



**SPRINGCREEK
CHURCH**

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SONG OF SONGS (Wisdom for Your Love Life)

The Smartest Man in the Room – Part 2

Life Lessons from the Writings of Solomon

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Did you know that there's a book in the Bible that is told predominantly through a woman's voice? Close to 75% of the poems in Song of Songs are told from the woman's perspective. Even when the man speaks, most often it's the woman who's reporting what's being said. The book is also devoid of the gender stereotyping that infects so many of thoughts and attitudes today. In this book, the woman is strong, and the man is sensitive.

Could it be that this Old Testament book written nearly 3000 years ago contains the keys to relational success we desperately need today? The Song of Songs defines love as it should be while at the same time helping us navigate the obstacles and challenges every marriage will face. It's a fascinating little book that has more than meets the eye.

THE WILL – Proverbs

THE HEART – The Song of Songs

THE MIND – Ecclesiastes

The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's. Song of Songs 1.1 (NASB)

1. THINGS THAT MAKE SONG OF SONGS UNIQUE

❑ The Genre of Literature is Poetry

"Poems communicate before they are understood... Let the poem work in you... Listen to the words and pay attention to the feelings they evoke." - Edward Hirsch

*How beautiful you are, my darling, how beautiful you are!
Your eyes are like doves behind your veil; Your hair is like
a flock of goats That have descended from Mount Gilead.
Your teeth are like a flock of newly shorn ewes which have
come up from their washing, all of which bear twins, and
not one among them has lost her young. Your lips are like
a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Your temples
are like a slice of a pomegranate behind your veil. Your
neck is like the tower of David, built with rows of stones on
which are hung a thousand shields, All the round shields
of the mighty men. Your two breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle which feed among the lilies. Until the
cool of the day when the shadows flee away, I will go my
way to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of
frankincense. You are altogether beautiful, my darling, and
there is no blemish in you. Song of Songs 4.1-7*

The Shulamite woman

❑ The Erotic Tone of the Book

❑ The Story is Told from a Female Perspective

Shulamite is the feminine form of the name Solomon.

"[Her voice is heard] in "close to 75 percent of the poems."
- Nathaniel Samuel Murrell, "Song of Songs," in The
Africana Bible

*...your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule
over you.* Genesis 3.16

2. LEARNING WHAT IT MEANS TO REALLY LOVE

☐ RAYA - Intimacy

*You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful
beyond compare, absolutely flawless.* Song of Songs 4.7
(The Message)

*How is your beloved better than others? ... This is my lover,
this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem... I am my lover's
and my lover is mine...* Song of Songs 5.9-6.3

☐ AHAVA – Commitment

*Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it
away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for
love, it would be utterly scorned.* Song of Songs 8.7

☐ DOD – Passion

*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your
love is more delightful than wine.* Song of Songs 1.2

3. MAKING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

❑ The enemy of broken communication

- Language that compliments

Solomon called his wife “darling” 9 times in this book.

Insecurities inhibit expression.

The Inklings

“When we love someone, we see their eternal identity.”

- Charles Williams

- Language that compromises

Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. My lover is mine and I am his. Song of Songs 2.15-16

❑ The enemy of little exits

“Staying late at work - Disappearing into the garage - Overeating - Volunteering for every committed at church and school - Falling asleep on the couch - Staying on the phone - Fantasizing while making love - Refusing to make love - Going shopping - Refusing to talk - Spending hours on the computer - Reading magazines - Watching movies.” – Dr. Harville Hendrix

Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have

opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom - there I will give you my love. The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover. Song of Songs 7.11-13

❑ The enemy of indifference

I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My lover is knocking: "Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night." I have taken off my robe must I put it on again? Song of Songs 5.2-3

Sixty queens there may be, and eighty concubines and virgins beyond number... Song of Songs 6.8

Come back, come back, O Shulammite; come back, come back. Song of Songs 6.13a

My lover thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him...I opened for my lover, but my lover had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure. I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. Song of Songs 5.4-6

"The greatest obstacle in building truly great relationships is justified self-centeredness."

– Dr. Larry Crabb, *Men and Women: Enjoying the Difference*



4. MORE TO THIS STORY THAN MEETS THE EYE

Literal Meaning: A love story between Solomon and his beloved

Historical Meaning: The relationship between God and Israel

Spiritual Meaning: The relationship between Christ and the church

Practical Meaning: A picture of faithful and deepening love

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. Ephesians 5.32

“The song should be treated first as a simple and yet sublime song of human affection. When it is thus understood, reverently the thoughts may be lifted into higher values of setting forth the joys of communion between the spirit of man and the Spirit of God, and ultimately between the church and Christ. Therefore, I can sing the Song of Solomon as setting forth the relationship between Christ and His bride.” - G. Campbell Morgan

“The whole world is not worth the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel, for all the Scriptures are holy, but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies” - Rabbi Akiba, Mishnah Yadayim 3:5

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...
John 5.39 (NASB)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Song of Songs has the unique distinction of being written almost entirely in a woman's voice and from a female perspective. Pastor Keith also pointed out some apparent parallels and contrasts with the original story of the first couple (Adam and Eve). At the very least, this book seems to be showing us a redeemed perspective on what can happen in a marriage of mutuality as opposed to the power and control associated with the fall. How does this perspective challenge or encourage you? What have you been taught about the nature of husband/wife relationship in marriage? What does it mean for a marriage to be a place of mutuality?

2. In the Song of Songs, the writer uses three different words to describe the fullness of love; RAYA – Intimacy or friendship, AHAVA – Commitment, and DOD – Passion. Which of these do you think society values most? Least? What would a relationship look like that was high on friendship and commitment but lacked passion? What would a relationship look like that was high on commitment and passion but lacked friendship? What would a relationship look like that was high on friendship and passion but had no commitment? In your present relationship or past ones, where have you been strongest and where have you been weakest?



3. Pastor Keith underscored the importance of genuine compliments in relationships and marriage. And he pointed out how insecurities inhibit expression – that if there's an area of our life where we feel insecure, in that area we will always hold back to some degree. One of the greatest gifts we give our partner is praising away their insecurities. Has anyone ever done this for you? If so, how? Have you ever done this for someone else? If so, how?

4. Big issues that end marriages seldom start out big. Instead, they are best described as “little foxes that spoil the grapes.” They are small things that we ignore that eventually begin to take their toll on us in the form of resentments, score-keeping and ongoing pain. What are some small issues that tend to grow bigger over time? What ways have you discovered for dealing with them? How do you keep little things from becoming big things?

5. In many ways, our closest and most intimate relationships can be a mirror of how God loves us. At least, that's the case when we are living by God's principles and have a healthy love life. What have you learned about God through your marriage or that of others? In all the things you learned about love and keep a relationship healthy in the Song of Songs, what ways do any of those principles remind you of the way God loves and relates to you?

