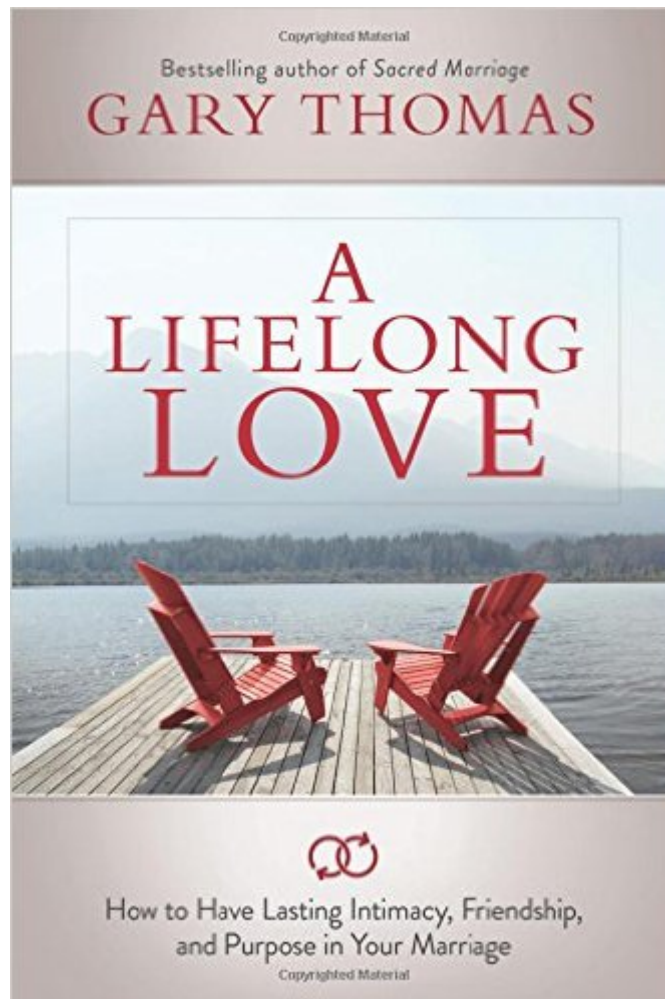


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# A Lifelong Love: How To Have Lasting Intimacy, Friendship, And Purpose In Your Marriage



## Synopsis

Gary Thomas believes couples often settle for too little when it comes to marriage. We fail to understand how deeply God cares about our spouse. We diminish our need to not only understand what biblical love really is, but also to become a people who excel at it. We let ourselves drift apart instead of making the daily choices to grow closer together. Whether your marriage needs a complete makeover, a touch up, or just a new purpose, *A Lifelong Love* promises to set your relationship on an entirely new dimension. You will never look at worship or your spouse in the same way again. You will understand how living for that day will so radically transform the decisions you make this day. And Gary will guide you through the power shifts and seasonal mine fields that blow up so many marriages so that you can grow in your love instead of in your disappointment. Thirty years of study and two decades of working with couples has led Gary Thomas to his most significant book yet on the relationship between husband and wife. Find out for yourself what all the fuss is about and why *A Lifelong Love* is sure to challenge the way the church talks about marriage.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: David C. Cook (June 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1434708624

ISBN-13: 978-1434708625

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (81 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #27,908 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Dating & Relationships #181 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Marriage #243 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Marriage & Adult Relationships

## Customer Reviews

*A Lifelong Love* targets the couple currently married at any season of life (i.e., anywhere from newlywed to empty nest and into the twilight years). It is a complement to the author's previous book, *Sacred Marriage*. Gary Thomas leads husbands and wives to develop an abiding love for one another that lasts a lifetime and transcends the marriage itself. He wrote, "Here's the question we

seek to answer: How can we remake our marriages to become fruitful relationships that breathe spiritual life and that God can use to encourage others? My book Sacred Marriage gave a picture of the destination. This book is the road map of how to get there. Sacred Marriage spoke of the character God builds in us through marriage; A Lifelong Love addresses the intimacy that awaits us if we will lay hold of God's promises and spiritual provisions." (Pages 20 - 21) Elsewhere he penned, "The goal of this book isn't just to build marriages that stick it out with gritted teeth. It's not entitled A Lifelong Marriage but A Lifelong Love for a reason. Even when we face seemingly insurmountable challenges, marriage can build within us the all-important attitude of a conqueror. And that's what we are called by God to do." (Page 131) I found this resource to be well-grounded and very practical. Throughout the book, the author proposes questions to consider and suggestions to apply. Each chapter concludes with a section designed for readers to take its content and integrate it specifically to their situation. The chapter ending, "Building a Lifelong Love" finishes with an example prayer. For instance, Thomas presented some application questions I personally found challenging. He wrote: 1 "Think back to your engagement day. What was your primary motivation to get married?

Author Gary Thomas serves on the teaching team at Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, which has five campuses and over 60,000 members. His books have sold in the hundreds of thousands, and he has been given numerous awards for his many bestselling titles, one of which is SACRED MARRIAGE. Here, Thomas focused on the character that God builds within us through marriage. In his newest effort, A LIFELONG LOVE, he addresses the ever-deepening intimacy that God offers believers as they grow to cherish each other more and more as time passes. In this three-part text, Thomas focuses on several specific areas and then breaks down each into usable, practical ways and means to implement each principle in real life. First, readers will discover what it means to experience a magnificent obsession with God (creating a marriage that blooms through worship of God). Second, Christians will gain a better understanding of what passion to excel at a deeper kind of love looks like and how to achieve it. Finally, Christ followers will grasp the meaning of intentionally pursuing oneness in their marital relationship. Specifically, when Thomas delves into the section on developing a magnificent obsession with God, he helps readers better understand that as they take responsibility for making their spiritual walk with God the dominant force in their lives, out of that deep worshipful relationship with their Creator, they necessarily will be equipped to love their spouse more fully. It only makes sense that those who completely surrender themselves to God's will for their lives will be the same folks who are able to daily surrender their rights in order to sacrificially love their mate.

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