

Questions for discussion

Chapter 9: Seeing relationships

1. What kind of relationships will you risk?

People risk dumping someone for another. Do you realize that it almost never works out? Sometimes we are willing to fight and bring a relationship that close to disaster. What will you die on for and against a relationship?

“Eventually were sitting two thousand feet above death. On the cliffs edge, we were trying to be brave, in awe, and raptured by the canyon. Yet, we are one sneeze away from certain death. Sometimes relationships are like that. How close to the obvious will you go?” Chapter 9, p, 4

2. How well do you see your relationships?

I talk about the panic room. We have relationship panic rooms. Unfortunately, we use them all too often. Do we really talk to our mate? People say yes, but the art of talking should begin at the beginning. Not when trouble comes.

“This chapter is called Seeing relationships for so many reasons. The main point is that we can see it coming. In the beginning, we have a chance to test the relationship by talking. Yet, were afraid.” Chapter 9, p, 7

Chapter 10: Mirror, mirror

1. We are more than we think?

In the mirror we see someone. Who is he or she? In the company of others is another story. What are they saying you are? Do you believe them?

“Couldn’t we be cheerleaders for what is successful and right in this world? Instead, so many, are angry at the talents they don’t have and the weaknesses we do have. People are not just success or failure. Humans are a combination of both.” Chapter 10, p, 4

2. Your self worth meter moves by the relationships you keep.

In the mirror is you. Who describes you? Is it “you” or everyone else? What drives your self-worth meter? Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. It’s how you embrace them that determines how your life will go.

“If you’re in a good relationship, it’s precious. Equally, it’s a demon if you are in a bad one. Belonging to groups like a church, club, or sport team is great. Yet, remember that people control them. That means people are still people no matter what the sign on the door says.” Chapter 10, p, 8

Chapter 11: Misunderstandings

1. Why do we have misunderstandings?

In some relationships we could say anything and it would not matter. My mom was like that. Every word had meaning. Usually it was the wrong meaning. Why do the word police expect you to pick the right word? With about a million words that seems impossible.

“People ask us if we understand. There is a tradition of nodding our head up for yes and sideways for no. We all get that. Add “mis” to it and all hell breaks loose. Suddenly were offended, slighted, or “mis” read. In war a “mis” is good. In a relationship, it usually means were blown to hell.” Chapter 11, p, 4

2. Why won't we talk to our spouse?

It's about being less than. It's about looking dumb. The reasons we don't communicate well are all over the map. Yet, relationships struggle because of misunderstandings. The art of communication seems lost these days.

“They say Baseball is the greatest past time. Oh no, it's hiding from misunderstandings. For some reason avoidance seems better than talking. I think that the truth hurts. It's a big part of why we avoid talking.” Chapter 11, p, 8