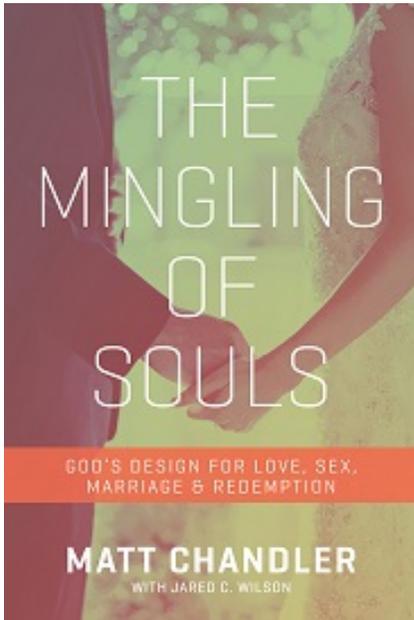


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MATT CHANDLER ON *THE MINGLING OF SOULS* *HOW ANCIENT WRITINGS IMPACT MODERN MARRIAGE, DATING & SEX*



Colorado Springs, CO — Does a little-known book in the Bible have anything relevant to say to modern marriages, dating relationships, love and sex? Pastor Matt Chandler says emphatically, “YES!” In his first book on relationships, Chandler mines the wisdom and allegory in the Old Testament book Song of Songs in *The Mingling of Souls: God’s Design For Love, Sex, Marriage & Redemption* (David C Cook, January 2015).

Matt Chandler is not only the lead pastor at The Village Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex (with five campuses and 10,000 attendees) and the President of the Acts 29 Network, he is a former college pastor and has been married to Lauren for 15 years. He has spent countless hours counseling people about love, marriage and relationships. And in each encounter and in his own marriage, he comes back to the eternal, counter-intuitive perspective from the Biblical book of Song of Songs.

Written by Solomon, Song of Songs is not the typical biblical text with strong, sensual descriptions about love, romance, marriage and sex. Chandler shows how this ancient text relates to a modern

context, revealing the process Solomon himself followed – Attraction, Courtship, Marriage...even Arguing...is applicable to today.

“The Bible is imminently practical, even in its poetry,” he said. “While we cannot over-spiritualize the song, turning all of it into a metaphorical anthem bearing no resemblance to the very real marriage in its vision, we do see that beyond the practicality, beyond the history, beyond the earthiness of its subjects, the song definitely points outward, upward, away from itself and to Him for whom all songs of praise are due.”

Highlights of the book include:

- The power of attraction to bring two people—and souls—together
- Navigating the non-traditional methods of modern dating
- How courtship differs from simply dating
- Contract vs. Covenant marriages
- Five characteristics of godly sexual activity
- Learning to love more deeply through conflict resolution
- Keeping the fires of passion burning in a tired relationship
- Finishing well through loyalty, perseverance and commitment

While practical steps toward successful relationships are always helpful, Chandler believes healthy relationships must be rooted in right motivations and right character—internal work that is done by the Holy Spirit. Counter-intuitively, Chandler offers a perspective that includes nurturing our own hearts above all else.

The Mingling of Souls details a world that was created, ordered, and is sovereignly governed by a good, Creator-God. This sovereignty, according to Chandler, reveals an available wisdom woven into the very

fabric of life that, if submitted to, makes life “to the full” possible. From the initial attraction to the covenant marriage that sanctions sex, from the thrill of the romantic chase to the consummate pleasure of the marriage bed, God has designed it all, ordered it all, and blessed it all.

Matt Chandler is the lead pastor of The Village Church, a multi-campus church in the Dallas metroplex of over 10,000 people. Alongside his current role as lead pastor, Matt is involved in church planting efforts both locally and internationally through The Village and various strategic partnerships. He is currently the President of the Acts 29 Network, which he helped start with Mark Driscoll and Darrin Patrick, and this network has grown into a massive gathering of churches planting churches. Today Matt’s sermons are regularly one of the top ten Christian podcasts on iTunes, and he speaks at conferences worldwide such as The Gospel Coalition, Exponential, Liberate, Catalyst and many others. His first book, *The Explicit Gospel* (March 2012, Crossway), has sold over 135,000 copies since its release in March 2012. He has also published *Creature of the Word* (October 2012, B&H) and *To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain* (October 2013, David C Cook).

David C Cook is a leading nonprofit resource provider serving the global Church with life-transforming, Christ-centered materials. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with offices in Illinois, Canada and the United Kingdom, David C Cook’s resources are published in over 150 languages and distributed in more than 160 countries. Originally founded in 1875 as a curriculum publisher, today David C Cook publishes numerous bestselling fiction and non-fiction books from a variety of award-winning authors. It is also a leading provider of worship music through its Integrity Music and Kingsway Music labels, which produce over one-third of the top 100 praise and worship songs sung around the world. More information at www.davidccook.com

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***The Mingling of Souls:
God’s Design for Love, Sex, Marriage & Redemption***

By Matt Chandler

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