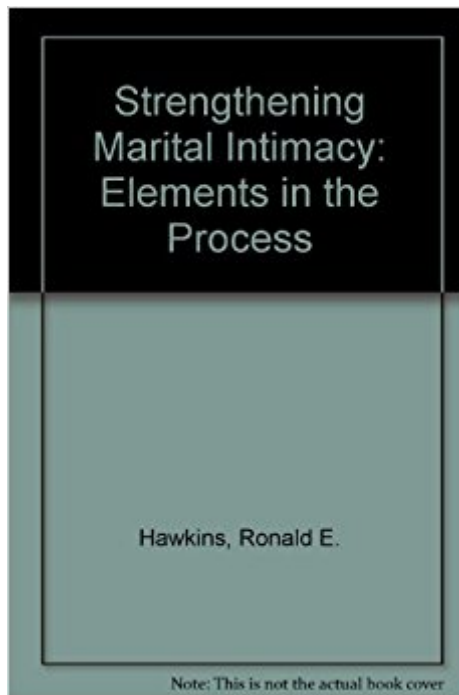




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# Strengthening Marital Intimacy: Elements In The Process



## Synopsis

Strengthening Marital Intimacy shows couples how to grow together by applying biblical teachings on God's intentions for an intimate relationship. Questions for both husband and wife to answer are included to encourage an assessment of the current level of intimacy and its further development.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Strengthening Marital Intimacy shows couples how to grow together by applying biblical teachings on God's intentions for an intimate relationship. Questions for both husband and wife to answer are included to encourage an assessment of the current level of intimacy and its further development.

This book arrived to me by the seller in a timely fashion. The book was in excellent condition when it arrived. However, I dislike this book author very much even though I needed this book for a college class. This book has a lot of grammatical errors throughout the book and I did/do not like, but I believe that the content of the book is beneficial for helping others with their marriages.

Loved reading it; applying it to my marriage and excellent for my counseling class. I would recommend it for marriage counselors.

Not only can I use this in counseling, I can use it in my personal life. Amazing book and a must read!

Ronald E. Hawkins, "Strengthening Marital Intimacy" was a concise and interesting look at God's design for marriage and what intimacy in marriage - according to God - is. In the opening chapter the author says, "God created male and female to function as a team and share the joys of God's creation. Satan drove a wedge between them, and over the centuries males and females have been locked in a tragic power struggle." How true it is that discovering intimacy in marriage is an often sought after and seldom discovered reality in the lives of believers and non believers alike. We are all victims of the fall of humanity into sin and self indulgence. The author goes on to point out that it is in fact God's desire for couples to operate at the level of spiritual unity and intimacy. The biggest trouble though is that people have been conditioned to misunderstand what intimacy really is. There are many people who live under the mistaken impression that intimacy is primarily or even solely a physical reality but this is simply not the case. God has intended for couples to live in a condition of spiritual intimacy, intimacy of the soul or intellect, as well as physical intimacy. A primary barrier to intimacy that is pointed out by the author is anger which gets in the way of an intimate relationship. People do not respond in close and loving ways to others who explode at them in anger or rage. Commitment is the base upon which solid marriages are built. Particularly in a biblical sense, commitment is something far greater than merely an emotional response to feeling dedicated to another individual. A Marriage is a contractual obligation that each partner enters into with the other partner. This commitment is an active commitment which entails numerous activities and responsibilities on a continual basis. The marriage does not happen at the moment of the saying of vows and the giving and receiving of rings! That is merely the stepping off point in a new adventure together. In order to build and sustain a life long lasting committed and intimate relationship a couple must be firmly grounded in the wisdom that God has revealed in order to enable couples to make good choices and wise decisions as they travel the journey of this life together. God has given the ultimate revelation of this wisdom in His Son, Jesus Christ. A couple that looks to Christ as the source of all wisdom for marriage and for godly living will find the strength, wisdom, and encouragement necessary to create intimacy within the home. A couple that looks to their wisdom apart from Christ is not likely to find success in these areas. In order to create a marriage which is satisfying and nurturing, each couple must have an outward and obvious commitment to companioning. If each partner in a marriage is going in a different direction in life then true intimacy can never be achieved and will never be maintained. Couples who have committed first and foremost to being one another's companion in relevant and obvious ways are most likely to enjoy all that God intended their marriages to be! I am inclined to agree very much with the author in what he has spoken in this work. Marriage is a process of continual commitment to one another and intimacy

can not be achieved through a one weekend seminary in and of itself - it is a process of continual growth and commitment to Christ and to one another. In the home where this commitment is clear and obvious and in the home where Christ is free to reign in the hearts and lives of couples, then He will be glorified in a healthy and intimate marriage, Where the Scriptures and their author are excluded the opposite will most likely be the case. I found particularly helpful the section of the book where the author reminds us of the important aspect of understanding the other person in the marriage. It is all too easy to fall into the trap of forgetting that the other person is not an extension of your hopes and desires but is a person with hopes and desires him or herself. "It takes a conscious effort to understand your spouse. You must appreciate the physical, intellectual, emotional, volitional, and spiritual dimensions of his or her personality." In reading this work I was reminded of the importance of having a daily commitment to knowing and loving my spouse. This was not a life changing experience for me but it was a helpful reminder and a bolstering of already held convictions. In that way, it was a very positive experience and a helpful addition to my knowledge and commitment to strengthening the intimacy within my marriage and in my work as a local church Pastor. I recommend this book strongly to pastors, lay counselors, and professional Christian counselors alike.

"..... Strengthening Marital Intimacy shows couples how to grow together by applying biblical teachings on God's intentions for an intimate relationship. Questions for both husband and wife to answer are included to encourage an assessment of the current level of INTIMACY AND ITS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT....."[from the book of back cover]

This book is broken down to include deep communication from commitment and companionship which are at the root, and God's design in today's relativistic society. Also, the book has quick exercises in scripture verses to test your level of marital intimacy. The book is more biblical and relevant than today's pop psychology books.

This book is tremendous on communication, companionship, and commitment, especially in today's uncertain world. Great exercises to evaluate what level of intimacy, and honesty each spouse is at....

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