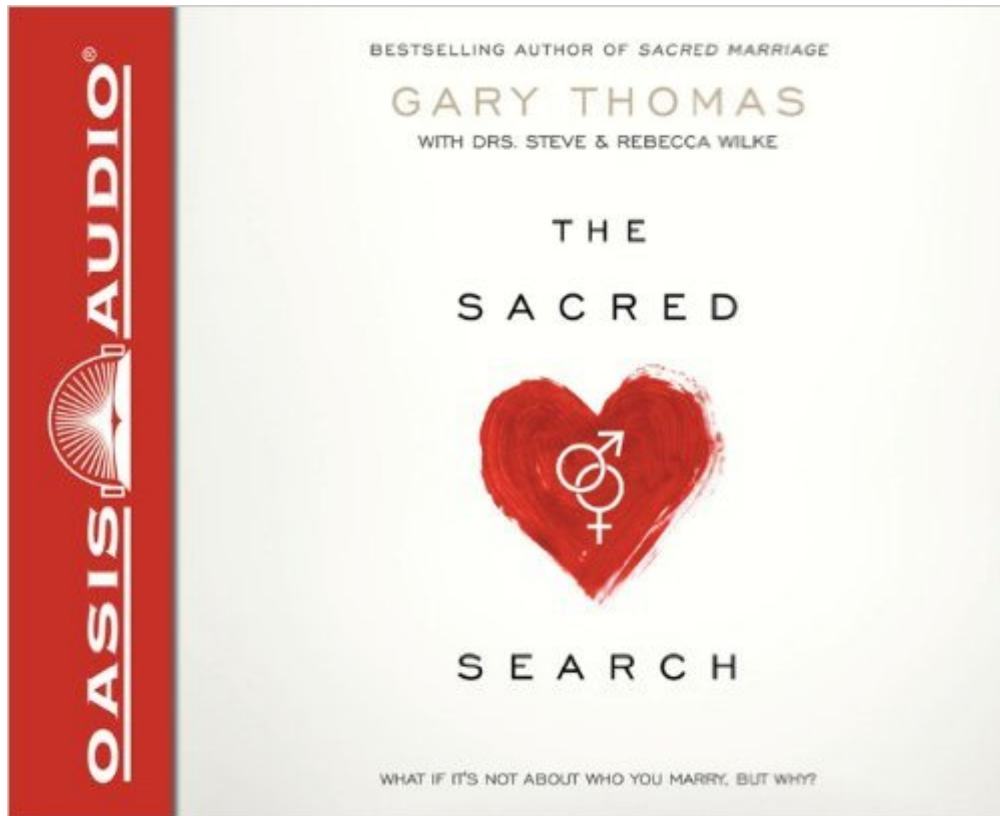


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# The Sacred Search: What If It's Not About Who You Marry, But Why?



## Synopsis

What if being in love isn't a good enough reason to get married? What if dating isn't about finding "the one," but about serving the one who loves you most? Don't get married until you listen to this audiobook. In *The Sacred Search*, Gary Thomas challenges you to think beyond finding a "soul mate" and to look for a "sole mate" - someone who will walk with you on your spiritual journey. After all, if you don't know why to marry, you won't know who to marry. *The Sacred Search* casts a vision for building a relationship around a shared spiritual mission - and making a marriage with eternity at its heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

No marriage is easy, but some marriages build each partner up, while others tear each partner down; every marriage takes time and effort, but some marriages sap the spouses' strength, while others generate joy and enthusiasm and intimacy, according to Gary Thomas in this book. You are more likely to make a wise marriage choice if you settle the "why" question before considering the "who".

If you don't recall I reviewed Gary Thomas's *Every Body Matters* and really enjoyed it so I jumped at the opportunity to read *The Sacred Search*. It also happens that as many of you know I'm writing a book about family discipleship and so I'm trying to read as many books about relationships from a Christian perspective as possible. All that aside: I enjoyed *The Sacred Search*. Thomas argues that most people when searching for a spouse are doing it all wrong. They are placing the search above

all else. Thomas uses Matthew 6:33 "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (see pp. 17-18). Says Thomas, I want to make a promise to you: if you will see first God's kingdom and His righteousness and let that agenda drive your decision regarding whom you choose to marry and refuse to compromise on that, you will set yourself up for a much more fulfilling, spiritually enriching, and overall more satisfying marriage. The degree to which you compromise on this verse is the degree to which you put your future satisfaction in jeopardy and open wide the door to great frustration and even regret. (p. 22) and later he points out, You know why so many relationships slowly wither into nothingness? They stop seeking first the kingdom of God. There's no overarching mission in the couple's lives beyond self-enjoyment. This entraps them in a life of petty battles and superficial cares. . . . Living by the gospel provides the security so necessary to build a foundation of mutual fellowship (pp. 173, 175) That foundation provides a spring board for expansive conversations surrounding searching for a marriage partner, pre-marital counseling, healthy relationships, and other related topics.

This book is an exposition of Matthew 6:33 with regards to the 'why' of marriage that is more important than the 'who we marry.' In other words, before we get married, we need to ask the question of why do we want to marry in the first place. Many people are discouraged just to see how the statistics are skewing divorces and unhappy marriages more as a norm rather than an exception. It has even deterred people from seeking out getting married. Others are too concerned about who they should marry. For some, marriage is a cross, while for others, marriage is a test of faith. While it is true that there are pains and heartaches in marriages, Thomas wants to point out that there is hope. Rather than to marry and then regret the decision, the key task in this book is to search from the perspective of seeking God's Kingdom and God's Righteousness first, and to trust God to provide for our marital answers. The search begins with the ones who claim that their marriage situation is more an exception rather than a rule. In other words, God is faithful in everything except when it comes to their own marriage future or a happy marriage. The problem with this culture is that far too many people see happiness as the first priority in marriage. That largely explains the falling out of love and the failing marriages among many. Being in love just is not enough. Finding a 'right' partner is also insufficient. Mere romantic attraction as a reason to get married is also foolish. The problem is that romantic love is "involuntary," hard to "control," and temporary. In order to start well, we need a spiritual redemption ourselves. Regulate both sexual passions, physical and psychological attractions with spiritual clarity toward wisdom and vulnerability. Thomas then speaks to both gender.

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