

“Rethinking Romance”

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What is love?

OUR CULTURE'S VIEW OF LOVE

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People “fall in love.”

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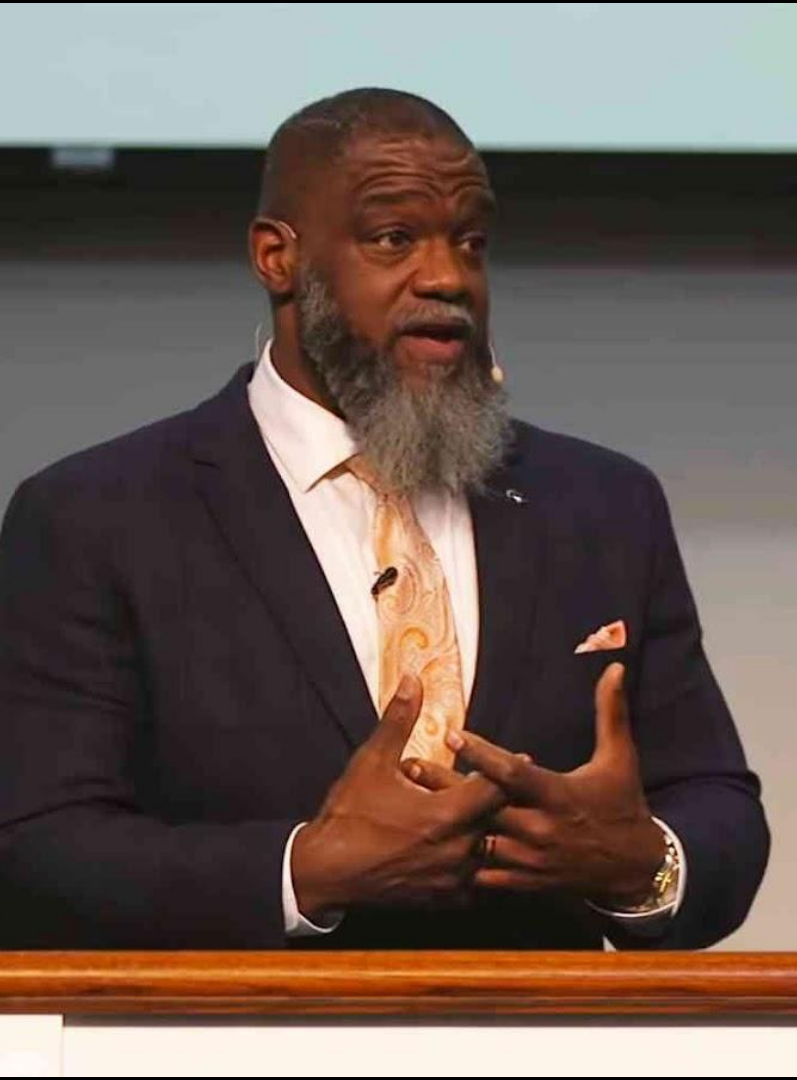
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People “hook up” for love.

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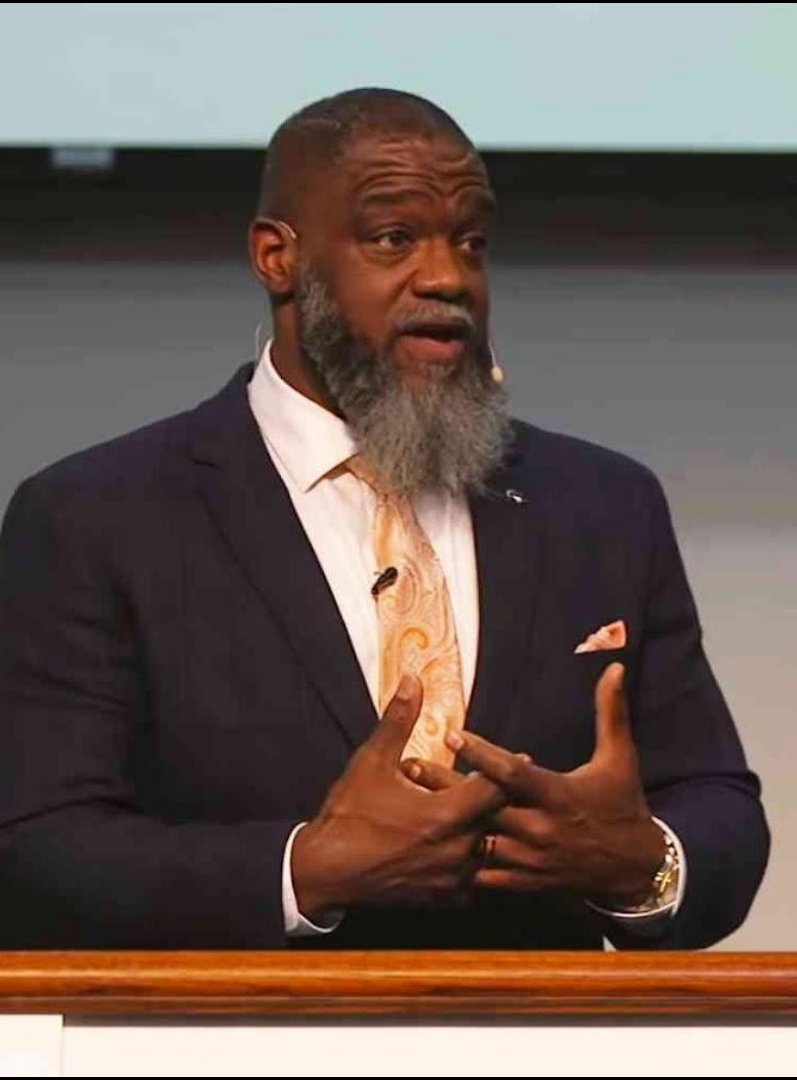
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Voddie Baucham

“THE MYTH OF
ROMANTIC LOVE”



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“THE MYTH OF ROMANTIC LOVE”

If love is based on following your heart, then is love ever safe? Couldn't my heart eventually fall in love with someone else? And if love is based on finding 'the one,' can you ever really know if you found it?

How is our culture's view of love working?

- 57% of teens engaged in intercourse before high school graduation (2017 study of 15,000 teens).
- The divorce rate has tripled in the last century.
- Out-of-wedlock births have more than doubled since 1980 to now over 40%.
- An average of one in five pregnancies end in abortion (2014).

from David J. Ayers, *Christian Marriage*

How is our culture's view of love working?

“By 2010, it was well known that cohabitation is not only less stable than marriage, it is less stable than re-marriage (marrying after a divorce).”

from David J. Ayers, *Christian Marriage*

THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF LOVE

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1. God's love.

God's Love

“None is righteous no not one; no one understands; no one seeks God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly....But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 3:10-12; 5:6-8

THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF LOVE

1. God's love.
2. Christian love.

Christian Love

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Christian Love

“This is my commandment,
that you love one another
as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

THE BIBLE'S VIEW OF LOVE

1. God's love.
2. Christian love.
3. Marital love.

Marital Love

“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Matthew 19:4-6

Marital Love

“I, take thee, to be my wedded wife/husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death do us part.”

Traditional Wedding Vows

A Definition of Biblical Love

A Definition of Biblical Love

“Biblical love is
an act of the will
accompanied by emotion
that leads to action
on behalf of its object.”

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“Rethinking Romance”
SEVEN TIPS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

“Rethinking Romance”
SEVEN TIPS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

1. Reject the culture’s view of love and dating.

Don't follow your heart.
“Guard your heart.”

Proverbs 4:23

“Rethinking Romance”
SEVEN TIPS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

1. Reject the culture’s view of love and dating.
2. Believers should only date believers.

“if you are a professing believer the person you seek to date *must* be: regenerate (a born-again believer), repentant (marked by humility, able to acknowledge sin and seek forgiveness by God and others), and reformed (there are evidences and fruit of a changed life).”

Voddie Baucham, *What He Must Be...
If He Wants to Marry My Daughter*

“Rethinking Romance”
SEVEN TIPS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

1. Reject the culture’s view of love and dating.
2. Believers should only date believers.
3. Those who move wisely from single to married work backward from marriage.

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SEVEN TIPS FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

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3. Those who move wisely from single to married work backward from marriage.
4. Don’t separate what God joined together (specifically marriage, sexuality and parenting).

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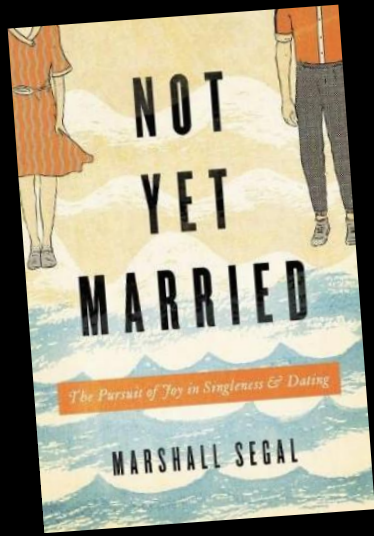
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6. Surround your relationship with real friends.



“The Bible warns us to weave all our desires, needs, and decisions deep into a fabric of family who love us and will help us follow Jesus. God has sent you—your faith, your gifts, and your experience—into other believers’ lives for their good to encourage them (1 Thessalonians 5:14, Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11).”

Marshall Segal, *Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness & Dating*

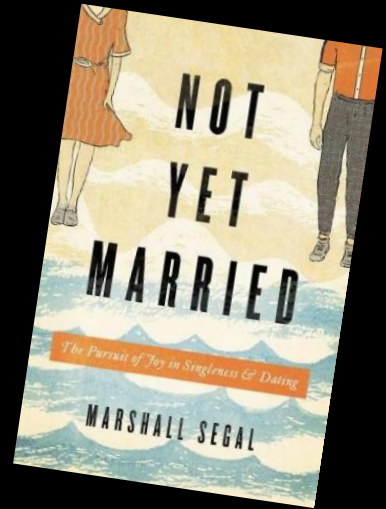
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6. Surround your relationship with real friends.
7. Avoid leaving your church family behind.

“[God] means for the church to be the rough tread on the edge of the highway, making sure we stay awake and alert while driving in life, and in dating. If we don’t build our church family into our routine and our relationships, we’re likely to ride right off into a ditch.”

Marshall Segal, *Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness & Dating*



“Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.”

Proverbs 4:23