



## **The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating**

*Andy Stanley*

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**The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating** Andy Stanley  
*“Are you the person the person you are looking for is looking for?”*

—*Andy Stanley*

Single? Looking for the "right person"? Thinking that if you met the "right person" everything would turn out "right"? Think again.

In *The New Rules For Love, Sex & Dating*, Andy Stanley explores the challenges, assumptions, and land mines associated with dating in the twenty-first century. Best of all, he offers the most practical and uncensored advice you will ever hear on this topic.

Not for the faint of heart, *The New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating* challenges singles to step up and set a new standard for this generation.

*“If you don't want a marriage like the majority of marriages, then stop dating like the majority of daters!”*

—*Andy Stanley*

Also includes a four-session small group discussion guide to be used with *The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating* video (sold separately).

## **The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating Details**

Date : Published January 6th 2015 by Zondervan (first published December 25th 2012)

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Author : Andy Stanley

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# From Reader Review The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating for online ebook

## Judy Collins says

*A special thank you to Zondervan and NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.*

Andy Stanley's North Point Ministries was named the Largest Church in America, this past year, and now he delivers as extraordinary fresh new look at sex, dating, and marriage— “*Old Fashioned is the New Fashion*”, with his insightful book, **THE NEW RULES FOR LOVE, SEX, AND DATING**.

**The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating** is a discussion guide developed for use with the four-session video, which complements and expands the material in the book. While the material in the discussion guide is intended for use with the video, some of the discussion questions will also reflect content used in the book.

**The four video sessions** [VIDEO CLIPS HERE](#) covering the themes of the book:

### Overview

- 1 The Right Person Myth
- 2 Gentleman's Club
- 3 Designer Sex
- 4 If I Were You

**This book is also meant** for married couples as well as singles and even for those, like myself not dating but may have grown single children or grandchildren, or for use in the leadership of young adults.

As we all are aware, sex is leveraged to sell just about everything. Actually the promise of no strings-attached sex with a way above-average-looking person is used to sell just about everything. Sexual scandals among politicians, athletes, and celebrities. Infidelity is woven into the plot of just about every form of entertainment that involves a plot.

As you process the issues and questions surrounding your sexuality and expressions of your sexuality, don't forget the broader context – sex isn't just physical. It's one component of a multifaceted biological, physiological, and psychological miracle that is you. So cherish it, protect it, preserve it, reserve it!

I loved this part: **The present will be your past, which will be present in your future.** Namely, pain you will experience later because of decisions you are making right now. People drag their past in their marriage and future. When sexuality and chemistry and passion dies – because they are no good at relationships.

As Stanley reiterates, God did not design marriage to fix people's flaws. In fact, our flaws are often magnified in marriage. So flawed people bring problems into a marriage and bringing others into the mix like children will not solve the underlying problem.

**So why not start now becoming the person** your future spouse wants and needs. Your preparation now is worth much more than your commitment later. Pick an area of your life – debt, unresolved past issues, bad habits, dress, boundaries – and set a goal then list the steps that will put you on a path toward achieving that goal and becoming who the person - the person you're looking for, is looking for.

**Whether you still in the game,** or back in a season of looking for the love of your life, this book can help. Sex and sexuality are a bit like fire. Fire in its proper context, it's extremely destructive. The same is true for all things sexual. If you never been married or are under thirty, even if you have lived with someone you underestimate the complexity of your sexuality and the long-term ramifications of your sexual conduct.

**As Stanley uses the example:** "Sex is like nutrition", regardless of your taste and preferences, nutritional principles determine the outcome of what you eat. Our bodies share a similar design when it comes to our sexuality to be expressed within a specific context. You can choose to express your sexuality outside the parameters of that divine design. But you can't choose the outcome. If you're like most people you'll do everything in your power to control the outcome. But eventually you will lose that battle as well, perhaps you've experienced the futility of trying to control outcomes.

**Romance is fueled by exclusivity.** Practice makes perfect does not apply to sex. This is why practice undermines the essence of romance. You have no control over when or if you'll meet your right person. What you can control is what you do in the meantime. So become the person you're looking for and they are looking for; prepare to commit. Who knows there may be someone out there preparing for you as well!

#### **On a Personal Note:**

**Andy Stanley is a former pastor of mine,** and have enjoyed his teachings, Christian leadership, and his insightful books, as well as his father, Dr. Charles Stanley.

When I moved to Atlanta in early 1994, my sons were away at college in another state; I was single, divorced, and in my late thirties. I was fortunate to become an integral part of what is now North Point Ministries, from the beginning of its inception in 1995.

For the first three years we met every other Sunday night in rented facilities, and when the Olympics came to town, we were unable to meet for nine weeks. Later the land was purchased in Alpharetta, GA and construction began –what is now North Point –some great times, a huge singles group, and many budding friendships grew out of this fabulous foundation.

However, since I lived in Buckhead, was thrilled when in 2001, became a part of the Buckhead Church and again we held services in rented facilities in different areas of town. I was part of the group meeting in a renovated grocery store each week on Roswell Road that first Easter Sunday in 2003 in Buckhead, and later became an active member, a pre-school director and a women's small group leader in the church.

It was so exciting with the preparations building our new church; however, I relocated, for work to Florida in 2006 and have been here since. I missed the permanent facility at Tower Place in the heart of Buckhead in May 2007 where the church is thriving today. (Cannot wait to go back for a visit). However, even though in Florida, I often read Andy Stanley's books, and listen to his messages online—recalling those precious days under his leadership and the wonderful fellowship and supportive group of singles and friends. (All singles need friends like these)!

#### **Highly Recommend!**

Buy **NEW RULES FOR LOVE, SEX, AND DATING** a thought-provoking guide and listen to the videos. No matter where you are in your life or your spiritual journey – it will change how you think about the present and the future. *Well done! Miss you guys at Buckhead Church Atlanta.*

### **Tiffany Lewis says**

LOVED this book! It needs to be read by every Christian teen!

I received a copy of The New Rules for Love, Sex, & Dating to facilitate this review.

This review originally appeared on Home Grown Families

I am keeping The New Rules for Love, Sex, & Dating by Andy Stanley until my 11 year old twin girls are old enough to read it. Why? Because it says everything that I want to say to my girls , and it says it better than I ever could.

In New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating, pastor and bestselling author Andy Stanley provides practical, biblical, uncensored advice to anyone who is dating or thinking about marriage. Stanley outlines the triumphs and tragedies of dating in the twenty-first century.

A few days before I started reading this book, one of my oldest girlfriends and I were talking about how our parents talked to us about sex. Both sets, having the same views, basically told us "It's bad to have sex before marriage." and that was it.

When we tell kids "No." with no reasoning, there is no way they're going to follow through with our creed. Kids, and young adults, want to know why. There is an ingrained curiosity in kids of all ages to know the who, what, where, when, and why of all things. Only when they know the reason behind the statement, will they consider adopting it as their own beliefs. We literally set our children up for failure when we don't explain why we wait for marriage to have sex.

The New Rules for Love, Sex, & Dating starts out with a chapter titled "The Right Person Myth" that takes on the Hollywood belief that when we find the right person, we will finally be OK. Andy Stanley debunks this theory but, more importantly, he expands on it in continuing chapter. He comes up with a brilliant line that I am going to use on my girls: "Are you the person the person you're looking for is looking for?" This line basically sums up the book. I loved it! What a concept! You need to be the kind of person that the kind of person you want will actually want. This is a life truth that needs to be taught more than it is. It would change lives if we managed to get our children to understand this concept before they left the house so that they could apply it to all aspects of their lives. Jobs, relationships, etc.

Stanley really gets into the good stuff starting with Chapter 6 "The Gentleman's Club" where he talks about how to treat a woman. This is left out of so many books, and young men are left to figure it out on their own. I love that Stanley laid it down in this Chapter about how God and Jesus actually LOVE women! They adore women and expect them to be lifted up, respected, cherished and

valued. There is no chapter in this book about being a submissive wife, just reminders to men that Jesus consistently elevated the status of women while he was here and how men are expected to do the same. This is not talked about enough in relationship books and I applaud Andy Stanley for adding it.

Stanley uses Chapter 7 "The Way Forward" to talk about porn. He doesn't just talk about how bad it is and that it goes against God's plans, but he explains why it can harm you in the long run. And he suggests getting help for it before you start dating. Again, not another chapter with rules and no explanation, Stanley does a great job of breaking it down so that it makes sense to young minds.

Perhaps the best chapters of The New Rules are the last two, "The Talk" and "Designer Sex." I can't explain all the brilliance of this book in my review because it's something best left to Stanley. He gets it! He explains it so well, that I was like "OOOOHHHHHH!! That makes so much sense!" and I automatically wished someone had explained it like that to me. It is so perfect and exactly what I want my girls to understand before they leave my house. That's why I'm saving this book until my girls are old enough to read and discuss it.

Andy Stanley managed to put into black and white what parents have been struggling to say for decades, and he does it with such a great sense of humor. I laughed out loud several times while reading because of Stanley's sarcastic humor. I seriously can not recommend this book enough.

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### **Stephanie says**

Amazing read! I will reference this book for a long time.

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### **Bailey Hunter says**

‘The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.’ I implore all of you to take a step back and re-read that sentence at least 11 times over, its pretty impactful.

Anyone in any relationship, newly out of one or feeling ready to tackle Tinder should take the time to read this incredibly fast and eye opening book. Invest in the person you are or desire to be versus the person you think you need or want... the level of dependency Stanley showed me I currently exhibit on many healthy and unhealthy people/things was eye opening. And as you'll continue to learn through his witty writing style, change requires fierce in-dependence that should eventually lead to inter-dependence with other healthy people... who would have thought?!

Most eye opening line: No one has a ‘one in a million’.... We all have one of a million. Don’t be someone’s crutch in the world of figuring out who we all are.

.... and don't tackle Tinder. Just don't do it..

Great read!

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### **Amariah Dixon says**

This book is informative and has sound info about dating. The advice Andy Stanley gives is very helpful. I highly recommend this book! Andy Stanley is also a good speaker.

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### **Veronica says**

Amazing! Every single, from teens and up, should read this book! Great advice; really makes you think about how you view relationships and finding the "right" person and what you're doing to become the right person. Especially good for those just starting to date so they can stop mistakes before they make them, but it's never too late to start fresh!

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### **Christine Baptiste says**

The book you need to read if you want to understand the value of abstaining from sex until marriage. It was written in a non preachy non judgemental way that makes you want to continue reading even if you didn't agree at first. I recommend this book to anyone Christian & non Christian alike if you desire a relationship deeper than sex.

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### **Victoria (Victoria's Reading Pantry) says**

OK here's the thing - Andy Stanley just really gets under my skin. Everything he talks about just seems to be him saying "What you know is wrong. You're wrong. What I know is right. And I'm going to change your life by telling you this." What I'm sure he means is "what our culture has told you is wrong, what God tells you is right" but it doesn't come off that way, at least to me.

As for this book - good stuff. Everyone can get at least something from it I'm sure. And the whole "becoming the right person" is good advice, I'm just not sure the motivation for becoming a better person ought to be to find a spouse. As for me, well, I already held all of the beliefs expressed in this book. And to have everything presented as "you don't know about any of this, let me reveal to you the secrets of good relationships" just didn't fly with me, since I've grown up knowing all this.

That's not to say the ideas presented in this book are bad, like I said I already hold them. It's just the way they're presented seemed a little condescending. Do I recommend this book? Sure. There's some good stuff in it. Do I think it'll drastically change your view of relationships? I can't say. It didn't for me, but then again I'm an oddity.

(Note: someone I respect gave me this book to read, and that's why I did.)

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### **Lucas says**

welppppppppppppp wish I read this when I was about 13. Obviously, the content is similar to the sermon series he does, but it expands areas that needed expanding. Stanley is very forthright and blunt which I found both helpful and intimidating. He does not sugar coat anything. He is a good communicator (as is clear if you have listened to him speak), he uses language that is easy to understand - he is direct. Could not recommend this book highly enough to single people, but also would recommend it to anyone for it's take on 1 Corinthians 13 and how to apply that to real life. After all...it's all about becoming someone (like Christ) before finding someone who is also becoming someone (like Christ). #grace #newlife #newcreation

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### **Vernita Naylor says**

The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating When you hear the words love, sex, and dating what resonates with you? Are these words interconnected in any way or do they stand alone in your mind? Pastor Andy Stanley of the Atlanta based North Point Ministries provides a candid approach on how to effectively date. Read more [https://thejegroupzone.wordpress.com/...](https://thejegroupzone.wordpress.com/)

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### **Henry Le Nav says**

The Kindle version was cheap, \$2.99 so I bought it out of a curiosity for what the loyal opposition is doing. While I am a rather poor excuse for a Christian (I like Christmas Trees) with a one way ticket to hell for some matters involving lusting over a bare thigh (in church no less) for which I refuse to ask forgiveness, I am a rather dyed in the wool monogamist. So for the price, I thought I would see what the good pastor has to say.

Actually I was pleasantly surprised. The book starts out fairly secular. Later chapters he drags out the sin and purity and starts thumping the Bible, but if you can get around the rhetoric, for the most part the suggestions in this book are good and would apply to non-religious folks as well as the religious. Let us say that I agree with most of his methods.

His main tenet is that instead of looking for the right partner become the right partner. Become the person that you are looking for. Pretty good advice. He goes a little overboard in my estimation on premarital sex...the sin and purity stuff that doesn't set well with me. That said however I will admit that I think he is right, jumping into sex prematurely blinds one to the relationship flaws. Sex is a powerful binding element in human relationships, but it does not guarantee longevity in a committed relationship. He states the way to resolve your relationship issues is with a clear head before you get involved with sex. I agree, but I don't think waiting until your wedding night is a good maneuver for determining your sexual compatibility. But then again I don't find premarital sex conducted in a committed loving relationship with the aim of marriage to be sinful. Am I willing to bet my Soul on that? Yes, but I am not willing to bet yours so read what he has to say and decide for yourself.

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While I didn't agree with all he had to say and perhaps the theology behind it, I have to say if you can ignore the churchy hype, this guy has something important to say about love, sex, and marriage.

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### **Josh Stowers says**

A couple of positives: Really great wisdom for a De-christianized nation. Anyone that follows his advice will be relationally successful. "Sex is wonderfully so it should be pursued but sex is powerful so it should be revered". Quotes like that along with others is a great apologetic that gets behind the "why" of having a Christian view of love, sex and dating is beneficial but here comes the problem

A couple of cons: The only thing I can say is new about this book is its ability to talk about Christian sexuality while stripping it of its purpose and power. It strips its purpose by directing the only meaning of marriage as being temporally beneficial but not God glorifying . This is painfully obvious. It's strips marriage of its power not by avoiding talking about how powerful sexuality is but rather by not telling us that all these tips are completely intangible unless we become a new creation in Christ.

Finally thoughts: I am not saying that Andy does not believe the things he does not mention. I am stating that for the sake of apologetics he surrenders God's glory and power in marriage in this book. My concluding statement would add some irony to the fact that he states in the book that we often know it's the right person before we actually know them. However he does not take this approach with churches. He suggest to find the biggest church in your area and it just has to be big for a good reason. That's where I think this book fails. Pragmatism will lead people to a form of godliness that not only denies his power but his deserved glory.

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### **Maui Rochell says**

A good but not-so-recommended read if you're not matured enough to take it.

Nowadays, many of us are not taught how to handle relationships properly. We just dive into it, secretly hoping things will be alright in the process. And so most of us, leave those relationships with broken heart and wounded souls. Is it always supposed to be like that? This book is a good guide and an eye-opener.

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### **Rachel says**

I would give this book 3.5 stars if I could. It gave me a better perspective on dating as well as how to approach dating. I learned that while it is important to have standards it is more important to become the right person. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it whether you're single or in a relationship.

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## **Anino says**

\*\*\*ARC generously supplied by Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*\*

To be quite succinct, this book was spot-on! Why? Because not only was it full of “real talk”, but it was also non-judgmental, empathetic, hilarious, and full of wisdom that anyone can appreciate. For those who really want to get married, listening to what this man has to say will really help you (if you want to be helped).

For far too long, we as a society have been saddled with this false notion that in order to be connected with our “plus one” (i.e. soul mate, the right one, future husband, future wife, significant other, etc), that we don’t have to change a thing about ourselves. If we don’t make an effort to change the “crap” that will drive someone nuts, then how can we expect to attract someone who has their “crap” together as well?

Life doesn’t have to be complicated. A lot of times, we make it complicated because we close our eyes and ignore the blaring lights that attempt to warn us against stumbling blindly into one meaningless relationship after another. (By the way, I absolutely loved Andy Stanley’s comparison of frequent casual sexual relationships to being like a well worn piece of tape, that’s constantly ripped off, and applied to one surface after another. Considering the amount of junky residue that the worn piece of tape has on it, just makes one think really think about their “connections”...)

It’s not often that I read a book written by a Pastor, who sidesteps religiosity and tells it like it is. Andy Stanley definitely has the goods in regards to being able to relate to people, in a way that leaves one feeling hopeful, instead of ashamed and condemned.

After having read this book, I can truly say that my eyes are wide open, and I look forward to doing the work that will prepare me to be “the one that the one that I’m looking for, is looking for.”

Giving this one: 5 stars

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