marriage

For a marriage to last you **MUST** have: **Commitment**, **Compromise**, and **Forgiveness** for each other.

Remember: Hate, Bitterness, and Unforgiveness is a poison **you** drink, while hoping the one that hurt you is hurt; **Trust** is for the one who did the hurting; **Forgiveness** is for the one who was hurt. **The intent of the hurter to ask for forgiveness is to get the one hurt to stop hurting themselves with unforgiveness so trust might, one day, be reestablished.**

For a marriage to be enjoyable you need **Fellowship** (fun, engagement, challenge), **Charity** (type of Love), **Trust**, and **Relationship**.

For a relationship to succeed you **MUST** have: **Nearness**, **Knowledge**, **Communication** (message, receipt, feedback, and acknowledgment), **Vulnerability** (honesty/openness/trust), **Commitment**.

List of Great Relationship and Marriage Books (listed in a foundational reading order)

- **How to Avoid Falling in Love with a Jerk** – John Van Epp (audio avail., AK)
(**Not getting the cart before the horse: Knowledge, Trust, Reliance, Commitment, and then Touch**)
These easy-to-use techniques will help you:
 - Ask the right questions to inspire meaningful, revealing conversations with your partner.
 - Analyze your partner's level of conscientiousness--considered the window to the soul.
 - Judge character based on compatibility, relationships skills, friends, and patterns from family and previous relationships.
 - Resolve your own emotional baggage so you're ready for a healthy relationship.
 - Open your eyes to problems in the relationship and stop giving a jerk too many chances.
 - Identify--and break--destructive dating patterns that prevent you from finding a life partner.
- **The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts** - Gary Chapman (audio avail., AK/WS)
- **Fall in Love, Stay in Love** – Willard F Harley, Jr. (audio avail., AK) (all his books are good)
- **DVD (6): Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage** – Mark Gunger [visit laughyourway.com or “Tale of Two Brains” on Youtube.com]
- **Why Mars and Venus Collide: How men and women handle stress.** – John Gray (audio avail. AK)
- **Venus on Fire, Mars on Ice:...** – John Gray (audio avail. AK)
- **12 Hours to a Great Marriage: A Step-by-Step Guide for Making Love Last** - Howard J. Markman & Others.
- **Boundaries in Marriage** – John Townsend, Henry Cloud (audio avail. AK/WS)
- **Men Are Like Waffles Women Are Like Spaghetti** – Bill and Pam Ferrel (audio avail. AK) **OR**
Single Men Are Like Waffles – Single Women Are Like Spaghetti: ... – Bill and Pam Ferrel
- **The DNA of Relationships** - Gary Smalley (audio avail. AK/WS) **OR**
The DNA of Relationships for Couples - Greg Smalley (audio avail. AK/WS)
- **Safe Haven Marriage** - Dr. Archibald D. Hart, Dr. Sharon Morris
- **The Celebration of Sex: A Guide to Enjoying God's Gift of Sexual Intimacy** - Douglas E. Rosenau

Possible questions I will ask during a pre-marital counseling:

Give very brief synopsis of your family relationships and history (grandparents to you).

What drew you to (your future spouse)?

What does your (future spouse) do that irritates you?

What about (future spouse) can you not live without?

What are the most important aspects of your idea and purpose of a marriage?

List your top three dreams or aspirations (bucket list).

What are your favorite hobbies?

Who or what makes your life fulfilling?

How do you define what love is? Who helped you the most to define it?

CH Philip Smith

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