

sacred marriage gary thomas

sacred marriage gary thomas explores the transformative power of marriage as a spiritual journey, rather than simply a means to personal happiness. This article provides a comprehensive overview of Gary Thomas's influential book, "Sacred Marriage," its key principles, and how couples can apply these teachings to strengthen their marriages. Readers will gain insight into how the concept of sacred marriage encourages personal growth, spiritual connection, and purposeful love. The article delves into the core themes presented by Gary Thomas, examines practical strategies for couples, and addresses common challenges faced in modern relationships. Whether you are newly married or have been together for decades, understanding the sacred marriage philosophy can enrich your relationship and deepen your spiritual walk. This guide covers the author's background, core ideas, benefits, and practical steps to implement sacred marriage in everyday life. Continue reading to discover how sacred marriage by Gary Thomas can reshape your perspective on love, commitment, and spiritual growth.

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Overview of Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas

"Sacred Marriage" by Gary Thomas is a renowned Christian book that redefines the purpose of marriage. Rather than focusing on happiness alone, Thomas encourages couples to view marriage as a tool for spiritual growth and personal transformation. The central message is: "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?" This concept shifts the focus from self-fulfillment to self-sacrifice, promoting deeper intimacy and spiritual development. Sacred marriage gary thomas offers a framework for couples to strengthen their relationship through faith, commitment, and mutual growth. The book has influenced thousands of couples and is widely used in marriage counseling and church ministries.

Core Principles of Sacred Marriage

Marriage as a Path to Holiness

One of the foundational principles in sacred marriage by Gary Thomas is viewing marriage as a means for spiritual refinement. Thomas teaches that the challenges and joys of marriage are opportunities for developing patience, humility, forgiveness, and unconditional love. Instead of pursuing personal happiness alone, couples are encouraged to embrace the struggles that lead to spiritual maturity and character development.

Selflessness Over Self-Fulfillment

Gary Thomas emphasizes the importance of selflessness in marriage. Sacred marriage is not about meeting one's own needs, but about serving one's spouse and growing together. This principle encourages couples to prioritize their partner's well-being, fostering an environment of mutual respect and sacrificial love.

Spiritual Intimacy and Connection

Sacred marriage Gary Thomas highlights the role of spiritual intimacy in building a strong marriage. Thomas recommends that couples pray together, study scripture, and support each other's spiritual journeys. This shared faith becomes the foundation for enduring love and unity, helping couples weather life's storms with resilience.

Gary Thomas: Background and Vision

Author's Credentials and Influence

Gary Thomas is a respected author, speaker, and pastor specializing in spiritual formation and relationships. His works, including "Sacred Marriage," have impacted countless couples and church communities worldwide. With advanced degrees in theology, Thomas blends biblical wisdom with practical advice, making his teachings accessible and relevant.

Vision for Christian Marriages

Thomas's vision goes beyond traditional marriage advice. He believes that sacred marriage can transform individuals, families, and even communities. By promoting holiness, grace, and service within marriage, couples can reflect God's love and purpose to the world. Sacred marriage Gary Thomas inspires couples to pursue a higher calling through their relationship.

Applying Sacred Marriage Concepts in Daily Life

Daily Practices for Spiritual Growth

Integrating sacred marriage principles into daily routines is essential for long-term success. Couples are encouraged to pray together, attend worship services, and engage in regular spiritual conversations. These habits foster spiritual intimacy and keep the relationship focused on growth and faith.

Communication and Conflict Resolution

Effective communication is a cornerstone of sacred marriage. Gary Thomas advises couples to listen empathetically, express themselves honestly, and resolve conflicts with grace. By approaching disagreements as opportunities for growth, couples can deepen their connection and learn valuable lessons about forgiveness and understanding.

- Set aside time for daily prayer and reflection
- Practice gratitude and appreciation towards your spouse
- Attend faith-based events and marriage workshops
- Establish open and honest communication channels
- Support each other's spiritual goals and dreams

Benefits of Embracing Sacred Marriage

Enhanced Marital Satisfaction

Couples who adopt the sacred marriage gary thomas approach often report higher levels of satisfaction and fulfillment. By focusing on spiritual growth and selflessness, partners experience deeper intimacy and a stronger emotional connection. The emphasis on service and grace creates a nurturing environment for love to thrive.

Resilience During Challenges

Sacred marriage principles equip couples to face life's difficulties with faith and perseverance. Rather than viewing challenges as threats, couples see them as opportunities for spiritual development. This perspective fosters resilience, unity, and hope during tough times.

Positive Impact on Family and Community

When couples live out the values of sacred marriage, their influence extends beyond their relationship. Healthy, faith-driven marriages inspire children, friends, and neighbors, creating a ripple effect of love and kindness. Gary Thomas's teachings encourage couples to become role models for others, strengthening families and communities.

Common Challenges and Solutions

Differences in Beliefs or Values

One challenge many couples face is navigating differences in faith or values. Sacred marriage gary thomas addresses these issues by urging couples to focus on unity and understanding, rather than division. Open dialogue, respect, and shared spiritual practices can help bridge gaps and promote harmony.

Maintaining Spiritual Focus

Busy schedules and daily stress can distract couples from their spiritual goals. Gary Thomas suggests prioritizing faith-based activities and setting aside time for prayer and reflection. Consistency is key to maintaining a sacred perspective in marriage.

Overcoming Self-Centeredness

Self-centered attitudes can undermine marital unity. Sacred marriage principles challenge couples to put their spouse's needs first and serve with humility. This shift in mindset strengthens bonds and fosters a culture of generosity and love.

1. Schedule regular spiritual check-ins
2. Seek guidance from trusted mentors or counselors
3. Participate in marriage enrichment programs
4. Practice forgiveness and patience during conflicts
5. Celebrate spiritual milestones together

Practical Steps for Couples

Setting Shared Goals

One of the actionable strategies in sacred marriage is setting shared spiritual and relational goals. Couples can create vision statements, plan faith-based activities, and support each other's growth. These steps ensure both partners are moving in the same direction.

Prioritizing Quality Time

Quality time is vital for nurturing intimacy and spiritual connection. Couples should schedule regular date nights, participate in worship together, and engage in meaningful conversations. These practices build trust and deepen the marital bond.

Embracing Lifelong Learning

Sacred marriage gary thomas encourages couples to continually learn and grow. Reading books, attending seminars, and seeking mentorship are effective ways to enhance understanding. Lifelong learning keeps the relationship fresh and adaptable to change.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main message of sacred marriage by Gary Thomas?

A: The main message is that marriage is designed by God as a means for spiritual growth and holiness, not just personal happiness. Couples are encouraged to use marriage as a tool for developing character and deepening their faith.

Q: How can couples apply sacred marriage principles in everyday life?

A: Couples can pray together, communicate openly, serve each other selflessly, and participate in faith-based activities. Consistent spiritual practices and mutual support are essential for applying sacred marriage concepts.

Q: What makes Gary Thomas's approach to marriage unique?

A: Gary Thomas's approach is unique because it shifts the focus from self-fulfillment to spiritual transformation. He emphasizes holiness, service, and growth as the primary purposes of marriage, which sets his teachings apart from conventional advice.

Q: Is sacred marriage suitable for non-Christian couples?

A: While sacred marriage is rooted in Christian beliefs, its principles of selflessness, personal growth, and mutual respect can benefit couples of various faiths. However, the spiritual aspects may resonate most with those who share a Christian worldview.

Q: Can sacred marriage help couples facing serious challenges?

A: Yes, sacred marriage provides a framework for addressing challenges through faith, forgiveness, and perseverance. Many couples find that Thomas's teachings offer hope and practical solutions during difficult times.

Q: What are some recommended practices from sacred marriage?

A: Recommended practices include daily prayer, spiritual conversations, attending worship services, practicing gratitude, and serving one another. These habits foster spiritual intimacy and marital strength.

Q: How does sacred marriage address conflict resolution?

A: Sacred marriage encourages couples to view conflicts as opportunities for growth. By approaching disagreements with empathy, forgiveness, and grace, couples can resolve issues and strengthen their relationship.

Q: Are there resources for learning more about sacred marriage gary thomas?

A: Yes, Gary Thomas offers books, seminars, online courses, and church-based workshops that provide in-depth guidance on sacred marriage principles and practical application.

Q: What role does prayer play in sacred marriage?

A: Prayer is central to sacred marriage. It fosters spiritual intimacy, unity, and reliance on God. Couples are encouraged to pray individually and together to strengthen their bond and navigate challenges.

Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas

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Sacred Marriage: Gary Thomas's Vision for a Lasting Relationship

Are you seeking a deeper, more fulfilling marriage? Do you feel like your relationship is stuck in a rut, lacking the passion and connection you once shared? If so, you're not alone. Many couples struggle to navigate the complexities of marriage, searching for a roadmap to lasting love and intimacy. This post dives deep into Gary Thomas's influential book, *Sacred Marriage*, exploring its core principles and offering practical insights to help you cultivate a truly sacred and enduring relationship. We'll examine key concepts, provide actionable takeaways, and address common questions surrounding Thomas's vision of marriage.

Understanding Gary Thomas's Sacred Marriage

Gary Thomas's *Sacred Marriage* isn't your typical marriage self-help book. Instead of focusing solely on relationship techniques, Thomas presents a radical reimagining of marriage, viewing it not just as a partnership but as a spiritual journey of profound personal growth and God-centered love. He argues that by viewing our spouse as a divinely appointed path to spiritual maturity, we can transform our relationship into a sacred space for personal transformation and mutual sanctification.

Key Principles of a Sacred Marriage

Thomas outlines several key principles within his framework:

1. Marriage as a Spiritual Discipline:

This isn't about religious dogma; it's about recognizing the inherent spiritual growth potential within the marital relationship. Challenges, conflicts, and even mundane daily routines become opportunities for spiritual refinement, teaching patience, empathy, and selflessness.

2. Serving Your Spouse as Serving God:

Thomas emphasizes the importance of selfless service within marriage. Seeing your spouse as a

vessel through which you can express your love for God allows for a radical shift in perspective, transforming even frustrating tasks into acts of worship.

3. Embracing Vulnerability and Honesty:

True intimacy, according to Thomas, requires vulnerability. Openly sharing our fears, insecurities, and imperfections fosters a deeper connection and allows for genuine spiritual growth within the relationship.

4. Forgiveness as a Spiritual Act:

Holding onto resentment and unforgiveness poisons the sacred space of marriage. Thomas stresses the importance of consistent forgiveness, not just as a marital strategy but as a spiritual practice reflecting God's grace.

5. Finding God in the Mundane:

The sacred isn't confined to grand gestures or exceptional moments. Thomas reminds us that holiness resides in the everyday routines, shared joys, and even the struggles of married life. Finding God in these seemingly ordinary moments transforms them into sacred experiences.

Practical Applications of Sacred Marriage

The principles of Sacred Marriage aren't simply theoretical; they are designed to be implemented in daily life. Here are a few practical ways to integrate these ideas into your marriage:

Practice daily prayer and reflection: Dedicate time each day to pray for your spouse and for the health of your marriage. Reflect on how God is working in your relationship.

Identify areas for personal growth: Regularly assess your own shortcomings and areas where you can improve. Work on becoming a better spouse through personal spiritual disciplines.

Prioritize acts of service: Actively seek ways to serve your spouse, even in small ways. These acts of service demonstrate love and create a sense of mutual respect.

Practice forgiveness diligently: Don't let resentment fester. Actively forgive your spouse for their mistakes and strive to maintain a spirit of grace.

Engage in meaningful conversations: Set aside time for regular, open, and honest conversations. Share your thoughts, feelings, and vulnerabilities with each other.

Beyond the Book: Applying Sacred Marriage in the Modern World

While written some time ago, Sacred Marriage's principles remain remarkably relevant in today's world. The challenges of modern life, including technology, career pressures, and societal expectations, often strain marital relationships. However, the book's emphasis on spiritual grounding and selfless service offers a powerful antidote to these pressures. By focusing on the deeper, spiritual aspects of marriage, couples can find renewed strength and resilience in the face of

adversity.

Conclusion

Gary Thomas's *Sacred Marriage* offers a transformative perspective on marriage, emphasizing its spiritual depth and potential for personal growth. By embracing the principles outlined in the book, couples can cultivate a stronger, more fulfilling, and truly sacred relationship. It's a journey, not a destination, and requires consistent effort and a commitment to spiritual growth, but the rewards—a deeper, more meaningful connection with your spouse and with God—are immeasurable.

FAQs

1. Is *Sacred Marriage* only for religious couples? No, while the book uses spiritual language, its core principles of selflessness, forgiveness, and vulnerability are valuable for any couple seeking a stronger relationship, regardless of religious affiliation.
2. What if my spouse isn't interested in reading *Sacred Marriage*? You can still implement many of the principles independently. Focus on your own personal growth and strive to embody the qualities Thomas describes. Your example might inspire your spouse.
3. How can I apply *Sacred Marriage* if we're facing significant marital challenges? The book's principles can be especially helpful during difficult times. Focus on forgiveness, communication, and mutual support. Consider seeking professional counseling to navigate complex issues.
4. Does *Sacred Marriage* address specific issues like infidelity or addiction? While not directly addressing these issues in detail, the book's emphasis on forgiveness, vulnerability, and seeking God's guidance provides a valuable framework for navigating such challenges. Professional help is often necessary in such situations.
5. Is it necessary to follow every principle religiously to benefit from *Sacred Marriage*? No, the book offers a framework, not a strict rulebook. Focus on the principles that resonate most with you and your spouse, adapting them to your unique circumstances. The goal is to cultivate a more loving and spiritually fulfilling relationship.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas, 2015-08-04 What if God designed marriage to make you holy instead of happy? What if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God? In *Sacred Marriage*, bestselling author Gary Thomas uncovers the ways that your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God and with each other. Join over one million others who have already uncovered Thomas's tips for fostering a sacred marriage. Within the pages of *Sacred Marriage*, Thomas invites you to see how God can use your relationship with your spouse as a discipline and a motivation to love God more and reflect more of the character of his Son. In addition to life-changing insights from Scripture, church history,

and time-tested wisdom from Christian classics, you'll find practical advice and techniques to make your marriage happier by becoming holier husbands and wives. In *Sacred Marriage*, Thomas will give you all of the tools you need to: Turn marital struggles into spiritual and personal appreciation Love your spouse with a stronger sense of purpose Confront your weaknesses and sin in order to grow your relationship with God and with your spouse Partner in the spiritual growth and character formation of your spouse Transform a tired marriage into a relationship filled with awe and respect Thomas reveals that sacred marriages teach us to love God and others well by fostering a healthy sex life, a strong prayer life, and a rich spiritual life. God uses our marriages to help us grow in character, in prayer, in worship, and in service--we just have to recognize that the purpose of marriage is holiness, not happiness. Each copy also includes thought-provoking discussion questions designed to spark conversation between couples and small groups, allowing you to dive deeper into the lessons that Thomas shares in *Sacred Marriage*. Join the one million others who have already started on their journey to transforming their relationship with their spouses and with their Creator.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *The Sacred Search* Gary Thomas, 2021-04-01 Bestselling author Gary Thomas transforms the way you look at romantic relationships. His unique perspective on dating will prepare you for a satisfying, spiritually enriching marriage. In the revised edition of his hit book *The Sacred Search*, Gary Thomas helps single people of all ages make wise marital choices by rethinking what basis those choices should be made on. You will be encouraged to think beyond finding your "soul mate" and instead adopt a more biblical search for a "sole mate"—someone who will walk with you on your spiritual journey. Thomas asks, What if we focused on why we should get married more than on who to marry? What if being "in love" isn't a good enough reason to get married? And most of all, what if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy? *The Sacred Search* casts a vision for building a relationship around shared spiritual mission—and making marriage with eternity at its heart.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Sacred Influence* Gary L. Thomas, 2009-05-26 God calls women to influence and move their husbands in positive ways. Applying the concepts from his bestseller, *Sacred Marriage*, Gary Thomas offers a view through a man's eyes. Here's the inside scoop on what men find motivating—with inspiring real-life stories of women who are employing this knowledge to transform their marriages. *Sacred Influence* doesn't flinch from difficult marital problems. But by using this faith-focused approach, you'll see how to help your husband become the man God intends him to be. At the same time, God will shape you to be the woman he designed you to be. God has given godly women a wonderful power to influence and encourage their husbands. What's the secret? This book will provide challenges, examples, and hope to women who want to love their husbands well and be loved well in return. --Dennis Rainey, President of Family Life

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Sacred Marriage* Gary L. Thomas, 2008-09-09 Your marriage is more than a sacred covenant with another person. It is a spiritual discipline designed to help you know God better, trust him more fully, and love him more deeply. Scores of books have been written that offer guidance for building the marriage of your dreams. But what if God's primary intent for your marriage isn't to make you happy . . . but holy? And what if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God? Everything about your marriage--everything--is filled with prophetic potential, with the capacity for discovering and revealing Christ's character. The respect you accord your partner; the forgiveness you humbly seek and graciously extend; the ecstasy, awe, and sheer fun of lovemaking; the history you and your spouse build with one another--in these and other facets of your marriage, *Sacred Marriage* uncovers the mystery of God's overarching purpose. This book may very well alter profoundly the contours of your marriage. It will most certainly change you. Because whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God, and to a spiritual integrity that, like salt, seasons the world around you with the savor of Christ.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Devotions for a Sacred Marriage* Gary Thomas, 2009-05-26 What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy? By popular demand, the author of *Sacred Marriage* returns to the topic of how God uses marriage to expand our souls

and make us holy. With all new material, Devotions for a Sacred Marriage explores how God can reveal himself to you through your marriage and help you grow closer to him as well as to your spouse. Fifty-two devotions encourage you to build your marriage around God's priorities. From learning to live with a fellow sinner, to the process of two becoming one, to sharing our lives as brothers and sisters in Christ, Devotions for a Sacred Marriage challenges couples to embrace the profound and soul-stretching reality of Christian marriage.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Sacred Marriage Gift Edition* Gary Thomas, 2011-04-05 The perfect gift for engaged, newlywed, or married couples! This two-in-one book and devotional from bestselling author Gary Thomas helps couples discover how marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God and each other. Marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. From the love you share to the forgiveness you both offer and seek in turn, it is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately. Shifting the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment, Thomas offers practical tools and techniques to make your marriage happier by becoming holier husbands and wives. This special-edition two-in-one book and devotional includes: Sacred Marriage Starting with the discovery that the goal of marriage goes beyond personal happiness, writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use your marriage as a discipline and a motivation to love him more and reflect more of the character of his Son. Devotions for a Sacred Marriage A companion to Sacred Marriage, this book of 52 devotions encourages you to build your marriage around God's priorities. From learning to live with a fellow sinner to the process of two becoming one to sharing our lives as brothers and sisters in Christ, Devotions for a Sacred Marriage challenges couples to embrace the profound and soul-stretching reality of Christian marriage.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Sacred Pathways* Gary Thomas, 2020-09-08 Sacred Pathways reveals nine distinct spiritual temperaments--and their strengths, weaknesses, and tendencies--to help you improve your spiritual life and deepen your personal walk with God. It's time to strip away the frustration of a one-size-fits-all spirituality and discover a path of worship that frees you to be you. Experienced spiritual directors, pastors, and church leaders recognize that all of us engage with God differently, and it's about time we do too. In this updated and expanded edition of Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas details nine spiritual temperaments and--like the Enneagram and other tools do with personality--encourages you to investigate the ways you most naturally express yourself in your relationship with God. He encourages you to dig into the traits, strengths, and pitfalls in your devotional approach so you can eliminate the barriers that keep you locked into rigid methods of worship and praise. Plus, as you begin to identify and understand your own temperament, you'll soon learn about the temperaments that aren't necessarily you but that may help you understand the spiritual tendencies of friends, family, and others around you. Whatever temperament or blend of temperaments best describes you, rest assured it's not by accident. It's by the design of a Creator who knew what he was doing when he made you according to his own unique intentions. If your spiritual walk is not what you'd like it to be, you can change that, starting here. Sacred Pathways will show you the route you were made to travel, marked by growth and filled with the riches of a close walk with God. A Sacred Pathways video Bible study is also available for group or individual use, sold separately.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Loving Him Well* Gary Thomas, 2018-02-06 The bestselling author of Sacred Marriage offers hope to women who want to strengthen and transform their marriages into the profoundly deep relationships God intended. Women: you're not alone in your marriage. You never have been, and you never will be. While it may not always feel like it, God wants you to have a relationally healthy, emotionally engaged, and spiritually mature husband. In *Loving Him Well*--previously titled *Sacred Influence*--Gary Thomas builds on concepts from his bestselling book *Sacred Marriage* to reveal the inner workings of a man's heart and mind. He delves into Scriptures that help women gain biblical insight to influence their husbands. Exploring the research of neuroscientists, trained counselors, and abuse victim advocates, Gary also interviews dozens of wives to find what has worked and what hasn't as they've sought to build the best marriage possible.

With new stories and fresh illustrations to help wives understand, love, and influence their husbands, *Loving Him Well* offers encouragement, biblically based support, and practical applications for the transformation of your marriage, drawing you and your husband closer together, the way God intended. Perfect for . . . Women in good marriages who want a great marriage Women who feel invisible or marginalized in their marriage Engaged or newly married women who want to start investing in their marriage from the start You'll discover the influence you can gain and the peace of mind you can build when you go first to God for your worth, validation, protection, and provision and then learn how to use that platform to help your husband draw closer to you and closer to God. *Loving Him Well* includes study questions at the end of each chapter and is also available in Spanish, *Amándolo bien*.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Joy of a Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas, 2010-12-21 Couples can change the path of their marriage through the lessons on the purpose of marriage from the popular book *Sacred Marriage*, now in a gift format. Includes devotions, excerpts from *Sacred Marriage*, and Scriptures from the New International Version. Makes a perfect wedding or shower gift!

sacred marriage gary thomas: Preparing Your Heart for Marriage Gary Thomas, 2018-11-06 The wedding is planned, but are you spiritually prepared for your wedding day? Trusted relationship author Gary Thomas coaches engaged couples on how to grow closer to the Lord in the days leading up to the wedding as a means of preparing them for all the days after the wedding. Engagement is bursting with promise, hope, joy, and anticipation of all kinds. It can also be one of the busiest times your life. For some, planning a wedding, with all the decisions involved, can feel less like the exciting onset of marriage and more like a tedious to-do list. Amidst the busyness, this devotional is designed to encourage and guide you through the spiritual priorities and challenges that lie ahead in order to grow a joy-filled marriage filled with love, grace, and God's blessing. In addition to helping you celebrate the joys of marriage and become radically connected as you create an even deeper passionate relationship, this lovely book also provides encouraging entries that will help you deal with common issues such as: Building physical and emotional intimacy Repairing trust Celebrating differences Being a team player Managing finances With a special section on the marriage vows and thoughtful meditations for the bride and groom, *Preparing Your Heart for Marriage* will help you grow in your relationship as a couple on your journey from "me" to "we."

sacred marriage gary thomas: A Lifelong Love Gary Thomas, 2021-04-01 A good marriage isn't something found; it's something made. In this revised and updated edition of the bestselling book *A Lifelong Love*, author Gary Thomas shares that when couples pursue spiritual purpose and worship it builds lasting intimacy and friendship between them. In *A Lifelong Love*, Thomas takes couples on three essential journeys leading to a strong marriage: The journey toward each other The journey toward God The journey toward love Whether readers are feeling discouraged about their marriage or simply want to infuse their relationship with greater spiritual and relational passion, *A Lifelong Love* offers the guidance they need to embrace the eternal intentions that God has for them.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts Les Parrott, Leslie Parrott, 2015-10-27 OVER ONE MILLION COPIES SOLD! With this updated edition of their award-winning book, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott help you launch lifelong love like never before. This is more than a book--it's an experience, especially when you use the his/her workbooks filled with more than 40 fun exercises. Get ready for deeper intimacy with the best friend you'll ever have. *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*, which has been translated into more than 15 languages, is the most widely used marriage prep tool in the world. Why? Because it will help you . . . Uncover the misbeliefs of marriage Learn to communicate with instant understanding Discover the secret to resolving conflict Master the skills of money management Get your sex life off to a great start A compelling video, featuring real-life couples, is available, and with this updated edition, Les and Leslie unveil the game-changing SYMBIS Assessment. Now you can discover how to leverage your personalities for a love that lasts a lifetime. Make your marriage everything it is meant to be. Save your marriage--before (and after) it starts.

sacred marriage gary thomas: True Love Dates Debra K. Fileta, 2013-10-08 It is possible to find true love through dating. In *True Love Dates*, Debra Fileta encourages singles not to kiss dating goodbye but instead to experience a season of dating as a way to find real love. Through powerful, real-life stories and Fileta's personal journey, this book offers profound insights from the expertise of a professional counselor. Christians are looking for answers to finding true love. They are disillusioned with the church that has provided little practical application in the area of love and relationships. They're bombarded by Christian books that shun dating, idolize courting, fixate on spirituality, and in the end, offer little real relationship help. *True Love Dates* provides honest help for dating by providing a guide into vital relationship essentials. Debra is a professional Christian counselor who reaches millions with her popular blog, Truelovedates.com, and her book offers sound advice grounded in Christian spirituality. She delivers insight, direction, and counsel when it comes to entering the world of dating and learning to do it right the first time around. Drawing on the stories and struggles of hundreds of young men and women who have pursued the search for true love, Fileta helps readers bypass unnecessary pain while focusing on the things that really matter in the world of dating.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Sacred Search Study Resource Gary Thomas, 2013-08 In his new book, *The Sacred Search*, best-selling author Gary Thomas tackles the topic of love and dating by asking the question: What if it's not about who you marry, but why? *The Sacred Search Study Resource* is a DVD-driven Bible study for small groups of single, dating, or engaged people to unpack this message even further. In this dynamic companion to the book, Gary will help singles move on from the idea of finding a soul mate and adopt the more biblical idea of finding their sole mate, as they seek to dedicate their future marriages to God. Eight thought-provoking video sessions featuring Gary Thomas lead groups through the study. This DVD also includes study questions designed to facilitate group discussion, interaction, and practical application.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Parenting Gary Thomas, 2017-08-29 Parenting is a school for spiritual formation, says author Gary Thomas, and our children are our teachers. The journey of caring for, rearing, training, and loving our children profoundly alters us forever...even when the journey is sometimes a rough one. *Sacred Parenting* is unlike any other parenting book on the market. This is not a "how-to" book that teaches readers the ways to discipline their kids or help them achieve their full potential. Instead of a discussion about how parents change their children, *Sacred Parenting* turns the tables and demonstrates how God uses children to change their parents. Stepping beyond the overly-tilled soil of method books, parents can learn a whole new side of parenting. They'll be encouraged by stories that tell how other parents handled the challenges and difficulties of being a parent—and how their children transformed their relationship with God. The lessons the author writes about are timeless. But in this edition, Thomas adds in some additional insights and stories that he's learned and lived over the past fifteen years of his own parenting. Gary has found that the lessons have remained much the same but there are new applications for the readers in this generation who are just now coming to his book.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Joy of a Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas, 2007 Quotes, meditations, and devotions from *Sacred Marriage*, and, *Devotions for a sacred marriage*.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Singleness Leslie Ludy, 2009-08-01 Leslie Ludy, popular writer and speaker, has a powerful message for today's single adults. Through personal experience and in interaction with thousands of young women over the past fourteen years, she has found that most Christian young women fall into one of two categories: those who are discontent and unfulfilled, constantly searching for the "right one," and those who are consumed by a passionate romance with Jesus Christ and are living joyful, satisfied lives. Her desire is to help readers move toward the totally surrendered and fulfilling experience rather than one of striving and disappointment. Leslie shares firsthand stories and testimonials of modern-day single women who may sometimes struggle with loneliness and personal desires but who, in following God's plan for them, have discovered a deeper delight, purpose and true joy in their lives. *Sacred Singleness* gives every single woman the inspiration to live counter to the culture and find amazing opportunity in

this sacred season.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Mystery of God's Will Charles R. Swindoll, 2001-09-30 I don't think I've ever met anyone who hasn't struggled with the desire to know God's will. The problem is, this struggle often involved a great deal of confusion and worry. ?Chuck Swindoll Many people have the idea that if they could just somehow find that single planned direction, they would be effortlessly swept through life. But life is not like that. Probably the most misunderstood factor of discovering God's will is the thought that, If I do this, the struggles will end, the questions are over, the answers come, and I live happily ever after. But that's not reality. Does that mean that God's will must remain opaque to us?that we must muddle and grope blindly through life with no clue to what He wants for us? Not at all, says Charles Swindoll. In this groundbreaking book, Swindoll invites us to join him on a spiritual quest. I believe God's will for us in this life is not some black-and-white objective designed to take us to an appointed destination here on earth as much as it is about the journey itself . . . and what matters to Him in our lives. The Mystery of God's Will overflows with practical insights, humor, and unforgettable stories that will de-mystify, clarify, and put your mind at ease.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Discerning Life Stephen Macchia, 2022-03-15 Spiritual discernment is a key theme in the Scriptures. From the Garden when Adam and Eve turned away from the simplest terms of a relationship with God, to the Garden when John the Apostle wrote the book of Revelation to a distracted people anticipating eternity, discerning God has been the heart of the matter. In modern times, however, we have forgotten the basic premise of practicing a preference for God, out of which we then are invited to live for God. Instead, we have implanted strategic planning, head-to-head battling, and will-of-God knowing in its place. In *The Discerning Life*, Stephen A. Macchia seeks to upend the one-eyed and limited Christian understandings of spiritual discernment and invite readers and leaders to reconsider how they prioritize the care of their souls, the grace of their communities, and the mission of their lives, churches, and organizations. When we have a fuller understanding of how spiritual discernment matters to the whole of our lives, we will in turn encourage others to follow likewise and then lean fully into the mission, mandate, and message of the whole counsel of God.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Pathways Gary Thomas, 2009-09-17 *Sacred Pathways* reveals nine distinct spiritual temperaments--and their strengths, weaknesses, and tendencies--to help you improve your spiritual life and deepen your personal walk with God. It's time to strip away the frustration of a one-size-fits-all spirituality and discover a path of worship that frees you to be you. Experienced spiritual directors, pastors, and church leaders recognize that all of us engage with God differently, and it's about time we do too. In this updated and expanded edition of *Sacred Pathways*, Gary Thomas details nine spiritual temperaments and--like the Enneagram and other tools do with personality--encourages you to investigate the ways you most naturally express yourself in your relationship with God. He encourages you to dig into the traits, strengths, and pitfalls in your devotional approach so you can eliminate the barriers that keep you locked into rigid methods of worship and praise. Plus, as you begin to identify and understand your own temperament, you'll soon learn about the temperaments that aren't necessarily you but that may help you understand the spiritual tendencies of friends, family, and others around you. Whatever temperament or blend of temperaments best describes you, rest assured it's not by accident. It's by the design of a Creator who knew what he was doing when he made you according to his own unique intentions. If your spiritual walk is not what you'd like it to be, you can change that, starting here. *Sacred Pathways* will show you the route you were made to travel, marked by growth and filled with the riches of a close walk with God.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Marriage Bible Study Participant's Guide Gary Thomas, 2015-08-04 In this six-session small group Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), *Sacred Marriage*, writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use marriage as a discipline and a motivation to reflect more of the character of Jesus. Your marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know

God more fully and intimately. Sacred Marriage shifts the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more. Whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God. Everything about your marriage—from the history you and your spouse create, to the love you share, to the forgiveness you both offer and seek by turn—is filled with the capacity to help you grow in Christ's character. Sessions include: God's Purpose for Marriage: More Than We Imagine The Refining Power of Marriage The God-Centered Spouse Sacred History Sexual Saints Marriage: The Love Laboratory Designed for use with the Sacred Marriage Video Study (sold separately).

sacred marriage gary thomas: Not Under Bondage Barbara Roberts, 2008 This book, written by a survivor of domestic abuse, explains the dilemmas of abuse victims, carefully examines the Scripture and scholarly research, and shows how the Bible sets victims of abuse free from bondage and guilt. Key concepts are: The Bible distinguishes between treacherous divorce and disciplinary divorce, prohibiting the former and permitting the latter in serious cases of abuse, adultery or desertion. If the offending partner was sexually immoral, or abused, deserted, or unjustly dismissed the other, and has been judged to be as an unbeliever, the Bible allows the non-offending, mistreated partner to remarry.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Marriage Bible Study Guide Plus Streaming Video, Revised and Updated Gary Thomas, 2025-04-22 In this six-session small group Bible study, Sacred Marriage, writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use marriage as a discipline and a motivation to reflect more of the character of Jesus.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Cherish Gary Thomas, 2017-01-10 Gary Thomas, pastor and bestselling author of Sacred Marriage, believes that one simple word can bring hope, light, and life into any marriage: Cherish. Most marriages survive by gritting teeth and holding on. But what if surviving marriage wasn't the goal? What if we aimed to thrive instead? In Cherish, Thomas teaches us that although there are a countless number of marriages consisting of two people just going through the motions, there are real ways this pattern can be reversed: when husbands and wives learn to cherish one another in their everyday actions and words. The way we treat something acknowledges whether we cherish it or hold it with indifference or contempt. To truly cherish something is to go out of our way to show it off, protect it, and honor it. We want others to see and recognize and affirm the value that we see. Thomas reminds us that in a world desperate for marriage redemption, the act of cherishing is needed now more than ever. Cherishing your spouse will elevate your marriage relationally, emotionally, spiritually, and even physically. You will set different goals for your relationship, and you'll see your marriage with fresh eyes. Through personal stories, real-world examples, and timeless biblical truths, Thomas shares the tools you need to turn your marriage around, including: Using your mind to change your heart Sacrificing for your spouse Praying with intentionality Prioritizing your life partner Through the biblical act of cherishing, we can empower our spouses to become who they are called by God to be, and in the process to become more of who we are called to be, creating a marriage that feels more precious, more connected, and more satisfying. If you're ready to revolutionize your relationship, it's time to learn how to truly Cherish it.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Desperate Marriages Gary Chapman, 2008-09-01 Countless couples today face major marital struggles. Dr. Gary Chapman communicates genuine hope for every marriage- even for those with deeply rooted wounds. Chapman provides positive steps for dealing with spouses who are: Workaholics Controlling Uncommunicative Physically, verbally, or sexually abusive Unfaithful Alcoholic or drug-abusing Depressed Irresponsible

sacred marriage gary thomas: Nine Essential Conversations before You Say I Do Gary Thomas, Steve Wilke, Rebecca Wilke, 2021-04-01 In his popular book, 9 Essential Conversations before You Say I Do, author and pastor Gary Thomas, marriage and family therapist Dr. Steve Wilke and Rebecca Wilke, EdD help couples explore: What marriage means to each individual and whether this is a wise match How to engage in essential relational pursuits such as healthy conflict, sexual intimacy, and spiritual intimacy How to discuss in advance crucial aspects of marriage such as

childrearing, finances, and marital roles Why asking hard questions now is better than asking them five years from now With thoughtful questions that encourage couples to examine themselves and their relationships, 9 Essential Conversations before You Say I Do will help couples thrive not only in the early months of their marriage but also in the years to come. Includes Guides and Questions.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas, 2017-03-09 In this six-session small group Bible study, Sacred Marriage, writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use marriage as a discipline and a motivation reflect more of the character of Jesus. Your marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately. Sacred Marriage shifts the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more. Whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God. Everything about your marriage from the history you and your spouse create, to the love you share, to the forgiveness you both offer and seek by turn is filled with the capacity to help you grow in Christ's character. In addition to life-changing insights, you ll find a wealth of discussion questions in the Participant s Guide that will spark meaningful conversation in your group, between you and your spouse, or to simply ponder by yourself. You ll also find self-assessments, activities and highlights all created to help you engage deeply and prayerfully with the content of this study. This pack contains one Sacred Marriage DVD and one Participant s Guide. Sessions include: 1. God s Purpose for Marriage 2. The Refining Power of Marriage 3. The God-Centered Spouse 4. Sacred History 5. Sexual Saints 6. Marriage: The Love Laboratory

sacred marriage gary thomas: Love and War John Eldredge, Stasi Eldredge, 2011 Through the eight-session video-based small group bible study, Love & War, John and Stasi Eldredge help you and your spouse take marriage to new levels through developing deeper intimacy and stepping into the great adventure God has waiting for you ... together! With refreshing openness that grabs you from the first words, bestselling authors John and Stasi Eldredge candidly discuss their own marriage and the insights they've gained from the challenges they've faced. Each of them talks independently about what they've learning, giving their guidance a personal immediacy and balance between the male and female perspectives - a unique feature of this study. Both John and Stasi have discovered that once couples begin moving past the shame and confusion surrounding the undertaking of marriage, they learn to fight for love and happiness - and to step into what God has in store for them. This Participant Guide is filled with helpful discussion starters, video overviews, a helpful Leader's Guide and much more. Sessions include: Hope & Vision A Perfect Storm The Greatest Gift You Can Give Sharing an Adventure The enemy Is Not Your Spouse Storm Clouds Sex A Thousand Little Choices This pack contains one guide and one DVD.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Not Yet Married Marshall Segal, 2017-06-20 Life Is Never Mainly About Love and Marriage. So Learn to Live and Date for More. Many of you grew up assuming that marriage would meet all of your needs and unlock God's purposes for you. But God has far more planned for you than your future marriage. Not Yet Married is not about waiting quietly in the corner of the world for God to bring you the one, but about inspiring you to live and date for more now. If you follow Jesus, the search for a spouse is no longer a pursuit of the perfect person, but a pursuit of more of God. He will likely write a love story for you different than the one you would write for yourself, but that's because he loves you and knows how to write a better story. This book was written to help you find real hope, happiness, and purpose in your not-yet-married life.

sacred marriage gary thomas: The Emotionally Destructive Marriage Leslie Vernick, 2013-09-17 Something Has to Change... You can't put it into words, but something is happening to you. Your stomach churns, your heart aches, and the tension in your marriage is making you feel weary and a little crazy. The constant criticism, disrespect, cruelty, deceit, and gross indifference are eroding your confidence and breaking your spirit. For any woman caught in an emotionally destructive marriage, Leslie Vernick offers a personalized path forward. Based on decades of counseling experience, her intensely practical, biblical advice will show you how to establish boundaries and break free from emotional abuse. Learn to: · identify damaging behaviors · gain the

skills to respond wisely · promote healthy change · stay safe · understand when, why, and even how to leave · recognize that God sees and hates what is happening to you Trying harder to be a perfect fantasy wife won't help fix what's wrong your marriage. Discover instead how you can initiate effective changes to stop the cycle of destruction and restore hope for the future. "Women in an emotionally abusive marriage do not need another book on how to have a good marriage; those books rub salt in raw wounds. No, they desperately need this book so that they can diagnose just how bad their marriage is and then, with Leslie's clear expertise, develop a plan that will either begin to turn their marriage around...or give them a wise route of escape." —Dee Brestin, author of *Idol Lies* and *The Friendships of Women*

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Louder Than Words* Andy Stanley, 2004-04-30 Your character, more than anything else, will impact how much you accomplish in this life. It is more important than your talent, your education, your background, or your network of friends. Andy Stanley helps you chart a course toward becoming a man or woman of character. You'll discover a definition of character that will inspire you for a lifetime, the external and internal benefits of strong character, the six false beliefs behind negative behaviors, and more. Using practical insights, biblical exposition, and engaging stories, Stanley guides you step-by-step in setting the personal goals that will build the foundation for true success. *The Secret to a Life with No Regrets* How important is your character? It determines everything about you! How much you will accomplish in life, and whether you are worth knowing. How you will respond to success, and how you will weather the inevitable storms of life. This is a book about uncompromised living. It is about choosing every day to be a man or woman of integrity, a person whose actions speak louder than words. Bestselling author Andy Stanley challenges you to become what you were meant to be: a person whose commitment to doing the right thing, whatever the cost, will inspire others and change your world. *Story Behind the Book* As a pastor, I spend a substantial amount of my time with people who are digging themselves out from personal environmental catastrophes—circumstances that were often years in the making but "took them by surprise." Another group of people have faced, or are facing, storms of life that are not of their own making, storms created by the character deficits of others—storms that are a natural part of a fallen world. There, in the midst of unjust treatment and seemingly undeserved pain, the true character of a man or woman is revealed. What you see in such moments is what was really there all along. This book is about change. It's about the process of taking raw materials and molding them, shaping them, and refining them into a finished product. Whether you know it or not, that process is happening in you. Your character, not your accomplishments or acquisitions, determines your legacy.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *To Love, Honor, and Vacuum* Sheila Wray Gregoire, 2014 Sheila speaks to both the heart and habits of the woman who is wife and mother. The lessons in this book are biblical, doable, and affordable!--Margaret B. Buchanan From advertisements to mommy blogs to Pinterest, scenes of domestic bliss abound, painting a picture of perfection and expectation nearly impossible to live up to. Why can't you work a full-time job, stylishly clothe yourself and your children, plan a party for twelve with handmade decorations, keep your house sparkling clean without chemicals, and bake a gourmet meal in the same day? Everyone else is doing it! For many women, housework has become more than chores that need to be done; it is a symbol of identity. Sheila Wray Gregoire wants to stop that thinking in its tracks and help women back to a life of balance--for their sakes and for their families. She encourages women to shift their focus from housekeeping to relationships and shows them how to foster responsibility and respect in all family members. The second edition retains the helpful, concrete advice on everyday situations such as strategies for tackling chores and budgets and tips on effective communication, while incorporating the wisdom Sheila has gained through her interaction with thousands of readers of her blog and through her speaking ministry over the past ten years. Through the principles in *To Love, Honor, and Vacuum*, Gregoire promises readers they can grow and thrive in the midst of their hectic lives--even if their circumstances stay the same.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *A Cry for Justice* Jeff Crippen, 2012-11 n many Christian circles

this may be a taboo subject-spoken of in hushed tones or behind closed doors. But it is a very real problem that must be brought into the light of Scripture. Abuse in the church takes different forms, but it is alive and active even in nice families in our churches. Typically, the abuser is male, usually a husband--and his character is that of a manipulating deceiver! Countless women and children even many faithful pastors--have been abused by these deceivers. Have you, or someone you know, been a victim? Has an abuser: Threatened physical violence if he does not get away? Intimidated you with abusive language? Denied you affection? Denied you medical attention? Manipulated friends and acquaintances in order to gain allies? Pastor Jeff Crippen uses his over thirty years of experience to rip the lid off this most insidious behavior that is often hidden in plain sight. He not only maintains that Bible believing churches have ignored or failed to face the problem, he insists that when they do counsel a victim of abuse, they get it all wrong! The result is that the victim gets pulled into deeper-even life threatening-danger! This book will come as a life-saver in a raging sea for those under the thumb of an abusive spouse or friend. The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to be free in him: spiritually, emotionally, and, yes, physically. Every pastor also needs to read this book, either because they too have been a victim, but, more importantly, so that they properly counsel those caught in a cycle of abuse.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Keep in Step with the Spirit (second edition)* J I Packer, 2020-05-21 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). The Holy Spirit empowers us, guides us, and enables us to grow and endure in our relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. Often the most misunderstood member of the Trinity, the person of the Spirit continues to attract attention today amidst church revivals and renewals. In this new edition of his classic *Keep in Step with the Spirit*, J. I. Packer seeks to help Christians reaffirm the biblical call to holiness and the Spirit's role in keeping our covenant with God. Packer guides us through the riches and depth of the Spirit's work, assesses versions of holiness and the charismatic life, and shows how Christ must always be at the centre of true Spirit-led ministry. A new chapter explores Christian assurance. With abiding relevance and significance, *Keep in Step with the Spirit* sets forth vital knowledge for healthy and joyous Christian living, through understanding and experience of God the Holy Spirit. Here is a book for every serious believer to read and re-read.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *The Meaning of Marriage* Timothy Keller, 2011-11-24 In previous books respected New York pastor and bestselling author Timothy Keller has looked at such diverse and topical subjects as the existence of God, our need to do justice, the meaning of Jesus' life, and the human temptation to make idols - all through the twin lenses of a biblical framework and an engagement with contemporary culture. In this new book, co-authored with his wife, Kathy, he turns his attention to that most complex of matters: our need for love, and its expression in marriage. Beginning with the biblical narrative, and its pictures of marriage that span the original ideal to the broken to the redemptive, he looks at themes of friendship and commitment; the completion of men and women in each other; singleness, sex and divorce; and ministry and discipleship within the context of marriage. This is a profound and engaging work that will challenge and inspire people in all stages of life - single, newlywed and married.

sacred marriage gary thomas: *Kingdom Triangle* J. P. Moreland, 2009-07-22 J.P. Moreland—Christian philosopher, theologian, and apologist—issues a call to recapture the drama and power of kingdom living—to cultivate a revolution of Evangelical life, spirituality, thought, and Spirit-led power. Drawing insights from the early church, he unpacks three essential ingredients of this revolution: Recovery of the Christian mind. Renovation of Christian spirituality. Restoration of the power of the Holy Spirit. Western society is in crisis: the result of our culture's embrace of naturalism and postmodernism, and a biblical worldview has been pushed to the margins. Christians have been strongly influenced by these trends, with the result that their personal lives often reflect the surrounding culture more than the way of Christ, and the church's transforming influence on society has waned as a result. *Kingdom Triangle* is divided into two major sections: The first examines and provides a critique of secular worldviews and shows how they have ushered in the current societal crisis. The second lays out a strategy for the Christian community to regain the

potency of kingdom life and influence in the world. Moreland believes that evangelical Christianity can mature and lead the surrounding society out of the meaningless morass it finds itself in with humility and vision. With clear insight, he puts the thoughtful Christian in a position to understand our current cultural struggle and to return to a responsible presentation of the way of Christ as not just a way of right living, but also a way of knowledge and meaningful life.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Fierce Marriage Ryan Frederick, Selena Frederick, 2018-04-17 Ryan and Selena Frederick were newlyweds when they landed in Switzerland to pursue Selena's dream of training horses. Neither of them knew at the time that Ryan was living out a death sentence brought on by a worsening genetic heart defect. Soon it became clear he needed major surgery that could either save his life--or result in his death on the operating table. The young couple prepared for the worst. When Ryan survived, they both realized that they still had a future together. But the near loss changed the way they saw all that would lie ahead. They would live and love fiercely, fighting for each other and for a Christ-centered marriage, every step of the way. *Fierce Marriage* is their story, but more than that, it is a call for married couples to put God first in their relationship, to measure everything they do and say to each other against what Christ did for them, and to see marriage not just as a relationship they should try to keep healthy but also as one worth fighting for in every situation. With the gospel as their foundation, Ryan and Selena offer hope and practical help for common struggles in marriage, including communication problems, sexual frustration, financial stress, family tension, screen-time disconnection, and unrealistic expectations.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Marriage Gary Thomas, Kevin Harney, Sherry Harney, 2009-03-20 Considers that God's primary intent for marriage is not to promote happiness as much as it is to promote holiness, citing within marriage the potential for enabling each partner to discover and reveal Christ's character. Reprint.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Sacred Pathways Bible Study Guide Gary Thomas, 2021-04-27 Discover new ways of connecting with God by understanding how he uniquely created you to worship him. The Sacred Pathways video study will help you learn: How you naturally express yourself in your relationship with God How to develop new ways of drawing near to him Key biblical figures who share your spiritual temperament How to understand others who connect with the Creator differently As believers in Christ, many of us today fall into the trap of thinking we have to approach God in a certain way. But our Creator made us all unique, and he designed us to connect with him in our own ways. For some, this might look like quiet contemplation. Others express praise through caregiving or theological discussions. It's important to discover the particular pathway that will best help you to experience God's presence. Bestselling author and speaker Gary Thomas reveals nine distinct spiritual temperaments to give you insight into how you naturally worship and how your personal walk with God might look different from those around you. Unlike the Enneagram and other personality assessment tools, Sacred Pathways gives you tools to investigate how you naturally relate to God. You will discover the strengths and impulses in your devotional approach so that you can eliminate the barriers that keep you locked into scripted methods of worship and praise. There is one thing that each of us as Christians can do that nobody else can--give our personal love and affection to God. This Study Guide includes: Discussion questions, reflection questions, and a personal assessment test to discover your pathway Personal Bible study for between sessions A guide with best practices for leading groups Sessions include: The Journey of the Soul - Introduction to the Pathways Pathways of Wonder - the Naturalist, Sensate, and Traditionalist Pathways of Contemplation - the Intellectual, Ascetic, and Contemplative Pathways of Action - the Caregiver, Activist, and Enthusiast Tending the Garden of the Soul - How the Pathways Apply to Your Life Designed for use with the Sacred Pathways Video Study available on DVD or streaming video, sold separately.

sacred marriage gary thomas: Communication Dan B. Allender, Tremper Longman III, 2010-08-22 Do you know how to listen to your spouse? How can you give life to your marriage with your words? Dan B. Allender and Tremper Longman III have together written this inductive Bible study guide to help couples build healthy and happy marriages. Through six study sessions for

individuals, couples or groups, they help you explore differences that might hinder communication and learn strategies that can strengthen your marriage. Intimate Marriage Bible studies bring spouses into deeper communion with God and with each other. In marriage a man and a woman are called to leave their families of origin, to weave their individual lives into a unity and to cleave to each other. How can fallen human beings even begin to contemplate this ideal--God's ideal? These studies will help you take small but real steps toward honoring the image of God in each other and living out God's goal for marriage. As you explore and respond to Scripture together, you will discover strength and beauty in your marriage and become even more intimate companions.

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