



Givers, Takers
&
other
Kinds of Lovers



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CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



About the authors: Josh McDowell spoke to more than 500,000 people on college campuses last year, making him the # 1 lecturer. Best-selling works include *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* and *More Than a Carpenter*.

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To
Jim and Vivian Simpson
who have enjoyed and shared
the secret of loving for
thirty-eight years





Why, amid the unlimited freedom for sexual expression,
are we still as dissatisfied and unfulfilled as ever?
Why is something so natural and beautiful as sex
turning out such poor relationships?

What's **wrong?**





I

What kind of love
do you want?

Rich...vigorous...enduring and satisfying LOVE! You want it. I want it. Without it, our lives are at best incomplete – at worst, desperate. The yearning to give and receive robust, unending love throbs in the heart of every one of us.

An ancient Jewish apostle described this love we seek. He wrote:

*Love is so patient and so kind;
Love never boils with jealousy;
It never boasts, is never puffed
with pride;*



WHAT KIND OF LOVE DO YOU WANT?

*It does not act with rudeness, or insist upon its rights;
It never gets provoked, it never harbors evil thoughts;
Is never glad when wrong is done,
But always glad when truth prevails;
It bears up under anything, exercises faith in everything,
It keeps up hope in everything,
It gives us power to endure in anything.
Love never fails. (1 Cor. 13:4-8, Williams)*

And after two thousand more years of loving, no one has improved on that. It's still the love for which we search.

This pursuit of love has caused more heartache and pain than all the diseases and wars of history. There's no limit to what you and I will do to express true love... and to feel it for ourselves. We can't *live without* it.

Unfortunately, we don't seem able to live *with* it either. At least, not with the sort of love we've found thus far. The prevailing notion is that love comes gift-wrapped in sex. And sex does seem to be the perfect complement – the door to genuine, satisfying love. What better bedfellows? Both sex and love stir the marvelous passions that lie deep within us.

Is sex the secret?

Lovers come in an incredibly wide assortment. And why not? To some, it's an intricate and challenging game of strategy, and they're busy learning all the rules. Some become real polished players. Others are still looking for the square marked "start." And you? You're in there somewhere.



GIVERS, TAKERS AND OTHER KINDS OF LOVERS

Several years ago, I met Paul Lewis when we happened to be dating twin sisters. Our friendship has been a deep and enduring one. And at the time we met, something else happened, too. We both began to recognize and understand what real love is all about. Those two sisters and their folks modeled to us a love anyone would envy. That's why this book is dedicated to Mom and Dad Simpson.

In time Paul married one of those sisters, Leslie. And eleven years of marriage have deepened their understanding of how to keep and nourish true love. That's why I asked Paul to join me in writing this book.

Later Dottie, my best friend and sweetheart, became my wife. And for nine years, we've enjoyed an equally creative and beautiful love together.

This book is titled, *Givers, Takers, and Other Kinds of Lovers* for a very good reason. People try in many ways to discover this rich, vigorous, and constantly growing love. Often we are persuaded that the secret is to become liberated and free from the puritanical restraints of the past. Well, I'm pleased to announce that we've all been free for quite a while. Even the memory of those repressive days has evaporated.

But I receive letters from all over the country, from young people as well as married adults, indicating that dynamic love is still missing for them. The yearning still burns unfulfilled. Maybe it's that way for you, too.

And shouldn't we ask why? Why, amid the unlimited freedom for sexual expression we've now enjoyed for so long, are we still as dissatisfied and unfulfilled as ever? Why is something so natural and beautiful as sex turning out such poor relationships?

What's wrong? Is sex the secret of loving?