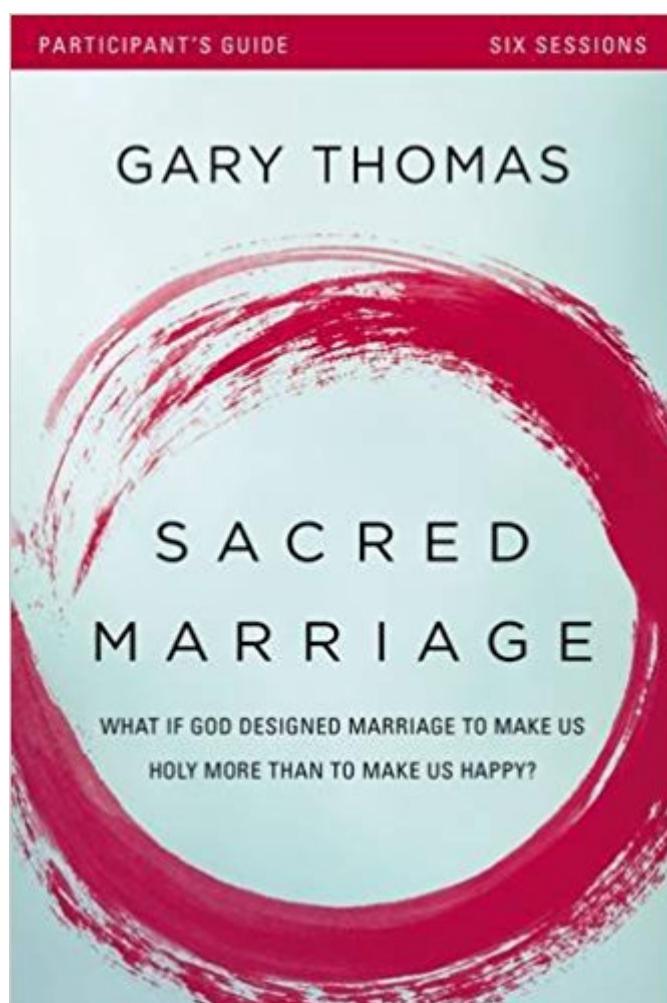


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Sacred Marriage Participant's Guide: What If God Designed Marriage To Make Us Holy More Than To Make Us Happy?



Synopsis

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. In addition to life-changing insights, you'll find a wealth of discussion questions in this 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. 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).

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Customer Reviews

Gary L. Thomas is Writer in Residence and serves on the teaching team at Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas and the author of 18 books that have sold more than a million copies worldwide and

have been translated into a dozen languages. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 30 years. Kevin and Sherry Harney serve at Shoreline Community Church in Monterey, California. They have authored Finding a Church You Can Love and Loving the Church You've Found and more than sixty small group Bible Studies. Learn more at: kevingharney.com and sherryharney.com

This has quickly become one of my favorite books. As a Catholic, I so appreciate how Gary Thomas touches on the lives of monks & nuns, as well as his references to St. Francis de Sales, one of my favorite saints. I also love how he mentions the Sacrament of Confession & how different it is to confess to a person vs. confessing to God. That's what I love (ha, ha - hate) about being Catholic - the sacraments. Confession is not the most pleasant experience but there is nothing like hearing the priest say "I absolve you of your sins". You can't help but walk away with a little more spring to your step & joy in your heart after an experience of tangible Grace.

My husband works as a counselor and deals so often with people in relationships or marriages that think the whole purpose of marriage is to make you happy.....and they are miserable and their marriages are crumbling. This book brings a godly, biblical perspective and a very real and straight-forward way that I think all Christian couples need to read. We can approach marriage very selfishly instead of seeing it the way God sees it. We are even discussing some of these concepts in our couples small group that my husband and I lead. Great book. I highly recommend it.

Great book. Every married Christian should read it. If nothing else re-read the subtitle daily, "What if God created marriage to make us holy rather than to make us happy?" That certainly fits relative to your actual experience doesn't it? It reminds you that marriage is NOT intended to completely fulfill you. That is what God does. Marriage gives you a wonderful opportunity to grow up, quit being selfish, learn to sacrifice what you want for what someone else wants, and quit waiting for your spouse to meet your every need. They can't. It is true, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Helps view your marriage from a different perspective...Godly idea of a greater purpose of marriage. Overall the knowledge gained after reading this book increases your maturity level for relationships between husband and wife

This book is the best book out on shelves for marriage. I will give this out freely as a gift. My

husband and I have been married for 25yrs and have many difficulties through out and I was just done with the whole thing and then I started reading this book and now I know that God is the one most important in my life and He knows my marriage. I know now that I will not leave this marriage because of what I have read in this book. If you don't know what to do in your marriage, get the book and read it and then let God love you.

I do like the book very much, only did not give it 5 stars because my hubby and I are not yet finished going through it, and also like a lot of inspirational authors, Thomas sometimes way overuses themes he's created in the book. I'm just skipping over the overused themes, but his points and stories are very helpful advice for couples, married or not yet. We live in such a "ME" focuses society, and one of his main points is that we need to focus on God and the other person in the relationship more than ourselves, and dig deeper to find out what the hard times in our relationships can teach us and how we can grow together as a couple towards God.

This is a really insightful look into our motives, needs and expectations that seem right and deserved. But when we get Gods mind in our heart that ours is a fallen world and we can only overcome it by walking in His grace, peace and love. If we want change in someone or in relationship, start with ourselves and God. You really do reap what you sow, but we have a higher ability through God's Spirit in us to reflect forgiveness, patience and love we so much want and need from others but need to humbly receive for ourselves first. Haven't read the whole book yet-- but I know what I'm in for. (smile)

I'm only eight chapters in, but already I am seeing a positive change by applying the truths that Gary Thomas has laid out in this book. Everything is so plain and transparent. I love how he takes the very issues of marriage that seem so complicated and exposes the root of those problems so easily. This book truly points back to what the true intent of marriage should be and presents practical applications to help us achieve that. I had been searching for a book that would help exemplify a more profound and fulfilling purpose of marriage other than to just simply "make it work" or "to be happy". I without a doubt have found it in this book, even without getting halfway through. Can't wait to finish it.

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