



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny
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The Song of Solomon and You

How are we to understand the Song of Solomon? Some Christians have little place for this book in their thinking or practice. They hardly ever quote it, read it, or reflect on it. It has suffered “functional decanonization.” In other words, by their neglect, many believers act as if it should not be in the Bible.

Yet, Song of Solomon is inspired Scripture. This book is designed to honor and exalt love and sex in marriage. It reveals that physical attraction and love can be expressed without sensual lust or uncleanness. Our reaction to the world’s abuse of love and sex is to enjoy and treasure it in the way God has ordained. Song of Solomon enables us to do this.

At the same time, this book points to Christ and our relationship to Him. You don’t have to resort to fancies of imagination to see a spiritual meaning in every word, and yet see Christ in this book of the Bible. It is the portrait of a

loving relationship between Christ and His church.

In **Ephesians 5**, the apostle Paul writes about the relationship between the husband and wife. Yet, he uses this to move to the relationship between Christ and His church, “This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and His church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband” (**Ephesians 5:32-33**). This is the clue for understanding the Song of Solomon. It speaks not only about the important matter of the love between a man and his bride, but also the mysterious intimacy that exists and must be cultivated between Christ and His bride, the church.

The Story Behind The Song (1:1)

This book begins with these simple words, “Solomon’s Song of

Songs" (1:1). The author of this book is Solomon, the son of David, the king of Israel. Many songs came from the pen of Solomon (1 Kings 4:32). But, none others can compare to this one.

Solomon's authorship of this book has been the historic position of the church. There is no need to deviate from this. His name appears throughout the book (1:1,5; 3:7,9, 11; 8:11-12). There are also references to "the king" (1:4, 12; 7:5). The excellence of this book is also certainly in harmony with the great wisdom that he possessed. Added to this, it seems that the book comes from a time when Israel was united and at peace, which would fit during the reign of Solomon.

It is my conviction that the Song of Solomon was the earliest of Solomon's writings. Solomon wrote the Songs first, Proverbs second, and Ecclesiastes last. This book was written in the middle of the 10th century BC. I believe that Solomon has in mind here his first love and bride Naamah, an Ammonitess, the mother of Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 12:13). Solomon married her in his late teens.

A plot is detectable in the Song of Solomon. The details can be debated but there is a basic storyline in this book. It seems that the beloved is part

of a family where the father has died and she is under the authority of her
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stepbrothers. Naturally beautiful, she was a neglected soul, forced by the guardians to work long hours under the sun in the vineyard and other agricultural tasks.

One day a handsome young stranger appears and shows interest in her. This turns out to be King Solomon. He sees her beauty, wins her heart, betroths her, marries her, and takes her to his palace. Although there comes a time when she takes his love for granted, and so drives him away, they are reconciled and come to a mature love that goes on into the future with no sign of ending.

The Desire Of The Beloved (1:2-4)

In these opening verses, the Beloved (Naamah) expresses her desire for Solomon. She literally says, "Let him smother me with kisses." This kiss is an expression of genuine love, an expression of pure love. She desires his love.

She also says that his love is "more delightful than wine" (1:2). In biblical times, wine was a comforting, strengthening, exhilarating beverage. Yet, the Beloved says that his love was

greater than wine. Solomon's love comforted, strengthened, and exhilarated her more than any wine. She is intoxicated with his love (**Proverbs 5:19-20**). Her thoughts are full of him.

This teaches us that physical attraction and sexual desire are the gift of God. Men and women have legitimate cravings for intimacy. God has created us this way. God has created people as sexual beings. The first sexual thought in the world is God's, not man's.

These cravings are to find their fulfillment only in the marriage union (**1 Corinthians 7:3-5**). It is right and good for a man to want a woman to be intimate with and a woman to desire a man to find this intimacy. Yet, it is only for the marriage relationship between one man and one woman.

These verses also reveal that men must pray for the cultivation of that intimacy. The intimacy here is one that must be developed and protected. Plead with God to grow in intimacy with your wife. Ask Him to create this kind of passionate desire between your wife and you.

The Beloved does physically desire Solomon. Yet, his character also attracts her. In the climate of Israel, men

would use "perfumes" or colognes. Due to the heat and the dust, they used these to protect their skin and to enable them to smell good. The Beloved says that his "name is like perfume poured out" (**1:3**).

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She is attracted by the fragrance of his character. The kind of man he is makes her desire him even more. She admires him because of his godly, gracious character. She doesn't simply like the way he looks; everything about his character draws her to him.

Nor is this only her opinion. This is the opinion of all the friends, the young virgins of marriageable age. They all adore him for his character, "We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine" (**1:4**). The Beloved declares, "How right they are to adore you" (**1:4**). They all agree – this is a man of unquestioned integrity and godliness. She is not surprised that others admire him.

This reveals that Christian men must labor to be men of character. It's not just about how you look. While we do need to take care of ourselves physically, ultimately we must labor to grow in Christlikeness and godliness. We must plead with God for His grace to grow in our faith and in godly living.

Our desire and prayer must be to become men of holiness and integrity. According to the Bible, a man's attractiveness rests in the kind of character he has as much or more than his physical appearance. A Christian man is to pray and strive to be attractive in his appearance but especially in his character.

Because of her desire for Solomon, she says, "Take me away with you – let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers" (1:4). She longs to be intimate with Solomon. The "chambers" are Solomon's personal quarters, separate from the main part of the palace. She wishes to be in his presence.

It's important to notice that she wants him to kiss her, not for her to kiss him. She wants him to be the instigator. She wants him to take her away, not for her to take him away. She wants him to take her to his chambers, not for her to take him to her chambers or to some neutral place.

This teaches us the biblical headship of the man. The man is to be the leader in the home. The man is to take the lead, even in intimacy in the marriage relationship. God calls men to lead in the marriage. This means that

the man is to take the lead in cultivating this intimacy in the marriage.

How can a man take the lead in developing this intimacy? Pray for wisdom and insight in how to cultivate this kind of passion and desire. Plead for healing in the broken places of your relationship. Talk with your wife, asking her what she needs and wants. Labor to show your wife how special and precious she is to you. This text

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calls Christian men to lead in cultivating intimacy in the relationship.

Christ in Song of Solomon 1:1-4

While this text teaches us about love and intimacy between a man and woman, it can also point us to Christ. Just as the Beloved, a believer wants to have an intimate relationship to Christ (1:2). The one thing that all believers want is for Christ to manifest His love to their hearts in sweet, intimate communion. The Lord Jesus Christ is a magnet for every redeemed person.

The Beloved longed for the kisses of Solomon (1:2). The kiss is an expression of love. Believers desire that Christ reveal His love in our hearts and lives. We should long to know and experience the love of Jesus in our lives.

The love of Jesus is better than wine.
The love of Jesus:

- Can be enjoyed without fear
- Brings eternal delight
- Totally satisfies
- Is supremely beneficial
- Is absolutely pure

This text calls Christian men to be alone with Christ – to have Christ pour out His love on us and through us. Our prayer must be like the words of Eliza Hewitt’s hymn:

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

The Beloved says that Solomon’s name was like perfume – His character was genuine and admirable (1:3). Yet, we have one greater than Solomon. Jesus Christ is the true and only Son of God. He is true God and true man! There is none to compare with Him. No one can even begin to match Him. How absolutely right, proper, and justified it is to love and adore Jesus Christ!

If it was said of Solomon, “How right they are to adore you! (1:4)” how much more does this apply to the Lord Jesus Christ? He left the glory of heaven to come to this earth. He lived a sinless

life. He paid the debt of our sin on the cross. He was raised on the third day. He now sits at the right hand of the Father. He desires to fellowship with us and to walk with us. There is none like Jesus! This text calls for us to fall for Jesus and to fall before Jesus.

The way to spiritual intimacy with Jesus is to spend time alone with Him. Just as the Beloved asked of Solomon, we must call on Christ, “Take me away with you – let us hurry! (1:4). In other words, Jesus, draw me to yourself. Only Jesus can revive our love for Him. Only Jesus can stir in us a passionate longing for Him and His Word. This is only

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something that He can do. Our continual plea must be “Jesus, draw me to Yourself.”

Do you see how attractive Jesus is? Do you see how appealing He is? Do you see how worthy He is? We must plead with God to open our eyes to see the beauty and glory of Jesus afresh!

Father, open my eyes to see Jesus as never before in my life. Teach me who Jesus is. Reveal the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ to me in fresh and new ways. Let me once again appreciate the greatness of Your Son and my Savior Jesus Christ. Let me once again value the greatness of the Lord Jesus

Christ. Teach me to love Him. Help me to receive and to walk in His love, showing that love to all those around me. Amen.

Your World Prayer Plan

May

- 1-Hungary-The Lost
 - 2-Iceland
 - 3-India-The Church
 - 4-India-Spiritual Warfare
 - 5-India-Mission Efforts
 - 6-India-Bible Translation\Distribution
 - 7-India-Massive Conversions
- States of India:
- 8-Andhra Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh
 - 9-Assam

 - 10-Bihar; Goa; Gujarat
 - 11-Haryana; Himachal Pradesh
 - 12-Jaamu; Kashmir; Karnatara
 - 13-Kerala; Madhya Pradesh
 - 14-Maharastra
 - 15-Manipur; Meghalaya
 - 16-Mizoram; Nagaland
 - 17-Orissa; Punjab
 - 18-Rajasthan; Sikkim
 - 19-Tamil Nadu; Tripura
 - 20-Uttar Pradesh
 - 21-West Bengal
 - 22-The Seven Union Territories
 - 23-Indonesia-The Church/Revival
 - 24-Indonesia-Government

- 25-Indonesia-Lost/Mission Efforts
- 26-Indonesia-Young People
- 27-Iran-The Church
- 28-Iran-The Lost
- 29-Iraq-The Church
- 30-Iraq-The Lost
- 31-Ireland

June

- 1-Israel-Mission Efforts
- 2-Israel-Peace
- 3-Italy-The Church
- 4-Italy-The Lost
- 5-Italy-Spiritual Awakening
- 6-Jamaica
- 7-Japan-The Church
- 8-Japan-The Lost
- 9-Johnston Island
- 10-Jordan
- 11-Kazakhstan-The Church

- 12-Kazakhstan-Mission Efforts
- 13-Kenya
- 14-Kiribait
- 15-North Korea-The Church
- 16-North Korea- Open Doors For Gospel
- 17-North Korea-The Lost
- 18-South Korea-The Church
- 19-South Korea-Continued Revival
- 20-Kuwait
- 21-Kyrgystan-The Church
- 22-Kyrgystan-Mission Efforts
- 23-Laos

24-Latvia
28-Libya
29-Liechtenstein
30-Lithuania

Confessing God's Word

"For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?" (**Proverbs 5:20**).

Father, deliver me from the "grass is greener on the other side" syndrome. Teach me that true satisfaction and joy can only be found in my relationship to _____ . Help me to see through the deception of sexual sin. O God, enable me to quickly and harshly deal with any temptation to lust and adultery. Amen.

ASK GOD TODAY TO CONVICT YOU ABOUT ANY LUSTFUL OR ADULTEROUS THOUGHTS THAT YOU HAVE ALLOWED TO GO UNCHECKED. CONFESS THESE AND PRAY FOR THE POWER TO DEAL WITH THESE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE.

My Confession: I will labor to deal with any lustful or adulterous thoughts that I

have about any woman. I will not toy with sexual sin or entertain fantasies about any other woman.

Growing In Humility (Isaiah 57:15)

A proud person is quick to blame others.
A broken person accepts personal responsibility and can see where he is wrong in a situation.

Father, create within me greater humility. I confess my pride. I confess that I am quick to blame others. Teach me to walk humility. I pray that I would accept personal responsibility for my sin. Open my eyes; deliver me from self-righteousness. Cultivate a humble spirit in me. Amen.

The Consequences Of A Moral Tumble

Whenever you feel particularly vulnerable to sexual temptation, it is helpful to review what effects your decision could have:

- Grieving the Lord who redeemed you;
- Dragging the sacred name of Jesus in the mud;
- One day having to look Jesus, the righteous Judge in the face and give account of your actions;
- Following in the footsteps of those people whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused others to shudder;
- Destroying my credibility with my family and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God;
- Causing shame to my family;
- Losing self-respect;
- Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake;
- Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague me in the future;
- Inflicting untold hurt on my wife/family;
- Losing my wife/family's respect and trust;
- Hurting my children;
- Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, maybe even permanently;
- Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to others;
- Reinforcing peoples' distrust of Christians/ ministers;
- Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians;
- Bringing a great deal of pleasure to Satan, the enemy of God and all that is good;
- Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I am committing this sin;
- Possibly bearing the consequences of sexually transmitted diseases;
- Possibly causing pregnancy with personal financial implications including a lifelong reminder of my sin;
- Bring shame and hurt to fellow Christians/ministers;
- Causing shame and hurt to my friends, especially those I have led to Christ and disciplined;
- Invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment on myself.

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