



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

January/February, 2016

God's view of Virginity

This may sound like an unusual title for a study in the Song of Solomon. After all, this is the most sensual and erotic book in the entire Bible. Yet, it's not when you consider the purpose of this book. Its purpose is to highlight the blessedness and joy of intimacy in the marriage relationship. A part of experiencing this blessedness and joy is the maintaining and defense of one's virginity.

This book exhorts people to wait for love (2:7, 3:5, 8:4). We are not to play by our own rules, to form our own opinions about sex and marriage. The command of this book is to pursue purity until marriage. One is to commit to abstain from sex until marriage. Once married, you can partake of all the blessings and joy of sexual intimacy.

How does God view virginity? The text gives us three truths about this:

God values virginity.

This text opens with the brothers of the bride speaking, "We have a little sister, and she has no breasts. What shall we do for our sister on the day when she is spoken for?" (Song of

Solomon 8:8). These are the words of her brothers when she was younger. Her chest had not developed; she's on the cusp of puberty. Even though she was still young at the time, they knew that they had a responsibility to prepare her for marriage and to help her find a husband. They wanted to protect the honor and chastity of their sister. These siblings take responsibility – from prepuberty to preproposal – for their sister's purity.

Song of Solomon 8:9 reveals their plan, "If she is a wall, we will build on her a battlement of silver, but if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar." The imagery here is obvious. Being a "wall" means being a virgin. To be a wall is to not let anyone in or through. On the other hand, to be a "door" means to be easy to get into. It symbolizes promiscuity or the potential for promiscuity.

So here was the plan. If the brothers saw that their sister demonstrated any weakness of mind or body, they would take measures to protect her, "but if she is a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar"

(8:9b). They would do everything that they could to provide both strength and protection, giving the “door” increased security.

If their sister were a wall, if she showed a firm commitment to purity and virginity, they would celebrate and honor this. They would adorn her for her self-protection, “we will build on her a battlement of silver” (8a). They would reward her for her commitment. They would furnish her with rewards for her commitment to virginity.

These are inspired words of Scripture. They reveal the heart, the desire of God. These verses point to the truth that God values virginity. It is a precious to Him. While the world views it as an old-fashioned notion or an oddity, God desires it and exalts it as a blessing.

Virginity until marriage is not a preference of God; it is a divine commandment. We fool ourselves when we think otherwise, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality” (1 **Thessalonians 4:3**). Virgins are to stay virgins until the time of their marriage (**Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4**).

God calls us to the pursuit of purity.

After the words of her brothers are quoted, the bride speaks, “I was a wall and my breasts were like towers” (8:10a). She makes it clear that she pursued purity. She was a “wall” from prepuberty to womanhood, from the time that she had no breasts until the time when her breasts were like towers. She boasts about keeping her virginity. While the brothers did what they could to help, she had

determined to protect herself and to pursue purity. She announces that she kept herself pure for her beloved.

The Word of God says that we are to boast in nothing “except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (**Galatians 6:14**). However, here, a slight allowance is made for the least boasted about teenage activity today – keeping one’s virginity. She boasts in it and we ought to add a loud “Amen” or a “You go, girl!”

These verses call us to pursue sexual purity, especially before marriage. We must have a commitment to honor God with our bodies. There has to be a determination to remain pure. Her bold assertion points to the fact that she made her mind up about this and then pursued it with all her heart.

It must be made clear at this point that there is no double standard here. Although these verses are told from a woman’s perspective, this doesn’t just apply to girls and women. A man’s virginity is valued as much as a woman’s. Sexual purity is a priority for guys, “How can a young man keep his way pure” (**Psalms 119:9a**). The Word of God commands that younger women are to be treated “as sisters, with all purity” (1 **Timothy 5:2**). This means purity of eyes, hands, and imagination. So there’s no double standard. Everyone is to remain a “wall” until the “door” of marriage is opened.

How can you pursue purity? In our culture, if you want to stay a virgin, you have to surround yourself with family, peer, and community protection. You need to surround yourself with likeminded people who care about your purity and will help you protect it.

Yet, at the root of this pursuit, a person has to have self-resolve. There has to be a determination to pursue God’s plan for

marriage and sex. You can surround yourself with likeminded people. You might have the best of intentions. Yet, if you yourself don't have the resolve, the commitment to pursue purity, a swinging door you shall be. It's the default mode of our culture.

Purity leads to peace.

The bride then makes an interesting statement, "then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace" (8:10b). With these words, she declares one of the blessings of remaining a virgin until marriage. She declares that when she got married and had sex, she had peace. Not only did she have peace, but Solomon also had peace. The word "peace" here refers to "completeness, wholeness, and total well-being."

In my year's ministry, I've never had anyone tell me that they regretted being a virgin when they got married. I've never had anyone tell me that it was a mistake on his or her part.

However, I have had many people who have confessed the pain, guilt, and frustration with sexual immorality before marriage. When it came to sex, they played by their own rules. Rather than listening to God's Word, they listened to their own desires.

There is no doubt that there is cleansing and restoration through the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, can forgive you and give you peace after sexual sin. He can and does forgive sexual sin. He can and does give peace to the pained, guilty conscience.

Yet, we must remember that forgiveness does not mean forgetfulness. God cleanses us

of our sin. However, the memory of past still will still linger. We have to live with the consequences of our sin. We are perfectly forgiven, but not always perfectly at peace.

The blessing of purity, of virginity, is that it brings peace. It brings peace to the heart of the one who has saved him or her for marriage. It gives a sense of completeness and security to a couple when they have done this. Sinful pleasure brings a comfort and enjoyment for a moment. However, the pursuit of purity brings a lifetime of peace and enjoyment.

In our study of Song of Solomon, we have looked at how this text points us to Jesus. You may be thinking, "How does this text point us to Jesus?" First, it's a reminder to pursue purity in our relationship to Jesus Christ. We are to confess diligently sin and repent of it. We are to confront the idols that compete for the priority in our hearts. Our thoughts, our wills, and our affections are to be directed primarily to Jesus Christ.

Second, this text reminds us that Jesus Christ can give us power to pursue purity. Since God's desire is purity, we can receive help and power from the indwelling Christ to pursue this. We don't travel the perilous path of purity in this world alone. We have a Savior who can strengthen and encourage us.

Finally, this text reminds us that there is hope and forgiveness for those who yield to sexual sin. Yes, God's desire is for purity. Yet, He will cleanse and restore those who yield to the flesh. He will wash away the guilt with His blood. He will give peace to face and deal with the consequences of sin.

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

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