



With  
One  
Voice





“Courtship, dating, and marriage have become flashpoints of debate among young evangelicals – and this is a controversy worth our attention. Alex and Marni Chediak offer sound biblical advice and a clear Christian framework for working through the maze of confusions surrounding modern marriage. Against the stream of our postmodern culture committed to personal autonomy, this couple points Christians to a higher standard – the glory of God. Christians young and old, single and married, will find help in this concise book.”

**R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President  
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Louisville, Kentucky**

“If only courtship and marriage were so simple that all we needed was a manual to figure them out! The Chediaks give us something a better: a compass and a travel guide for the serious pilgrim. True north is the glory of God – get that straight and everything else will fall in place, miss it and nothing works. The rest is details, matters of topography and climate local customs. That too the Chediak’s provide with warmth, wisdom and good humor of those who know the road and some of its potholes!”

**Ben Patterson, College Pastor,  
Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California**

“Dating books are often read mainly by college students or single professionals. And that makes sense; it is natural for singles to seek wisdom on an issue they face daily. What makes *With One Voice* unique, however, is that it shows how a theology of marriage, and convictions regarding manhood and womanhood, are undeniably connected to how singles date and marry (or not). Rooted in a biblical worldview that keeps God central, *With One Voice* will be a helpful book for parents, married couples, and singles alike.

**Rick Holland, Pastor of College and Student Ministries  
Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California**





# With One Voice

*singleness, dating, and marriage  
– to the glory of God*

Alex Chediak & Marni Chediak

**CHRISTIAN FOCUS**





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## About the Authors

Alex & Marni Chediak seek to glorify God with one voice, sharing the life goal of being marked mainly as those who love God. As an expression of his desire to delight in the Lord, Alex has had the privilege of being involved in singles and college ministry, multi-generational small group ministry, as well as pulpit teaching and exposition. He is currently an apprentice at The Bethlehem Institute in Minneapolis, MN under the direction of Pastors John Piper and Tom Steller. He is also a professor at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN. Alex aspires to continue writing on culturally relevant topics from a God-centered perspective, and contributing to church-based adult Christian education. Alex was the general editor of *Five Paths to the Love of Your Life*, published by NavPress in 2005. His wife Marni has had a career in management with Fortune 500 companies while ministering through Bible Study Fellowship and teaching Sunday school. She now enjoys using her many gifts assisting Alex in his callings. They are currently expecting their first child. Alex & Marni can be reached at [With1Voice@gmail.com](mailto:With1Voice@gmail.com).





# Preface



This book is about living to the glory of God in singleness and marriage. My assumption is that some of you reading this book are single and wondering how God might have you go about the process of marrying, or whether you even should marry. Others of you are probably married and have children or friends for whom you are praying. Still others are pastors in a position to give counsel to others.



The process of romance for unmarried Christians is about as complicated for singles today as it has ever been. Dangers lie everywhere. The world's perverse lies have infiltrated the church, reducing the beauty of God-invented sexuality





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to mere acts of personal pleasure. On the other hand, the increased geographic mobility, sheer number of possible work schedules, and career-based educational needs associated with modern life often make it more unlikely that singles will settle down in biblically based communities. In a day that values emotional fulfillment, many wonder if marriage is even necessary, given the commitment level and regular safeguarding and sacrifice it requires. Likewise, clear thinking on what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman has been blurred by a worldview that has encouraged us to think of men and women as interchangeable and has called any discussion of innate differentiation “sexist”.

This book is here to help. It does not contain a formula that guarantees relational happiness. It starts off showing how singleness in Western culture has changed, and why things are now so complicated. Chapter 2 discusses issues singles face associated with the question of “singleness versus marriage” and describes why lifelong marriage, though less common today, is still God’s plan for most of us. We’ll show that it is more important to *become* a certain type of person than it is to *find* a certain type of girlfriend/boyfriend. We’ll see how holding up marriage as the purpose of dating or courting sets an appropriate tenor to

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the relationship. Chapters 3 and 4 delve into the thorny and often debated issues of manhood and womanhood. How does one's sense of masculinity and femininity affect how (and who) one goes about dating? Chapter 5 then gets into the nitty-gritty of wisely choosing a girlfriend/boyfriend that one can hopefully marry. Finally, chapter 6 will talk about the practicalities of the relationship process and how factors such as age and maturity should be considered.

I pray this book will be helpful for you, and that in your singleness and future marriage you would aim to glorify God above all else.

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly” (Ps. 84:10-11).

Alex and Marni Chediak  
October 2005, Eagan, MN, USA

