

Michael R. Sytsma

Curriculum Vitae

1325 Satellite Blvd NW, Suite 1002, Suwanee, GA 30024
michael@intimatemarriage.org 770.822.4505 <http://intimatemarriage.org>

EDUCATION

- 2004 University of Georgia
Ph.D. in Child and Family Development
Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization
(COAMFTE Accredited MFT Degree)
Dissertation: *Sexual Desire Discrepancy in Married Couples*
- 1991 Georgia State University
MS in Community Counseling (CACREP Accredited)
- 1991 Psychological Studies Institute (Richmont Graduate University)
Diploma in Christian Counseling
- 1986 Indiana Wesleyan University BS in Christian Ministries

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Building Intimate Marriages, Inc. –Director/Lead Therapist/Pastor (1998-present)

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES/CERTIFICATION

Ordained Minister, The Wesleyan Church – Since July 1988.
Licensed Professional Counselor, State of Georgia – License #001970
Certified Sex Therapist, American Board of Christian Sex Therapists - #0104
Certified Professional Counselors Supervisor – #272

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Richmont Graduate University – Adjunct Professor
Asbury Theological Seminary – Adjunct Professor
Reformed Theological Seminary – Adjunct Professor
Denver Seminary – Adjunct Professor
Dallas Theological Seminary – Visiting Professor
Institute for Sexual Wholeness –Professor

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Ben and Jennifer Freudenberg Pioneering Award – Awarded at the 2011 American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference.

Distinguished Alumni Award – Psychological Studies Institute (Richmont Graduate University) – Awarded May 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

Embracing the Journey – <http://www.embracingthejourney.org>
Board of Directors – 2016 to present

Sexual Wholeness, Inc. – <http://sexualwholeness.com>
Co-Founder, Executive Director – 2000 to 2016
Institute for Sexual Wholeness – Academic Dean – 2000-2016

American Board of Christian Sex Therapists – <http://www.abcst.org>
Acting Director – 2013 to 2014
Certification Committee Chair – 2003 to 2013

Association of Marriage and Family Ministries – <http://www.amfmonline.org>
Ministry Team Leader – 2005 to 2013

Georgia District of The Wesleyan Church
District Board of Administration – District Secretary – 1997-1999
District Board of Ministerial Development – Chairman – 1999
District Board of Ministerial Development – Member – 1996-2004

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (ALPHABETICAL)

American Board of Christian Sex Therapists – Clinical Member

American Counseling Association - Member

International Association for Marriage and Family Therapy – Member

International Society for Sexual Medicine - Member

Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia – Member

Society for Sex Therapy and Research – Member

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexology - Member

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

1998 to present Therapist, President, and Founder
Building Intimate Marriages, Inc. Suwanee, Georgia
Clinical role: Providing individual, marital, family and sex therapy.
Leading marriage workshops, seminars and retreats in this non-profit marriage ministry.

1998-2001 Marriage & Family Therapist
McPhaul Marriage & Family Therapy Clinic
The University of Georgia - Athens, Georgia
Clinical role: MFT practicum experience providing counseling to individuals, couples and families.

1991-1994 Therapist LifeTouch
Lawrenceville, Georgia

Clinical role: Providing counseling to individuals, couples and families in a D.B.A. outpatient private practice.

- 1993-1994 Therapist
AlphaCare Christian Therapy Services Atlanta, Georgia
Clinical role: Leading group therapy, providing individual therapy and coordinating clinical care for patients with multi-disciplinary team for patients enrolled in a Christian inpatient and intensive outpatient therapy program.
- 1992-1993 Clinical Coordinator / Acting Director - The Emmaus Program
Charter Peachford Hospital Chamblee, Georgia
Clinical role: Leading group therapy, providing individual therapy and coordinating clinical care for all patients with multi-disciplinary team in a Christian inpatient therapy unit. Recipient of Administrators Team of Excellence Award.
- 1991-1993 Counselor
Affiliated Counseling Services Jonesboro, Georgia
Clinical role: Individual and couples counseling in outpatient counseling center.
- 1988-1992 Various clinical positions
Charter Peachford Hospital Chamblee, Georgia
Clinical role: Various including leading and co-leading group therapy with patients, leading parents education groups, coordinating dual diagnosis track for adolescent patients, and working with multi-disciplinary team to establish and maintain therapeutic milieu on inpatient unit.
- 1990-1991 Counselor-in-training
Clairmont Hills Counseling Center
Psychological Studies Institute Atlanta, Georgia
Clinical role: Practicum experience providing counseling to individuals, couples and families.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (SELECTED – FULL LIST AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

Professor of record for the following graduate courses:

- Advanced Sex Therapy
- Advanced Sexual Addictions
- Basic Issues in Sex Therapy
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Sexual Disorders
- Dysfunctional, Compulsive/Addictive and Paraphillic Sexuality
- Human Sexuality
- Human Sexuality & Sex Therapy
- Ministry in a Sexually Broken Culture (DMin Course)
- Sexuality: Medical Issues, Trauma and Abuse, Special Populations
- Structural and Behavioral Marital Therapy

2017-present Ministry in a Sexually Broken Culture
Denver Seminary: Denver, CO

2001-present Various courses in sex therapy
Institute for Sexual Wholeness: Atlanta, GA

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| 2009-2011 | Diagnosis and Treatment of Sexual Disorders Trevecca Nazarene Clinical Counseling Doctoral: Nashville, TN |
| 2005-present | Dynamics of Human Sexuality Asbury Theological Seminary Counseling Program: Wilmore, KY |
| 2001-present | Human Sexuality and Sex Therapy Reformed Theological Seminary MFT Program; Jacksonville, MS |
| 2000-present | Structural and Behavioral Marital Therapy Various courses in sex therapy Richmont Graduate University Clinical Faculty: Atlanta, GA |
| 1992-1994 | Addiction: An Integrative Approach Spiritual Formation Adjunct professor Psychological Studies Institute: Atlanta, GA |
| 1986 to present | Pastoral teaching Numerous courses taught in churches pastored and as guest speaker in other churches. Courses covered a broad range of pastoral (i.e., Stephen Ministries Leader), theological (i.e., Church History, Systematic Theology) and Christian Living topics (i.e., Marriage, Evangelism). |

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

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| 1998 to Present | Currently appointed to Building Intimate Marriages, Inc. by the South Coastal District of The Wesleyan Church as an Ordained Minister in Special Service |
| 1994 to 1998 | Crossroads Community Church, Lawrenceville, GA (two terms) Assistant Pastor Crossroads Community Church |
| 1987 to 1988 | Associate Pastor Crossroads Community Church Pastoral role: Adult education, lay mobilization, pastoral counseling and administrative leadership of numerous ministry areas. Various voluntary leadership roles during six years taken for educational leave. |
| 1986 to 1987 | Plainwell Wesleyan Church Plainwell, Michigan Assistant Pastor Pastoral role: Youth ministry and various other pastoral ministry functions. |
| 1985 to 1986 | Practicum Student Brookhaven Wesleyan Church Marion, Indiana Pastoral role: Director of music –leading worship and choir. |

PUBLISHED WORKS

- Feldhahn, S., Sytsma, M. (2023). *Secrets of Sex and Marriage*. Grand Rapids, MI: Bethany House.
- Sytsma, M. (2020). Marital Sexuality. In G. Barnes & S. Glahn (Eds.), *Sexual Ethics: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel.
- Cutrer, W., Glahn, S., & Sytsma, M. (2019). *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage* (Fourth ed.). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.
- Sytsma, M. (2018). Strategies for Couple Sexual Problems. In J. Thomas (Ed.), *Counseling Techniques: A Comprehensive Resource for Christian Counselors*. Grand Rapids, NY: Zondervan.
- Sytsma, M., & Rosenau, D. (2018). Strategies for Counseling Infidelity. In J. Thomas (Ed.), *Counseling Techniques: A Comprehensive Resource for Christian Counselors*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Riemersma, J., & Sytsma, M. (2013). A New Generation of Sexual Addiction. *Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity*, 20(4), 306-322. doi: 10.1080/10720162.2013.843067
- Sytsma, M. (2013). Saving your marriage from divorce. *Gwinnett Magazine*. May/June 2013:36. <http://www.gwinnettmagazine.com/2013/05/23/saving-your-marriage-from-divorce/>
- Sytsma, M. (2010). A Grace Filled Marriage. *Men of Integrity*. February 7-13, 2010.
- Sytsma, M. (2008). Saving Grace. *Marriage Partnership. Fall 2008*: 19-22.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (various – 2007 to 2008). Real Sex. *Marriage Partnership Magazine*. – Columnist for this regular Q/A feature.
- Sytsma, M. (2007 to present). Building Church Leaders columnist. – buildingchurchleaders.com.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2007). Seven things you may not know about sex. *Marriage Partnership. Summer 2007*: 20-23.
- Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M. (2004). A Theology of sexual intimacy: Insights into the Creator. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*. 23(3): 261-270.
- Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M. (2004, January/February). The “Oversexed” Myth. *New Man*. 11(1): 54-55.
- Sytsma, M., Sytsma, K. (2002). Keeping the passion alive. In D. Stoop & J. Stoop (Eds.), *The complete marriage book: Collected wisdom from leading marriage experts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker/Revell
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2002). Current thinking in how to help couples and individuals struggling with low sexual desire. *Marriage and Family Therapy: A Christian Journal*. 5(3):311-320.
- Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2002). Sexuality and sex therapy: the DEC-R model. In Tim Clinton and George Ohschlager [Eds.] *Competent Christian*

Counseling: Pursuing and Practicing Compassionate Soul Care. Colorado Springs: CO: WaterBrook Press

Rosenau, D., Taylor, D., McCluskey, C., Sytsma, M. (2001) *Passionate Intimacy: Sexual Response During Love Making*. [Video] Tim Clinton [Ed.] *Healthy Sexuality* Video Series. Center for Biblical Counseling: Forest, VA.

Rosenau, D., Taylor, D., Sytsma, M. (2001) *Battling Disorders of Desire*. [Video] Tim Clinton [Ed.] *Healthy Sexuality* Video Series. Center for Biblical Counseling: Forest, VA.

Rosenau, D., Taylor, D., McCluskey, C., Sytsma, M. (2000) *Sexual problem-solving: Healing the pain, restoring the intimacy*. [Video] Gary Smalley and Tim Clinton [Ed.] *Marriage Works* Video Series. Center for Biblical Counseling: Forest, VA.

Sytsma, M. (1994). A response to Mr. Scalise. *Christian Counseling Today*. 2(2):44.

PRESENTATIONS TO PROFESSIONALS

Presentations to professional groups include regional, national, and international conferences of the following groups: American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), Association of Marriage and Family Ministries (AMFM), Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS), American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT), and The Wesleyan Church.

Sytsma, M., Feldhahn, S. (2022) *Zippers And Wallets: Helping Couples Navigate The Power Issues In Marriage*. Preconference workshop at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Conference. Dallas, TX.

Sytsma, M. (2021) *Secrets of Sex and Marriage: What They May Not Know, but You Need To*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Orlando, FL.

Sytsma, M. (2020) *Infidelity as an Intimacy Builder: Guiding Couples to Deep Intimacy Through the Recovery of Infidelity*. Invited Master Therapist presentation at the International Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

Sytsma, M. (2020) *Infidelity as an Intimacy Builder: Guiding Couples to Deep Intimacy Through the Recovery of Infidelity*. Invited Master Therapist presentation at the International Conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2020) *Sexual Desire in the Modern Age: Clinical Practice with Problematic Sexual Desire Informed by Theory and Research*. Pre-conference presented at the international conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies.

Sytsma, M. (2018, May) *Images of Affair Recovery*. Presented at the 30th annual conference of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia.

Sytsma, M., Farnham, A. (2017) *The Art of Sexual Initiation in Marriage*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, TN.

Sytsma, M., Penner, C., Penner, J. (2015). *Evidenced Based Practice in Sex Therapy*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, TN.

- Sytsma, M. (2015). *Enriching Foreplay in Marital Sexuality*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Riemersma, J., Sytsma, M. (2014). *A New Generation of Sexual Addiction*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies National Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M. (2014). *Sexual Communication: The Heart of Passionate Intimacy*. American Association of Christian Counselors National Christian Counseling Conference, Branson, MO.
- Sytsma, M., Smith-Vaniz, K. (2013) *Do You Wanna' Make Love?: The Art of Sexual Initiation*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Sytsma, M., Smith-Vaniz, K. (2012). *You Never Want Sex: Decreasing Conflict Over Sexual Frequency and Desire by Correcting Attributions*. American Association of Christian Counselors National Conference, Branson, MO.
- Sytsma, M. (2012) *The Art of Sexual Initiation*. American Association of Christian Counselors Marriage America Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Sytsma, M., Smith-Vaniz, K. (2011) *I Want You to Want Me: Sexual Desire in Married Couples*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Sytsma, M. (2010) *Helping couples enrich sexual intimacy*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Sytsma, M. (2009) *Answers to Sexual Questions Couples Ask*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Rosenau, D. (2009) *Becoming Lovers: Six Disciplines for Deeper Intimacy with God and Your Mate*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Sytsma, M. (2008) *Cultivating Sexual Health and Integrity in Ministry Staff and Churches*. American Association of Christian Counseling Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Sytsma, M. (2008) *Sex in the Church: A Call to Action*. General Session - American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Rosenau, D. (2008) *Becoming Lovers: Six Disciplines for Deeper Intimacy with God and Your Mate*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Phoenix, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Neel, D. (2007) *Passionate Intimacy: Helping Couples Enrich Sexual Intimacy*. American Association of Christian Counselors "No Greater Love" Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Sytsma, M. (2007) *Restoring Healthy Sexuality*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Charlotte, NC.
- Sytsma, M. (2007) *Cultivating Sexual Health and Integrity in Staff and Church*. "The Gathering" Wesleyan Church Ministry Conference – Orlando, FL.

- Sytsma, M. (2006) *Teaching Sex in the Church*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference - West. Scottsdale, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2006) *Restoring Healthy Sexuality*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference - West. Scottsdale, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D., Christian, M. (2006) *Biblical Answers to Questions Couples Ask about Sex*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference - West. Scottsdale, AZ.
- Sytsma, M., Neel, D. (2006) *Cultivating Sexually Healthy Churches*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference - East. Charlotte, NC.
- Sytsma, M., Rosenau, D., Neel, D., McCluskey, C. (2006) *Biblical Answers to Questions Couples Ask about Sex*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference - East. Charlotte, NC.
- Sytsma, M. (2006). *Sexual Questions Most Often Asked in the Counseling Setting: A Time of Q & A*. American Association of Christian Counselors Regional Conference, Myrtle Beach, NC.
- Sytsma, M. (2005). *Protecting from Sexual Sin*. Southern Wesleyan University Ministers Conference – “Right Makes Might: The Power of God’s Truth in the local Church”. Central, SC.
- Sytsma, M. (2005). *Teaching Teens Biblical Sexuality*. Southern Wesleyan University Ministers Conference – “Right Makes Might: The Power of God’s Truth in the local Church”. Central, SC.
- Gardner, T., Sytsma, M. (2005). *Sacred Sex*. American Association of Christian Counselors Superconference. Nashville, TN.
- Sytsma, M. (2005), *Helping Couples Discover a Biblical Foundation for Passionate Sexual Intimacy*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2005), *Passionate Husbands/Passionate Wives*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Sytsma, M. (2004), *The Critical Role of Grace in Healing and Growing Marital Intimacy*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2004), *Passionate Husbands/Passionate Wives*. American Association of Marriage and Family Ministries Annual Conference. Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Sytsma, M. (2004). Speaker for the North Carolina District of The Wesleyan Church Pastors and Wives Retreat, Myrtle Beach, NC. Sessions included: God’s Design for Marriage, Effective Communication, Healthy Sexuality, and Ask Dr. Mike.
- Sytsma, M. (2002), *Passionate husbands, passionate wives II: Interventions for low*

sexual desire. American Association of Christian Counselors Superconference on Sexuality. Dallas, Texas.

Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M., McCluskey, C., Curtrer, W. (2002). *Spiritual intimacy: Experiencing the heart of sexuality*. Preconference workshop. American Association of Christian Counselors Superconference on Sexuality. Dallas, Texas.

Sytsma, M. (2001). *Enhancing sexual intimacy in married couples*. Pre-conference workshop at Regional Conference for Christian Association for Psychological Studies. Asheville, North Carolina.

Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2001) *Passionate husbands, passionate wives*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, Tennessee.

Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2001). *Sexual desire in non-clinical married couples: A pilot study using the SDI*. International Conference of the American Association for Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. San Francisco, California.

Rosenau, D., Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2001). *Sex therapy with conservative Christians*. International Conference of the American Association for Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists. San Francisco, California.

Rosenau, D., Taylor, D., Sytsma, M. (2001). *Maintaining sexual integrity in the clinical setting*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies National Conference. Richmond, VA.

Sytsma, M., Taylor, D. (2000) *Addressing low sexual desire in married couples*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies National Conference. Richmond, VA.

Sytsma, M. (2000). *Marital Hope: Coaching couples to passionate intimacy*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies National Conference. Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Rosenau, D., Taylor, D., McCluskey, C., Sytsma, M. (1999) *Coaching couples to passionate intimacy*. American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference. Nashville, Tennessee.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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| Preaching | Church of the Savior, Nicholasville, KY – “The Life You’ve Always Wanted” Perimeter Presbyterian Church, Alpharetta, GA – “Pure Sex” Grace Fellowship Church, Snellville, GA – “Pursuing Passion” |
| Chapel Speaker | Southern Wesleyan University – Wellness Week Speaker (2017) Asbury Theological Seminary – Cessna Lecture (2014) Southern Wesleyan University – Holiness Lecture Series Speaker (2007) Southern Wesleyan University – Wellness Week Speaker (2006) Huntington College – Relationship Emphasis Week Speaker (2002) |
| 1999 to present | Passionate Intimacy Workshop Weekend workshop for married couples designed to enrich their physical intimacy. Presented to numerous couples in various locations. |

- 1997 to present Nurturing Intimate Marriages Workshop
8 hour workshop for married couples presented to numerous couples in various locations.
- 1986 to present Various pastoral courses taught in churches pastored and as guest speaker in other churches. Topics included:
Meeting the Invisible God
Denominational Distinctives
Network: Finding God's Design for You
Lifestyle Evangelism
Various others