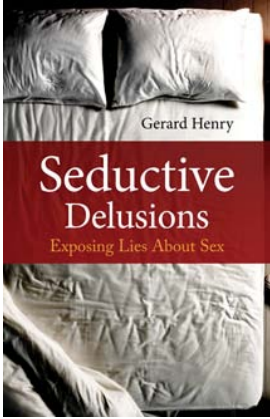


## REDEEMING THE DIVINE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL INTIMACY Exposing the Seductive Delusions of Love, Relationships and Sexual Integrity



Atlanta: GA - Our society has become accustomed to the over-saturated message of sexual freedom. Sex has immersed itself in our culture, entertainment, advertising and has often become the focus of our lives, including teenagers.

Author **Gerard Henry**, a former BET host, believes that although human sexuality is a significant part of our human identity, most parents are letting the culture teach their children about sex, resulting in a negative impact on how singles view relationships, sex and intimacy.

In his book, ***Seductive Delusions: Exposing Lies About Sex*** (Moody Publishers, June 2010), Henry shares his personal story as an African American man who, like many other guys, pursued woman for his own self-

satisfying pleasures.

Henry, who leads one of the largest singles gatherings in Atlanta, believes that sex and intimacy were created to be enjoyed in all areas of our lives, including mind, body and spirit. But many settle for the seductive delusions that have distorted the divine purpose of sex, while the only way to redeem our cultural standards is through understanding, repentance and a renewed commitment to God and the opposite sex.

In many cases, teenagers are raising themselves and left to their own devices when it comes to the decision to have sex without understanding the repercussions that occur after the act, which often changes their lives drastically.

Henry admits that despite growing up in a Christian family, his biggest temptation wasn't drugs or alcohol, but his physical attraction to women. This temptation combined with what he believed was normal behavior for a guy, gave way to Henry's decision to lose his virginity during his sophomore year of high school. "I learned firsthand that many females are willing to exchange sex for the promise of what they think is love. I learned that a 'nice guy' like me could manipulate and deceive just about anyone to get sex," says Henry. In *Seductive Delusions* Henry addresses sexual ethics and sexuality including:

- *Love or Lust*: "Intimacy is what our hearts and spirits need in order to experience a deeper level of meaning when it comes to sex. Too many of us have settled for a counterfeit motivation in our sex lives: lust. The fundamental difference between love and lust is that lust is self-centered and love is other-centered."
- *Making a Love Connection*: "Doesn't it sound ridiculous to say you're not ready to commit your life to someone, but you're ready to give someone the most intimate part of yourself? A continued abuse of sex leads to over familiarity and dulls the sensation of the sexual experience. If you do marry one day, do you want to bring all those experiences to your wedding bed?"

~more~

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- *The Power of Purity*: “Sexual fantasies and everything that feeds them are the primary sources of improper sexual behavior and are driven by nothing more than seductive delusions. The life of purity can be achieved one step at a time by keeping the Word of God the center of your life.”
- *A Letter to My Brothers*: “When we live for ourselves, seeking momentary pleasures without being willing to take responsibility for the consequences, the results will leave us inwardly unfulfilled.”
- *In God We Trust*: “The only way to conquer personal emptiness and to fulfill your need for unconditional love is to have a relationship with God. The character you develop in the process of staying abstinent and the deepening relationship with God is worth the sacrifice.”

Henry also offers a personal apology to all women on behalf of all the men who have lied, cheated, and deceived them by not honoring them in the fullness of who they were created to be. Henry challenges men to live to a higher standard that goes against the self-preserving and self-centered societal norm of enjoying women for personal pleasure. For those who have immersed their lives in sex and false intimacy, Henry offers encouragement to facilitate a life of forgiveness and freedom from sin and shame.

“Men need to discover their God-given identity and value. They need to break the habit of counterfeit intimacy that includes pretending to be someone they’re not out of fear that a woman won’t stay with them if they knew their true identity,” says Henry. “Men need to realize the value a woman will bring into their lives and make the decision to a serious commitment to her.”

*Seductive Delusions* also addresses controversial topics that include premarital sex, STDS, birth-control, cohabitating before marriage and pornography. Henry concludes that the need for unconditional love and personal fulfillment is not met in the seductive delusions that the world advertises daily, but in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Additional information is available at <http://www.seductivedelusionsbook.com/>

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GERARD HENRY is the creator and former host of the Black Entertainment Television, Inc. (BET) Gospel music video show “Lift Every Voice.” After nine years, he moved on to launch Proseuche, a mobilization and marketing firm. Gerard leads *The Gathering* - one of the largest singles meetings in Atlanta that includes spiritual teachings, music, open dialogue, and personal ministry. Henry is an inspirational speaker and author of *Voices of Inspiration*. An alumnus of the University of Maryland, College Park, he and his wife, Terry, live outside of Atlanta, Georgia with their three children.

## ABOUT GERARD HENRY:



Gerard Henry is the creator and former host of the highly rated Black Entertainment Television, Inc. (BET) Gospel music video show, “Lift Every Voice”: featuring up-close and personal interviews with leading Gospel Artists and Preachers in the nation. After 9 years, Gerard has moved on to launch PROSEUCHE, a grassroots mobilization and marketing firm.

As an inspirational speaker, he is known for speaking on various topics including abstinence, prayer and discovering your destiny. Henry states, “At this point in my life, having speaking opportunities is not enough. I want to use my platform and increasing celebrity as a vehicle to not only speak life to the hearts and minds of youth and young adults across this nation, but mobilize many who desire to make a lasting impact on the next generation.”

He is the author of *Voices of Inspiration* (New Motivational and Spiritual reflections from some of today’s most inspiring voices: Bishop Eddie Long, CeCe Winans, Allan Houston, and Billy Blanks) published by BET Books, and *Sex at its Best: Going A.W.O.L. (Abstinence Without Lust)*. A native of Teaneck, N.J., Gerard is an alumnus of the University of Maryland, College Park where he earned a B.A. in Radio-TV-Film, graduating with honors. Gerard, his wife Terry, daughter Baylor Leanne, son Benjamin Jeremiah, and daughter Bria Lyn reside outside of Atlanta.

## Suggested Interview Questions:

1. What are some of the seductive delusions regarding sex and intimacy?
2. Why do you believe sex outside of marriage is a selfish act? What about people who believe they are expressing their love for another person through sex?
3. Why do you believe sex was created for marriage? What about people who want the experience before marriage so they can please their spouse?
4. Why did you decide to remain abstinent after you were sexually active? Was this a difficult decision?
5. Why do you believe that lust, not love, is the motivating factor with premarital sex?
6. How do the decisions regarding sex and dating impact a person's future marriage and children?
7. Why do feel that living together before marriage can ruin a relationship?
8. How is it possible to live a life free of lust and sexual desire?
9. Why do you believe most men are afraid to reveal their true identity to women?
10. What is your message to men and women separately?
11. Why did you feel the need to make an apology to women on behalf of men?
12. What is your advice to those who have already been sexually active? Is there an opportunity for renewal?

## Gerard Henry's Faith Testimony

You know the Lord says that one of the ways we overcome is through the WORD of our Testimony. The Greek word for testimony is “marturion,” which happens to be the name of my production company. Marturion means your living experience or life journey with God. While some may say that the Christian walk is boring, I beg to differ. How can living by faith be boring?! Generally speaking, life is filled with drama, adventure, comedy, romance, etc. and I’m convinced that if we see more “Christian living experiences” or “testimonies,” then we will see more people putting their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

My story begins as a teenager, when my life was transformed by encountering the presence of God at a Bible study led by some college students. Prior to that point, although I had asked Jesus into my heart at 12, I typically pursued my lustful teenage desires. Part of my extra-curricular activities during my first two years in high school was “messing” with girls in the back stairways, while during my final two years I was leading a prayer movement in those same stairways.

Although my academics were good prior to my conversion (average B student), I was motivated to work at my full potential upon surrendering my heart to Jesus. This resulted in a full academic scholarship at the University of Maryland at College Park where I majored in Radio, Television, and Film. Selecting a major was not difficult because I knew from a child that I wanted to be in the field of entertainment. Acting was a passion of mine and being on stage or in front of a camera came naturally.

I strongly believe that the destiny of an individual can be seen in their childhood passions and talents. The dreams and desires from childhood are God-given, but they must be purified. My process of purification had to be in the most common vices associated with the world of entertainment...sex, money and fame. The foundations of these vices are rooted in lust and pride, which are two things I address frequently when speaking. I also talk extensively about lust and sexual purity in my book, “Sex At Its Best: Going A.W.O.L. (Abstinence Without Lust)” and believe part of the signature of the Psalm 24 generation will be a commitment to purity and holiness.

God graced me not only to abstain from sex for 12 years (until I got married), but the first time I kissed a woman was when my wife and I were pronounced “husband & wife”. This often brings a flurry of inquiries from an audience or congregation when speaking, but at the conclusion of my message, most are persuaded that purity is the foundation for genuine love. Isn’t that what we all desire?

Anyway...during my college years I once again started a Bible study group that grew to exceed 50 members in three semesters. It was more like a student organization that emphasized Christ-centered leadership and made such an impact that we were recognized as the most influential student organization in the African-American community, only second to the Black Student Union. We sponsored special programs and hosted regional conferences. We had members who wrote editorials for the campus publications and held leadership roles in other student organizations. We were on a mission to take over the campus for Jesus Christ.

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Because of my leadership successes at the University of Maryland, I was appointed to serve as a National Student leader for New Generation Campus Ministries founded by Bishop Wellington Boone. Our student organization was a part of this larger movement and I was given the opportunity to speak at numerous campuses along the east coast.

Upon graduating with honors, I decided to go to Bible College and obtain an Associate's Degree in Pastoral Theology. From a logical viewpoint this decision did not support my desire (since High School) to be involved with re-defining the "look" and "flavor" of Gospel music through concept music videos. Yet the key relationship that connected me to BET was attending the same Bible College! Only God can orchestrate that and I enjoy talking about the keys to discovering and possessing your destiny.

After working at BET for 3 years, I presented a concept of what they named, "Lift Every Voice." This program is allowed me to use my platform to host and speak at a variety of events where I can inform and inspire people to possess their God-given purpose in the earth. When I am not traveling for speaking engagements, I serve as an "Elder-In-Training" at Hope Christian Church in Lanham, MD. My responsibilities involve overseeing the College and Young Adult Ministry.

I am convinced that God is establishing soldiers in media and entertainment to creatively communicate the Kingdom of God to the world. I count it an honor to be numbered among them and will lay down my all for the sake of the call...