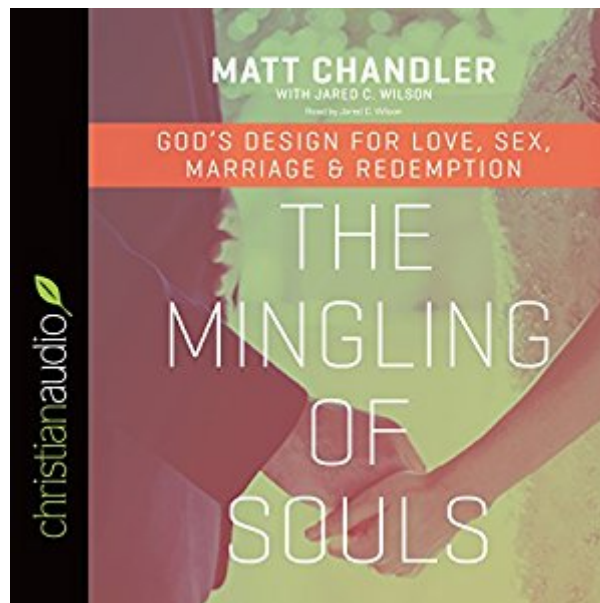




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# **The Mingling Of Souls: God's Design For Love, Sex, Marriage, And Redemption**



## 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. The cynicism in me runs deep when it comes to the idea of courtship because of works like "I Kissed Dating Goodbye." The way Chandler deals with it however is quite refreshing. He spells it out this way: dating is the "get to know you" phase of the relationship, and courtship is the "let's head toward marriage" phase of the relationship. Essentially the difference in dating and courting is the intention behind it, not necessarily certain actions. This is helpful because it removes the pressure from dating and the awkwardness from courtship. Another strong point of the book is the dealing with marriage being a representation of Christ and the Church. I think this so often gets lost in the "romantic love" part of marriage. Christ's commitment to the Church is the same commitment that spouses are to have to one another. The way Christ gave himself up for the Church is the same way a husband is to give himself for his wife, sacrificially. The love that spouses are to have for one another is the love that Christ has for His Church; committed, delighting, faithful love. Chandler also does a good job of not leave things in the theoretical sphere, but also offers practical advice throughout the book. The strongest section of practical advice is on conflict, or "Fighting Fair" to use his language. He borrows a good portion of it from other authors but it is very practical and Biblical. Honestly the majority of advice he offers could be used in any relationship, not just marriage. Critiques The one critique that I can offer is on the chapter about sex. As a whole the chapter was very good. He had great things to say about healthy sex within marriage, but it felt somewhat one sided. It's typical in dealing with sex for authors to focus primarily on males and I was hopeful that Chandler would address both genders equally. While he does address women, the main emphases seems to be directed at men. While he did a better job than most, it still felt a little one sided. Final Thoughts As a whole I really enjoyed the book, especially the final chapter, which I found to be the most inspirational. While I am yet to be married, the thought of finishing well in marriage is something that is very appealing. It is something that I know I want to strive to achieve. Chandler gave a great call for all to do so and practical advice for how to do so. I pray that I one day have the opportunity to finish well and am faithful to the end. Rating: 4.5 / 5 Originally posted at: [...]

My husband & I have read many relationship/ marriage books as we've been together & this one is

by far our favorite. Chandler explains courtship & dating so well. He's very to the point & always brings you back to the gospel. We recommend this book to everyone! Whether you're dating, courting, engaged, married, single, or parenting teens. Great read & great buy!

I've never heard someone explained marriage in this way . It's what every married couple should aim for and using the Song of Solomon to explain this was brilliant. It's an excellent book to help single people understand the reason for waiting until marriage to have sex and also what to look for while dating . It really helped me to understand the relationship between God and the church . Marriage is no joke it's a covenant and I'm looking forward for it !!!

Must read for Believers. Amazing read. Spirit-filled, practical, thoughtful, deep, and engaging are just a few words that come to mind when I share the power of the message of this book with others. This is for singles and married alike, men and women, young and old. Its authentic dive into The Bible and God's Word on relationships will change your life and marriage... if you allow His Word into your mind and heart. I cannot wait to read it with our daughter!

My husband and I decided to read this book because we are just fans of Matt Chandler. We thought it wouldn't affect us much because we are already married and a big portion of the book is about life before marriage. However, this book is so relevant! It allowed us to talk about previous issues in our relationship and how we would want to incorporate this into our kids life. This book is straight to the point and well written. Would recommend to any couple who is dating, engaged, or married.

An insightful book into all phases of a relationship, from initial attraction to covenant marriage til the death when the couple will part. Using Song of Solomon as a template, Matt Chandler speaks of the "ahava" type love, the love that says "I will stay regardless". Regardless of fights, of struggles, of life's temptations and hardships, ahava says "I am in this til death do us part". He uses not only scriptural knowledge to back his points, but also personal experience from the relationship between himself and his wife Lauren. The most effective and hard-hitting points, in my opinion, use these personal experiences to show what not to do and then sometimes what you should do. The wisdom and love that Lauren showed when he was battling cancer, and battling sin, is one of the most striking examples of this "ahava" love in the book. It is a good and useful book, one that I would recommend to anyone who is in any stage of a relationship that seeks to honor God and Christ and represent the covenant relationship between Christ and the church. For in Christ alone can there be

a true Mingling of Souls.

Is not new, many have done it. He is not an expert, he admits this, but he has learned a lot by personally counseling many a young couple through his almost two decades of ministry as well as through his own marriage. And I appreciate Matt Chandler's unique view and adaptation of the Song, translating it into practical advice for modern couples. I especially appreciate his determination throughout the book to get the reader to focus on Christ and the gospel (where it should be)!

I would definitely read this book again and again. So grateful to have come across this book. May u be blessed more with everything you do #thank you for writing this book. To all the couples out there please read this book especially all the single ladies like me

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