



# Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny  
*July/August, 2012*

## When A Man Loves A Woman

What does a man do when he loves a woman? Many have sang about this. This has been the subject of many poems. It has been the content of many love letters. For centuries, men have professed what they will do for the women they love.

In **Song of Solomon 1:9-2:2**, Solomon declares his love for the Shulamite, Abishag. This text shows the love he has for her. It also reveals what a godly man does for the woman that he loves. These verses give us insight in how a godly man should respond to his wife. We see the loving response of a godly man to his wife. We also see the love relationship between Jesus and His people.

**When a man loves a woman, he sees her beauty and seeks to encourage it.**

**(Song of Solomon 1:9-11)**

These verses are a poem of admiration for Abishag. For the first time, Solomon speaks about the woman. In these verses, he focuses on her beauty.

He begins with a term of endearment, “darling” (1:9). This word shows that not only does he care about her; he also delights in caring for her. He uses this phrase nine times in the Song. He says, “I liken you, my darling, to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh” (1:9). In our day, that might not sound like much of a compliment! After all, what woman wants to be compared to a horse! Yet, in this day, it was the highest of compliments.

The Egyptians had a vast supply of gold. Because of this, they were able to import the finest of horses from all

over the world. Their horses had noble looks and graceful lines. They were the choicest and most desirable of horses. Yet, Solomon compares her to one of the horses that pulled Pharaoh's chariots. The horses that pulled his chariots were the best of the best – they had no comparison.

Solomon praises this woman for her beauty. He acknowledges her beauty and praises her for it. She had been self-conscious about her appearance (1:5-6). Now he declares how beautiful she is.

In 1:10, Solomon refers to the jewelry that enhances the beauty of the woman, "Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels." He confesses that this jewelry enhances her beauty. For this reason, he will make sure that she will have all kinds of jewelry, "We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver" (1:11).

In this day, gold and silver were the most valuable and precious of all commodities. These words show the value that he places on Abishag – a value that reaches and surpasses all earthly value. Whatever the cost, he will honor her. He will work to enhance her beauty – with words and with deeds.

How do these words apply to the relationship between a man and woman? These verses teach that a man is to praise and seek to enhance the beauty of his wife. He is to do this by words and by deeds. He is to labor to show her that she is truly loved by his words and deeds.

Seek to adore and compliment your wife's beauty – both the inner and outer beauty. Labor to enhance it by praying for her, speaking encouraging words, and even buying clothes and jewelry for her. Godly men see their wives' beauty and seek to enhance it.

How do these verses apply to Christ and His church? These are the words of Jesus to His bride! Christ loves His people. He delights in His people. The church is beautiful to Jesus. When He looks at His bride, He sees a precious, beautiful bride! As a believer, you are beautiful to Christ. You are precious to Jesus!

Jesus also seeks to enhance that beauty with jewelry – the jewelry of the fruit of the Spirit! He works internally in His people to manifest outwardly the fruit of the Spirit. He wants to make His people more attractive and beautiful. He wants to clothe us in daily obedience and adorn us with Christlike qualities!

**When a man loves a woman, he  
strives to be attractive to her.**

(1:12-14)

In 1:12-14, we have the woman's response to Solomon's poem of admiration. She is so overcome by his beauty and goodness that her heart must speak. She tells him how precious he is to her. She confesses how much she desires him by referring to a series of aromas.

She begins by saying, "While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance" (1:12). The perfume that she speaks of in this text is pure nard. This was a fragrance native to the Himalayan region of India. Its scarcity and the difficulty of manufacturing and transporting it a long distance made it both valuable and exotic. Solomon's presence fueled her desire. In his presence, she grew in her passion for him. Just as a person was stirred and aroused by nard, Solomon stirred the passion in her. She longed to be with him.

She then declares, "My lover is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts" (1:13). Myrrh is native to South Arabia. Myrrh is made from resin and gum that comes from a species of tree in this region. It was made in liquid and solid form. It was thought to revive

and strengthen as one went through the day. It was common in that culture for a woman to wear a little sachet of sweet smelling perfume in solid form around her neck.

Abishag says that Solomon is like that sachet of myrrh. He revived her. In his presence, she found strength. His presence renewed her desire and her strength.

She also compares Solomon with another sweet perfume; "My lover is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi" (1:14). Henna comes from shrubs that produce fragrant blossoms. When the leaves are crushed, they produce a bright-orange color and give off a sweet, seductive smell.

Once again, the woman speaks of how attracted she is to Solomon. Just as a person would be drawn to the fresh fragrance of henna, she is drawn to Solomon. She wants to be with him. She has eyes only for him.

How does this apply to a man's relationship with his wife? This text calls godly men to labor at being attractive to their wives. You might wonder, "How can I do this?" It starts with prayer. Call on God to make you the kind of man that your wife will desire. Ask the Spirit to shape and mold you into the kind of man she will be

attracted to. Plead with Him to transform you into the kind of man that can encourage and strengthen your wife.

A godly man can do this also by taking care of himself physically. Obviously not every man is going to be as handsome as those that the world exalts as “good looking men.” Yet, a man must do what he can to use and enhance the looks that God has given him.

This extends to inner attractiveness. By this, I mean your character. A godly man is attractive because the Holy Spirit is changing him from the inside out. Plead for the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Ask for spiritual maturity. Pray that He will help you in problem areas. Seek God faithfully with the Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship.

How does this apply to Jesus Christ and the believer? These verses give us a picture of the Lord’s value, beauty, and love to the believing soul. Jesus is sweeter and better than any perfume! He far exceeds any earthly beauty or value. Just as we are precious to Him, He is to be precious to our hearts and minds. There is nothing so precious to the true believer as Jesus Himself.

In the presence of Solomon, the woman’s desire was stirred and increased. The same is true in our relationship to Jesus. Being in His presence stokes and fuels our desire and devotion to Him. In His presence, our strength is revived. It is when we are not spending time with Him that our desire for Him is lessened, our devotion weakened, and our strength diminished. Only in His presence are these things increased and strengthened.

This text calls us to spend time with Jesus. It teaches us to pull away from the cares and pace of the world to talk with and listen to Jesus. It also points out why our desire for Jesus and our strength begins to wane. The more we spend time with Jesus, the more precious He becomes to us and the stronger we become.

### **When a man loves a woman, he gives her loving adoration.**

**(1:15-17)**

In **1:15-17**, Solomon and Abishag offer mutual praise and adoration to one another. Solomon begins this volley of adoration in **1:15**, “How beautiful are you, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.” A dove was considered gentle, pure, and faithful. When Solomon looked into Abishag’s

eyes, he saw this gentleness, purity, and faithfulness.

In response to Solomon, she says, "How handsome you are, my lover! O, how charming! And our bed is verdant" (1:16). She responds by praising him for his appearance and character. She adores not only how handsome he is, but also his adoring, faithful character. The word "verdant" refers to freshness and life. His relationship to her is refreshing and renewing.

Solomon answers her back, "The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are fir" (1:17). This refers to their relationship. The mention of "cedars" and "fir" speak to strength and permanence. Solomon is saying that their relationship is strong and it is permanent. He declares that their love will stand the test of time. It will endure the storms and adversities of life. Just as the cedars and fir were strong, their relationship was strong and permanent. He reassures Abishag of his commitment to her.

How does this apply to a man's relationship to His wife? This text reveals that a man is to adore his wife – and he is to express that adoration to his wife. This volley of adoration and answer should characterize the marriage relationship. Every marriage needs

healthy doses of mutual praise and adoration. Moreover, the man is to take the lead in this (1:15). Just as Solomon started this time of mutual praise and adoration, the godly man needs to take the lead in this. The man is to encourage his wife in this and to pray that this kind of mutual adoration will characterize the marriage.

A godly man is to speak words of praise and adoration to his wife. These kinds of words should be sincerely spoken to his wife. It is not enough to feel it deep down inside and say nothing. You may say, "I'm not good at doing this. It's hard for me to express this." Then, ask the Lord to loosen your tongue. Plead with Him for the power to practice this.

How does this apply to the relationship between Jesus and the believer? We are to follow the example of Abishag (1:16). We are to praise our heavenly Husband for His grace and greatness! Our lips should be filled with praise and adoration for Jesus Christ. We ought to confess how wonderful He is! No one is more appealing than Jesus. No one is more admirable than He.

At the same time, we must learn to accept His adoration for us. Unworthy as we are, Christ loves us. We are precious to Him. His people are

beautiful to Him. How we need to rest in this love and this grace! No matter how unworthy we may feel, this is Christ's estimate of us. Rejoice in the fact that Christ loves you, that you are precious to Him. Rest in the value that He places on you and desires you. Jesus Christ came to this earth for you, died for you, and was raised from the dead for you. You are precious to Christ!

**When a man loves a woman, he guards his relationship to her.**

**(2:1-2)**

There is a difference of opinion on the interpretation of **2:1**. Some believe that this is the woman, Abishag, the Beloved, speaking in **2:1**. Others say that this is the Lover, Solomon, speaking in this verse. Both interpretations fit the context, but I lean toward Solomon being the speaker in this verse.

Solomon says in **2:1**, "I am the rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." The rose of Sharon was a beautiful flower from the fertile coastal plain of Sharon. This flower received high praise and was greatly desired in this day. Solomon acknowledges His God-given greatness. He admits that God has blessed him. His looks, his charm, and his attractiveness were a gift from God.

He then says about Abishag, "Like a lily among the thorns is my darling among the maidens" (**2:2**). Thorns often surrounded lilies. These thorns enhanced the beauty of the lily. Solomon is saying that all other women could not compare to Abishag. She stood out and above all other women. The charms of all other women held no real allure for him. They were mere thorns in comparison to her. He was more impressed by Abishag than all other women.

This provides a powerful example for men. A man's wife must be uppermost in his desire and his affections. He must always have the highest place in his affections and in his thinking. Every other woman must appear to be mere thorns in comparison with her.

How does a man do this? First, he must pray that his desire and affections would be firmly fixed on his wife, "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth" (**Proverbs 5:18**). Ask the Holy Spirit to put this truth into practice.

Second, spend time with your wife. Develop an intimate relationship with her. Talk to her. Listen to her. Make time for her. Carry out acts of mercy and kindness to her.

Third, forsake the “roving eye.” Don’t fantasize about what it would be like with other women. Don’t continually compare your wife to other women. Focus on your wife and her positive traits and qualities.

How does this text apply to the relationship between Jesus and the believer? First, we must see that Jesus has no comparison (2:1). He is unique; there is no substitute for Him! We must confess this, praise Him for this, rest in this, and live this out.

Second, this shows us Jesus’ attitude toward His people. He has a special love for His people. They are precious and unique in His sight. He loves each believer as His own. This should stir us to love Him and serve Him. It should strengthen us to say “No!” to temptation. It should comfort our hearts in adversity. It should give us hope when our hope sags.

## World Prayer Plan

### September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion

- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

### October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church
- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis
- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent
- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname

- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts
- 31-Turkmenistan

## **Confessing God's Word Over Your Marriage**

"For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread, and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life" (**Proverbs 6:26**).

Father, cause me to keep in mind the consequences of adultery. Never let me forget how destructive and hurtful marital unfaithfulness is. Help me to keep this in mind, especially in those times of temptation. Cause my relationship to \_\_\_\_\_ to be

so precious and alluring that I can resist sexual temptation. Amen.

PLEAD WITH GOD TODAY TO GIVE YOU THE DISCERNMENT TO REJECT SATAN'S LIES ABOUT SEXUAL TEMPTATION.

*My Confession:* I will not accept Satan's lies concerning sexual sin. I confess that sexual sin is against God's standard, is destructive, and will lead to ruin in my life.

## **Growing In Humility** **Isaiah 57:15**

*Proud people are concerned with being respectable with what others think; they work to protect their own image and reputation.*

Humble people are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; they are willing to die to their own reputation.

Father, I humble myself before You. I confess my pride. Too many times, I'm too concerned with what others think about me. I spend more time working to defend my own reputation and image than I do striving to be real. I ask that

what You think would matter more to me than what others think about me. I plead for grace to die to my own reputation. Transform me, O God; enable me to walk in integrity and genuineness. I want to walk humbly before You and others.

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