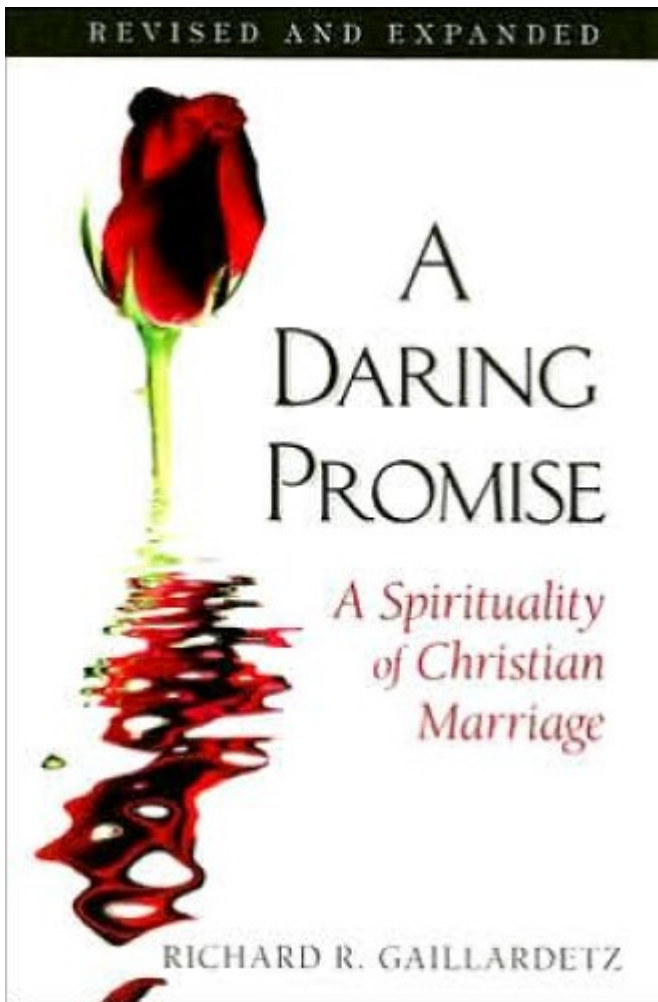


Marriage

selected by [Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore](#) in the [May 2, 2012](#) issue

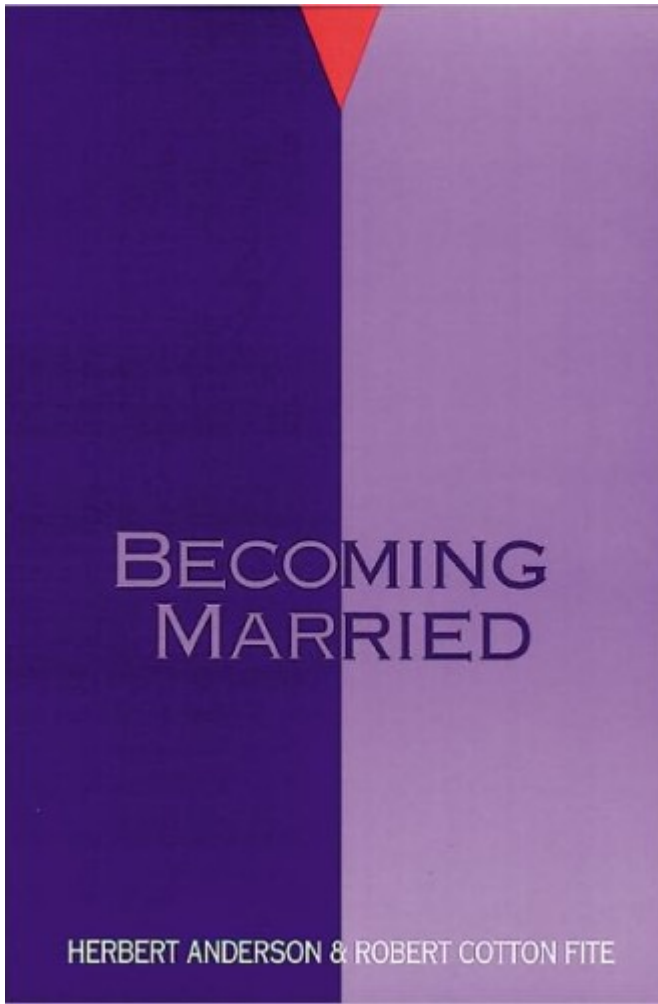
## In Review



### **A Daring Promise**

By Richard R. Gaillardetz

Crossroad



## **Becoming Married**

By Herbert Anderson and Robert Cotton Fite  
Westminster John Knox



**Blessing Same-Sex Unions: The Perils of Queer Romance and the Confusions of Christian Marriage**

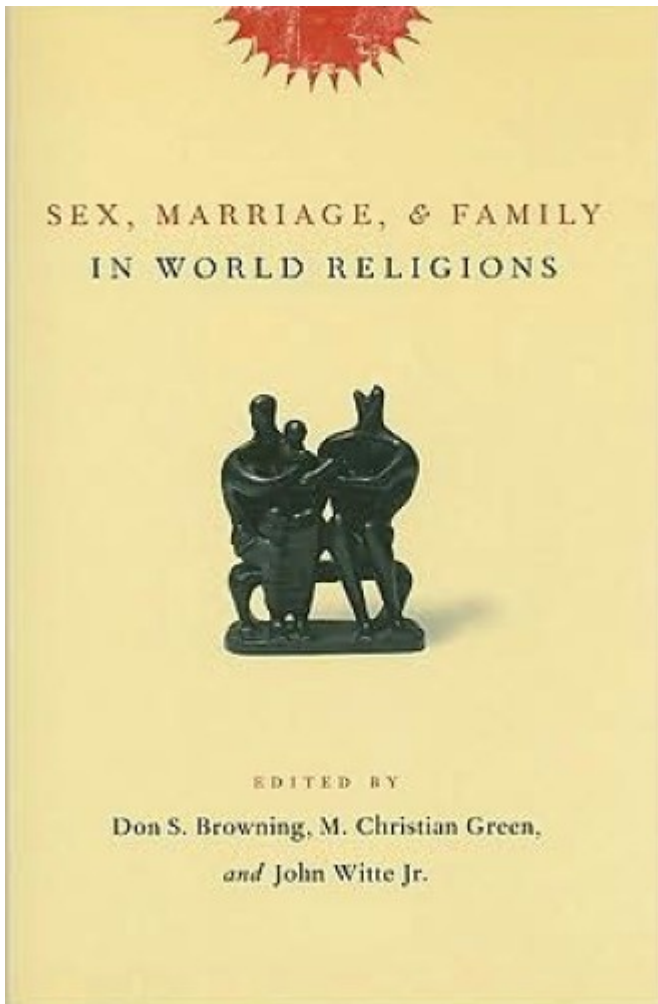
Mark D. Jordan  
University of Chicago Press



## **Marriage, a History**

Stephanie Coontz

Viking



## **Sex, Marriage, and Family in World Religions**

Edited by Don S. Browning, M. Christian Green and John Witte Jr.  
Columbia University Press

*A Daring Promise: A Spirituality of Christian Marriage*, by Richard R. Gaillardetz (Liguori). If marriage is the place where the majority of us “work out our salvation” before God, then a book on its spirituality is essential. Drawing on his experience as a spouse and parent and on a rich knowledge of the Christian tradition, Catholic theologian Gaillardetz brings Christian ideals of conversion, communion, sexuality and parenting alive as faithful practices of daily life.

*Becoming Married*, by Herbert Anderson and Robert Cotton Fite (Westminster John Knox). Marriage is a process that happens over time in one’s life cycle and in the life cycle of families. Rich with pastoral examples from the authors’ ministries, this book explores Christian rituals and beliefs alongside the relational dynamics of

attachment and differentiation, which make marriage one of the toughest and yet among the most rewarding endeavors.

*Blessing Same-Sex Unions: The Perils of Queer Romance and the Confusions of Christian Marriage*, by Mark D. Jordan (University of Chicago Press). A Harvard religion professor takes the controversy over same-sex unions as an opportunity to grapple with what is Christian about marriage, especially considering that *Brides* magazine shapes wedding protocol more than faith does, reducing religious symbols to “good visuals.”

*Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*, by Stephanie Coontz (Penguin). Social historian and longtime family studies scholar Coontz shows the modern novelty and therefore the radical fragility of contemporary notions of marrying for love. Exploring the landscape from the political marriages of ancient Babylon to the 18th-century emergence of the love match to today’s debate over gay marriage, Coontz offers the reader a valuable overview of cultural constructs of marriage.

*Sex, Marriage, and Family in World Religions*, edited by Don S. Browning, M. Christian Green and John Witte Jr. (Columbia University Press). Drawing on legal, theological, poetic and liturgical literature whose origins range from early history to very recent times, this edited collection gathers canonical and classical texts from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Confucianism and Buddhism. It provides a useful reference for those interested in family-related teachings across religious traditions and for those facing the challenge of interfaith marriages.