



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
January/ February, 2013

The Call To Relationship

In **Song of Solomon 2:10-14**, we have the call to relationship. This text shows us that there has to be a pursuit of relationship. For a relationship to grow and mature, one has to seek the other. The godly husband has to pursue intimacy and fellowship with his wife.

It also applies to our relationship to Christ. This text shows us that Christ pursues us for a relationship. Not only does Jesus save us, He also seeks to have fellowship with us. He calls us to seek Him with all of our being. He calls and is willing to have a relationship with us.

The Application To Marriage

This text begins with Abishag speaking about the call that Solomon gave her, "My beloved responded and said to me, Arise my darling, my beautiful one, and come along" (**Song of**

Solomon 2:8). He expresses his desire to have a relationship with her. He praises her and makes known his desire to be with her.

This desire flows out of two things. First, her inward and outward beauties fuel his desire for her. The person that she is has kindled in him a passion for her.

Yet, there is another reason. This is found in **Song of Solomon 2:11-13**. The winter is past and the spring has come. The winter refers to the rainy season in Palestine that runs from October from March. During this time, he has been separated from Abishag. She has been hidden away from him during the winter season. He has not been able to spend time with her.

Yet, now, the winter was over. The whole of creation round about was clothed with the beauty of a newborn freshness. There was liveliness and

color all around. She could now come out. She could get out and spend time with Solomon. For this reason, he calls her to come to him. He calls the woman to be exclusively with him.

His passionate desire for Abishag shines is **Song of Solomon 2:14**, "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret place of the steep pathway, let me see your form, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your form is lovely."

Here we see Solomon longing to spend time with Abishag. He wanted to communicate with her. He desired to grow in his relationship to her. This is why he says that he wants to hear her voice. Her voice is sweet to him. Her voice is sweet because it enables him to get to know her increasingly better. He wanted to discover everything about her.

What does this text teach us about have a godly marriage? *First, it reveals that a godly husband is to pursue fellowship with his wife.* Notice that Solomon pursues Abishag. He calls her to himself. He praises her. He makes known his desire for her. He can never see her too much or hear too much from her.

This provides an example for husbands and prospective husbands. The godly husband is to seek fellowship

with his wife. He is to commit to knowing her as intimately as he can. He is to listen to her, getting to know her like no one else in this world can or ever will. He is to strive to make this a unique relationship that she can have with no one else.

Pray that God will enable you to pursue this kind of fellowship with your wife. Ask that He would help you remove any hindrances to you having this kind of relationship with your wife. Plead that God will help you see afresh the beauty of your wife that will fuel your desire for her.

Second, there will be "winter seasons" in every relationship. There was a time when Solomon and Abishag did not get to work on their relationship. They did not get to have the fellowship that they wanted and needed for this relationship. They had a season when they weren't as close to each other.

Every marriage will have these "winter seasons." It may be the circumstances of life. It may be because of sin in the relationship. It may be because of baggage from the past. There are a variety of reasons. Yet, whether out of our hands or self-imposed, a relationship will have winter seasons.

Yet, just like in nature, winter will turn to spring! The crucial issue is not

to give up in the winter seasons. As a godly husband, God calls you to faithfulness in the marriage. Don't yield to hopelessness and despair! Hang in there and continue to pray. Continue to seek fellowship. Plead for the wisdom and strength to deal with these times in marriage.

Finally, this text shows us that a godly husband has to work at moving from an "I" perspective to a "we" perspective. This text calls for a man to reorient his life. Notice how he calls for the woman to come to him. He calls for the woman to speak to him. This is his way of getting to know her and moving from "I" to "we" in the relationship.

Most men have a strong sense of "I." Men are used to making decisions about themselves and living solely for themselves. Some men find it difficult to change. Yet, this mindset has to change.

This text calls for that change. It calls for men to pursue their wives – to get to know them intimately. Then the man is to act on his knowledge of his wife. Plead with God to help you move from the "I" perspective to the "we" perspective.

The Application To Christ And His People

As we have seen before, this book speaks to the relationship between Christ and His people. This text reveals that Christ lovingly calls us to Himself. He longs to have fellowship with us. He wants to deepen the relationship that He has with us.

What lessons does this text teach us about our relationship to Jesus? *First, we once again see the love that Jesus Christ has for His people.* The words of this text reveal the unchanging love for His people, "my darling" and "my beautiful one."

In all the circumstances of life, Christ's love and attitude for us is unchanged. His love is no way dependent on us. In His eyes, we are always fair and lovely because He has made us so. He loves us because He chooses. The love of Christ is not dependent on our worthiness, but His willingness.

As a believer, you must rejoice in the love of Jesus for you. He loves you with an unchanging love that is based on His character. You might not feel worthy of His love. You might not feel that you deserve His love.

However, this text calls you to put away all your unbelief and your doubt. Rest in His love for you. Rejoice that you have a Savior whose love for you will never diminish. By faith, receive and believe the love of Jesus for you.

Second, we see the desire of Jesus for fellowship with us. This text reveals that He is more desirous of fellowship with us than we are with Him. Hear the voice of Jesus in this text, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along" (**Song of Solomon 2:10**). Again, hear the voice of Jesus, "Let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet" (**Song of Solomon 2:14**).

These words are full of encouragement and comfort for every believer. Christ so desires your fellowship that He invites you to come to Him. What grace and mercy! Do you see the kindness of Jesus? He calls you to fellowship with Him. He longs to be with you. With tenderness and eagerness, He urges us to come to Him.

In this text, the Lord Jesus presses our hearts to come to Him. This is the great wonder of grace! The Son of God delights to have worship from us and fellowship with us. He calls us to Himself. He longs for the believer to pour his heart out to Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ loves to see us and hear us, no matter how ugly we

may feel or how unworthy we think. Do you hear what Jesus is saying to you? He says to you, "let me hear your voice." He declares to you, "your voice is sweet." Jesus loves to see you coming and your voice is sweet to Him. Lay hold of this by faith: your voice is sweet to Him and He loves to hear from you.

How this ought to encourage us! It should stir our hearts to pray. It should move us to spend time each day with our God. At the same time, it should convict us and humble us. It should drive us out of our slothful indifference to prayer and the Word. It ought lead us to put away our carnal, worldly amusement that we might spend time alone with the Lord Jesus Christ. How can I spend so little time with a Savior who loves to hear my voice?

Third, the winter of a believer's soul will give way to the spring of renewal. In the natural realm, the winter gives way to spring. The same is true in the spiritual realm.

Every believer will go through seasons of winter in the soul. What I mean is that every believer will feel as if Jesus is far away. Our sense of Christ's presence will diminish. The believer's heart will feel cold and dreary. Temptations will seem overwhelming.

Yet, just as winter gives way to spring, there will be a time of renewal. The believer will hear the voice of Jesus clearly. He will experience the presence of Christ in profound ways. The Word will come alive. There will be renewed spiritual strength.

The crucial issue during these times is to continue to seek after Christ. The winter of the soul requires faithfulness. We have these times because of personal sin. Sometimes it's because of spiritual laziness. Sometimes Christ removes the sense of His presence that we might seek after Him. No matter the reason, we must continue to seek after Christ. Christ's love for us is unchanging. His desire for us never wanes. We must continue to pursue Him regardless of our feelings and circumstances.

World Prayer Plan

March

- 1-Colombia-The Lost
- 2-Comoros Islands
- 3-Congo
- 4-Cook Islands
- 5-Costa Rica
- 6-Cote d'Ivoire
- 7-Cuba-The Church
- 8-Cuba-The Lost

- 9-Cuba-Collapse of Communism
- 10-Cyprus
- 11-Czech Republic
- 12-Slovakia
- 13-Denmark
- 14-Djibouti
- 15-Dominica
- 16-Dominican Republic
- 17-Ecuador
- 18-Egypt-The Church
- 19-Egypt-The Lost
- 20-Egypt-Persecuted Believers
- 21-El Salvador
- 22-Equatorial Guinea
- 23-Eritrea
- 24-Estonia
- 25-Ethiopia-The Church
- 26-Ethiopia-The Lost
- 27-Ethiopia-Persecuted Believers
- 28-Faeroe Islands
- 29-Falkland Islands
- 30-Croatia-The Church
- 31-Croatia-The Lost

April

- 1-Fiji
- 2-France-The Church
- 3-France-The Lost
- 4-France-Hardness To The Gospel
- 5-France-Missionaries
- 6-French Guiana
- 7-French Polynesia
- 8-Gabon
- 9-Gambia

- 10-Gaza Strip
- 11-Georgia
- 12-Germany-The Church
- 13-Germany-The Lost
- 14-Germany-Spiritual Warfare
- 15-Ghana
- 16-Gibraltar
- 17-Greece
- 18-Greenland
- 19-Grenada
- 20-Guadeloupe
- 21-Guam
- 22-Guatemala
- 23-Guinea
- 24-Guinea-Bissau
- 25-Guyana
- 26-Haiti
- 27-Holy See (Vatican)
- 28-Honduras
- 29-Hong Kong
- 30-Hungary-The Church

Confessing God's Word Over Your Marriage

"A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin" (Proverbs 26:28).

Father, grant _____ and I a loving honesty in our relationship. Enable us to speak the truth in love.

Create within us a trust that will allow us to do this. Set us free from the lying tongue that hurts and the flattering mouth that ruins. Help us to keep our relationship free of lying and flattery. Give us the strength to deny these things any room in our lives. Amen.

PLEAD TODAY FOR A LOVING HONESTY BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE. ASK GOD TO DEEPEN THE TRUST BETWEEN YOU SO THAT YOU CAN DO THIS.

My Confession: I commit myself to speaking the truth in love. I will labor to be the kind of man that my wife will trust enough to tell me anything that she needs to.

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