



news release

AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL
411 University Ridge Ste B14
Greenville, SC 29601
Ph. 864.751.4847
www.ambassador-international.com

MEDIA CONTACT: Keli Garrett
864.517.0666
media@emeraldhouse.com

PAINTING GOD'S PICTURE OF MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL INTIMACY CHALLENGES READERS TO ASK "WHY" AND LOOK AT GOD'S COMMANDMENTS IN EVERY ASPECT OF THEIR LIVES



RELEASE DATE: April 1, 2017
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 128
PRICE: \$12.99
ISBN: 9781620205747

For immediate release: We live in a day and age where marriage and sexual intimacy are up for many different interpretations, among Christians and non-Christians. Even among churches, the detailed description of love and sex is often brushed over so lightly that many miss the beautiful picture Christ has painted. In his book *The Mystery and the Masterpiece: The Message of Marriage* (Ambassador International; April 1, 2017; \$12.99, paperback) author Randy Blankenship outlines God's true desire for a man and woman in marriage. According to Blankenship, "[o]ur culture today, even among those who claim to be followers of Christ, has made sexual relations commonplace and marriage an option." Throughout his book, Blankenship refers to our acts within marriage as "a pattern of worship." It is this kind of thinking that will open the eyes of his readers to see marriage in a whole new light.

Blankenship is not afraid to be descriptive and ask why the Bible says what it says. "[W]hile most people may *acknowledge* what the Bible says, many do not want to *accept* what the Bible says. I'm not sure this book will change that trend. However, I do believe that most people do not know *why* the Bible says what it says—and the reasons given by most, listed previously, do not come close to being the main reason *why* the Bible says what it says." Through scripture and biblical references, Blankenship describes how a man and woman should honor Christ inside and outside of the bedroom.

While Blankenship touches on some sensitive topics, he makes it very clear that God is not a God of hate and is not disgusted with His people, just their sinful acts. "God does not hate anyone. He does not hate the adulterer. He does not hate the teenager having sex before marriage. He does not hate the homosexual. God truly does love everyone and hates no one!" Blankenship's words are honest, descriptive, and compelling, yet loving and sensitive as well.

About the Author: Randy Blankenship, Sr. is a church planter, missionary, and pastor, having graduated from Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida. Since 2004, he has served as Lead Pastor of New Life Church in Kokomo, Indiana. He is married to Sharon. They have two children, one married, all involved in ministry. Randy teaches the Bible in a way that is easy to understand, believing that when we understand God's Word and live by it, our lives will be better!

For more information about the author visit www.randyblankenshipsr.com; RandyBlankenship@newlife4kokomo.org; Twitter: @CRBlankenship; www.facebook.com/randy.blankenshipsr; Instagram: @PastorRandyB; or www.randyblankenship.blogspot.com.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *The Mystery and the Masterpiece* please contact publicist Keli Garrett at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. What brought you to write such a detailed book on intimacy?
2. You mentioned several times throughout your book that marriage is an act of worship. Do you think that most Christians today miss this form of worship? Why?
3. How did God speak to you about your own marriage throughout the writing of this book?
4. How do you and your wife protect your marriage?
5. What do you think is the most influential aspect in today's modern age that dictates most marriages?
6. You don't seem to be afraid to tell the truth like it is and get to the root of the problem. Did that come easily for you while writing this book?
7. What is the most difficult aspect in your own marriage that has influenced your book?
8. You often say that your thinking may come across as a little unorthodox. What is your response to those who may feel that way?
9. What advice can you give to someone who feels like it is too late to worship God through their actions?
10. How do you hope your book will inspire couples who read it?

Endorsements:

“Provocative and compelling, I couldn't put the manuscript down. Discover what was always in front of you, but just out of touch. Discover the message of marriage and sexuality about God, you, and your eternal future.”

—**Ron L. Deal**

Marriage and family author, speaker, and therapist; Author of **The Smart Stepfamily** and **The Smart Stepfamily Marriage**

“Unafraid to tackle intimate, nitty-gritty themes, Randy skillfully and tenderly presents astonishingly fresh insights into the marriage covenant and its 'bigger picture' connection with authentic worship of God.”

—**Dave Williams**

Director of Dave Williams Ministries; Bishop of Mount Hope Church Network; Author of **The Art of Pacesetting Leadership**

“Randy has written a superb, and profoundly reflective, monograph on biblical marriage that is sure to inspire and guide couples into increased intimacy, spiritual connectivity, fulfillment, and personal effectiveness.”

—**Doug Oss, Ph.D.**

Former Director of the Cordas C. Burnett Center for Biblical Preaching at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary & Professor of Biblical Theology and New Testament Interpretation

“In this book, his passion for a healthy, intimate marriage which mirrors a close relationship between the believer and Christ is evident. During these times we need healthy marriages that reflect a deep, intimate relationship between followers of Christ and the heavenly bridegroom who is returning soon for His bride. May this book inspire Christian couples to be godly examples to those around them.”

—**J. Russell Turney**

Asia Pacific Mission Director, Assemblies of God World Missions

“This book is much needed in a society where what is right and wrong is blurred by popular culture. Even more so, the cultural phenomenon of our day has created a void in training Christians how to talk about these important subjects with truth and love. Blankenship does a masterful job at combining what is said in the Bible with how God wants to show His love to people.”

—**Daniel Mundt, M.A.**

Heartland District Supervisor of the Foursquare Church

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“Randy opens our eyes to discover amazing nuances few books uncover. He takes us to the theological bedrock of marriage in a most refreshing way! This book will impact your view of marriage and your awe of God through it!”

—**Ron Rand**

Director of UpBuilding Ministries

“For so long the church has been content with a conservative view of sexuality but has failed to provide the why behind God’s beautiful, covenantal design. Randy goes far beyond (and above) the ethics and morality of sexuality, and hits to the heart of a more compelling ‘why’ of godly sexual expression.”

—**Ty Wyss**

Founder and Director of Walls Down Ministries; Counseling Pastor, Living Truth Church, Carmel, Indiana; Director of Soul Spring Counseling

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RANDY BLANKENSHIP, SR. *Author of "The Mystery and the Masterpiece"*



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