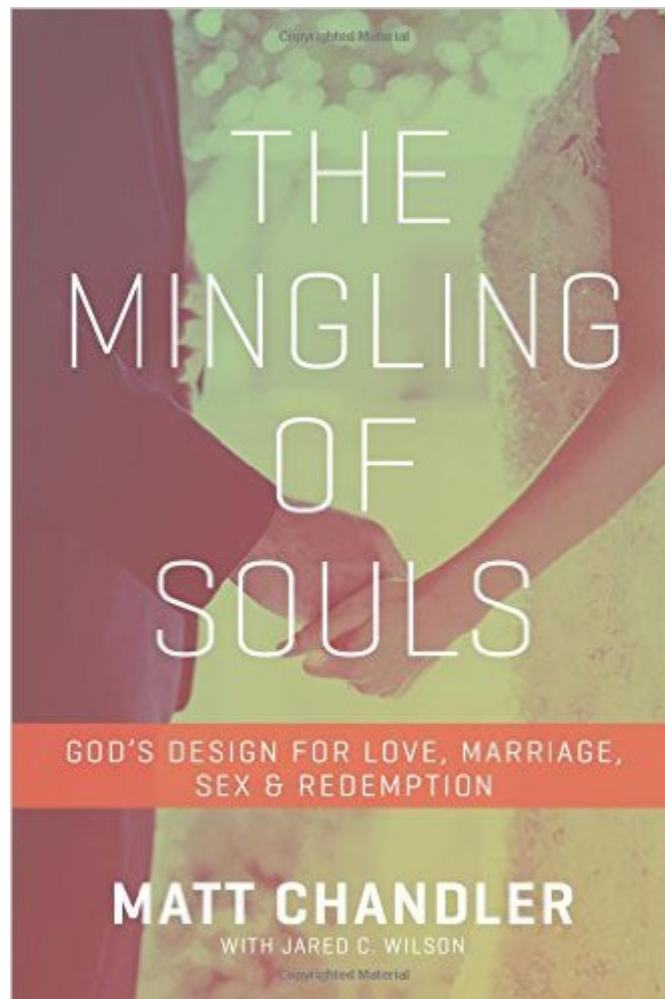


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The Mingling Of Souls: God's Design For Love, Marriage, Sex, And Redemption



Synopsis

The Song of Solomon offers strikingly candid and timeless insights on romance, dating, marriage, and sex. We need it. Because emotions rise and fall with a single glance, touch, kiss, or word. And we are inundated with songs, movies, and advice that contradicts God's design for love and intimacy. Matt Chandler helps navigate these issues for both singles and marrieds by revealing the process Solomon himself followed: Attraction, Courtship, Marriage ... even Arguing. The Mingling of Souls will forever change how you view and approach love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex & Redemption - Matt Chandler with Jared C. Wilson
The scope of this book runs from the beginning to the end of a relationship. Starting with attraction, Chandler works his way through each phase of romantic relationships: attraction, dating, courtship, wedding, sex, fighting, romance, and commitment. It is a holistic look at what a Godly relationship looks like as conveyed through the Song of Solomon. Overall Chandler gives a balanced, Biblical, and practical take on dating, marriage, and beyond. Highlights I think one of the most helpful and needed discussions in the book was on the idea of the "one." In the chapter on marriage ("Wedding Bells") Chandler says this: "I just see no reason to agree with the worldly romantic notion that every person has just one 'soul mate' out there waiting for him or her. In fact, I find that idea to be anticovenantal, contrary to grace... It turns the search for a godly spouse into an audition to be the one who 'completes' you... No spouse can complete you. Don't look for a spouse

to do what only Jesus can." (pg 106-107) He goes on to say that whomever you marry is the "one" for you. This is such a refreshing take on the popular romantic ideal that is so prevalent in our culture, even Christian culture. Chandler doesn't deny the sovereignty of God working in our lives, but denies the pagan idea that someone "completes us." And he emphasizes the covenantal relationship of marriage by illustrating that the "one" is the one you chose to marry. Chandler's distinction between dating and courtship is also extremely helpful.

We find in Genesis 2:22, "Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man." From this verse, we realize, at least in part, God's plan for male/female relationships, namely that God designed man and woman to come together, both physically and spiritually as one unit. Throughout Scripture, we find God's unfolding and perfect design for how this comes about. Perhaps no better place to look in Scripture for grasping matters of attraction, purity, and the process of moving towards that place of covenant marriage is the Song of Solomon. Pastor and author Matt Chandler in his book *The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex & Redemption* provides a solid foundation for understanding God's desires in these areas as opposed to the go your own way approach found in society. As one who is currently in the middle of an in-depth study on the Song of Solomon, I must admit I was excited to find someone tackling this often neglected book of Scripture. Now it must be stated the underlying purpose of Chandler's book is not to provide the reader with a verse by verse commentary on the Song of Solomon. If you are looking for that type of book, this most definitely is not it. If you are looking for a commentary on the Song of Solomon, there are many quality options available. Chandler's book is focused on helping the reader understand how God desires male/female relationships to operate all the way from that time when a person of the opposite sex catches your eye, through that time of getting to know one another, to that point when you realize God has brought you together for something of a more permanent nature, finally reaching that point of covenant marriage.

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