

# SWINE AND PEARLS

The Essentials of Dating, Courtship, Love, and Marriage



PASTOR VENDRIX HEADLEY

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## *Dedication*

This book is an essential tribute to my beloved sons, Aniel and Nashon Headley. As you peruse its pages, you will gain invaluable insights and guidance to lead your life in accordance with God's will. This book is not solely intended for my sons but for all young adults seeking love and companionship, specifically focusing on those who have encountered marital difficulties in the past or are currently searching for that special someone.

The sage advice contained in this book will enable you to navigate the complexities of relationships with confidence and ease. Always remember, there is hope and a viable path forward, whether you are seeking a life partner or hoping to repair a current marriage. With God's guidance and a willingness to learn and grow, you can attain the love and happiness you deserve. Thus, I wholeheartedly dedicate this book to every one of you. It will provide you with comfort and clarity, as well as the strength and determination to follow God's plan for your life.



LET THE SEARCH  
BEGIN

*“Whoso findeth a wife findeth  
a good thing, and obtaineth  
favour of the Lord”  
(Proverbs 18:22).*

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# *Love is Beautiful*

Love is beautiful

Love is kind

Love is passionate and so are you

Each time your eyes look into mine, you ignite  
the fire I cannot hide

My heart glows

My joy flows

And that's how I know that a love like thine is  
one of a kind

*By Pastor Vendrix Headley*



# Acknowledgments

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I humbly love and respect those adults who were never afraid to share with me their many marital downfalls. You are a hero.

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Thanks to Written Word Publishing LLC for the awesome work of refining and publishing this great book, *Swine and Pearls*.



*“Do not give what is holy  
to the dogs; nor cast your  
pearls before swine, lest  
they trample them under  
their feet, and turn and  
tear you in pieces”  
(Matthew 7:6 NKJV).*



# Introduction

Swine and pearls are dissimilar to each other. They're a thought provoking and captivating way to draw your attention to how flippantly relationships are taken in our society. The words "swine and pearls" are used metaphorically to indicate features deeply rooted in this mundane world that have necessitated deep reflection and a switch in mindset. When you think about swine and pearls, what is the first thing that comes to mind? A group of pigs and an array of precious stones, right? Well, you are not far from the point. Only the context of using both words relate to love, your belief system and whom you deemed yourself to be.

Many things have indeed changed in the world that we live in. There is so much hate and self-conceitedness right now, and it has become uneasy for people to trust and love without fear. However, let's take a step back for a moment and approach this realism from God's perspective. He addresses this very issue in 1 John 4:18. He says there is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out all

fear and he who fears is not made perfect in Christ. Note: true love stems from our perfect love for God. When we love God, we will also love our neighbors. There is a contrast between those who are rooted in the mundane of society and those who are grounded in God. Daily, we are exposed to plenty of content on broken marriages and the effect of damaging relationships. There is so much immorality in the world that many have begun to believe in the pessimistic idea that there is no such thing as true love anymore. As children of God, we must combat this ruthless artificial insemination created by society.

With the vast decline in the rate at which people believe in true love, the real question is, how many people go into real-time relationships because they are selflessly involved with their partners? Even when people say that they love their partners, in most instances, it is all because of a motive known or unknown to either party. Many people have derailed the true definition of love as a feeling of mutual cosmic connection imbued in us through the nature of God. Therefore, the Bible explains that we cannot claim to love if we do not know God, for God is love.

This impeccable narrative on swine and pearls is a mind cleanser. It reminds you there is a need

to shift sides from conformity with what is in vogue in society and embrace our divine mandate. Each page of this book will teach you about the quintessential of loving and being invested in those you claim to love for the right reasons. As an adult, you must understand that your choices today will impact your life tomorrow. They might not affect you right now, but in the long run, the effects of your preferences determine the quality of life you will have. Although you may have made many mistakes in the past, it is never too late to start living the right way!

Lord, today means everything to You. You are not here to condemn anyone. You are here to teach us wisdom. You are here to teach us that we can make wise choices even when we have made mistakes. You told us in Hebrews 3:15 (NKJV), *“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your heart as in the rebellion.”* In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Today is the best time to turn around and heed God’s counsel.

There are many things to learn from this fantastic read. First, you will discover a new definition of love. This new definition of love will drive you towards a sense of self-identification

where you begin to mentally evaluate yourself, even as you make lifestyle changes that draw you to the love of God that defines your core. You will learn about the gems you have in your nature as a human that make you a pearl. This understanding will inspire you to make positive decisions about yourself and those you are intentional about.

A focal point that needs to be stated at this juncture is that so much about your life has been established in God's Word of truth. Investing time in the knowledge of God's Word as it pertains to your life will be the paradigm shift that changes your perception of love for the better. While reading through this spirit inspired narrative, you will learn about the dictates of God on dating, relationships, courtship, and features defining a long-lasting relationship that eventually leads to marriage.

The idea behind *Swine and Pearls* was laid in my mind a while back. The inspirational point for me has been my two young boys, growing and blossoming into teenagers, soon to become adults. If there is one fact I know to be accurate, it is that people who do not have a moral compass to follow when it comes to matters of the heart sometimes make life's greatest mistakes that could be avoided. I understand that lack of guidance is

why the world has become the way it is. Over time, this change could include more voices like mine springing forth to talk about those things that many young ones are getting wrong.

For a society that seems so keen on education, one begins to wonder why there is a surge in the number of children born to parents out of wedlock. This goes to show that we are, in so many ways, lost. However, the problems we are dealing with now are nothing compared to what we would face if these current trends were not dealt with.

The plan of God for your life is that you flourish and do great exploits. Exploits will not always be financial. When you have a stable relationship meant to last a lifetime, you are said to be flourishing, just as God planned. While flipping through the pages of this book, understand the standard of God for your life is that you experience an abundance of joy and peace, which comes from knowing who you are in God's heart. Please do not give your pearls to swine; they will eternally damage your garment of honor.

Thanks.



## **The Power of the Mind**

The mind is the most formidable dynamic of all humans. It can make you or break you. In Romans 12:2, the Scripture admonishes you to renew your mind daily to experience a total revolution which means you can become a new person in your thought man daily. It suddenly makes sense and has become more apparent why you must quickly deal with issues of the mind, including anger, and should not allow yourself to carry over issues to another day. As a matter of fact, in Ephesians 4:26, Paul tells you not to let the sun go down on your wrath.

The mind will be one of the most influential and valuable tools for a successful relationship. It can be extremely unruly at times; however, you must bring it under the subjection of the Holy Spirit. You can take every thought captive, especially if it's not in line with what God says. You must be conscious of the ideas that come to mind and circumvent them before they enter the heart.

Remember, what you think is crucial to who you are. If you are wondering how to prevent thoughts from coming to your mind, wonder no more. You can't stop them, but there is something you can do. Scripture reminds you that the weapon to fight the mind's thoughts must be approached from a spiritual angle. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"* (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Your mindset can cause the woes of your relationships and your life. This happens when you drift from the infallible Word of God and begin to lean on your own understanding, giving place to your self-destructive ego and pride. My heart aches to see how many marriages are dissolved in the most derogatory ways. This must be stopped with God's love. People must learn to let go of yesterday's pain and hurt. They must also learn to forgive one another.

Remember, you are not wrestling with flesh and blood but against principalities and powers whose only intentions are to destroy anything God stands for (Ephesians 6:12). Finally, arm yourself with the Word of God. It's your weapon and tool to help you stand. Having done all to stand, you are not a victim but a victor. You are expected to live the victorious life God promised you. When

the thoughts of your mind test you, allow your mind to be tempered by the Holy Spirit. Your behavior tells how rooted you are in the Word of God. It is pride that will drive you to the conclusion that does not allow God to get the glory out of your life.

**PART A**  
**SELF-LOVE (INTRODUCTORY  
ASPECT)**

**CHAPTER ONE**

***Self-Love: A Pathway to Finding  
Your True Self***

In Matthew 22:38-39, Jesus spoke about the importance of loving oneself. It is that kind of love you will give to the one you are seeking to find. He said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

*“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you into pieces” (Matthew 7:6 NKJV).*

It is a strange sight to see at any point in time, pearls wrapped around the neck of swine. For context, a swine means a pig or a hog, which is

affiliated with an unpleasant person, dirtiness and a special affection for mud. On the other hand, pearls indicate the carrier of precious stone, are unusually desirable and have a high quality, are defined as a gem, and have personal character. They are naturally perceived of others by the illumines light that radiates out of their appearance and naturally influences their social setting. To now find a pearl wrapped around a swine's neck would mean a lot of unpleasant speculations to the bystanders, and this is where the central theme of this chapter lies.

Although metaphorically utilized, there are clear distinctions between the character of a swine and a pearl. I am not just referring to the wearing of pearls but to be a replica of a pearl.

Some humans depict the characteristics of swine yet seek to have pearls around their neck. This conflicts with the lesson intended to be learned from this narrative. It means their personality does not align with a pearl's mentality or the individual they are seeking to be with, neither are they aligned with the attributes of Christ. This happens when, whether swine or pearl, there is a misplacement and a mismatch going on between two people. They did not carefully pay attention to red flags (the signs or