

1 Turn in your Bible to the Song of Solomon or the Song of Songs Read Song of Solomon 3:1-5:1

Three Goals for this 4-Week Series...

- 1. Increase oneness & intimacy in marriages** -Decrease anger & frustration over romantic love
*Exchange 'baseball bats' for 'love letters' (romance)
- 2. Give instruction about romantic love** -Avoid perversion (misuse) & prudishness (ignorance)
*Exchange 'Victoria's secret' for your 'spouse's secret'
- 3. Incline your heart's passion towards Jesus** -Weaken wayward desires by seeing Jesus' love for you
*Exchange the 'mouse' (Harlequin Romance Novels) for the WORD

SOS is about the progress of romantic love ... God's picture of His best for love-making in a fallen world.

- 1. Love is Cultivated:** Courting Love **1:1-2:17** How to approach (get) married?
*Courting: is intentional friendship to determine if marriage is God's plan; it involves communication, romance (conversation NOT action), boundaries & accountability, PRAYER.
- 2. Love is Consummated:** Love-Making **3:1-5:1** How to have purity not prudishness & perversion?
*Love-making (sexual intimacy) is God's good gift to a husband & a wife (in marriage) for...
1) Knowing God's love, 2) Communion, 3) Sanctification, 4) Mutual pleasure, 5) Child-bearing sometimes.
- 3. Love is Threatened:** Restoring Love **5:2-6:13** How to stay on the same team?
5:2-3 Romantic Love Initiated but Rejected
5:4-8 Romantic Love Threatened
5:9-6:3 Romantic Love Rekindled/Reminded
6:4-13 Romantic Love Restored
1. Mutual Commitment
2. Heart of Humility
3. Moving towards each other with Grace, Forgiveness & Love.
- 4. Love Blossomed:** Maturing Love **7:1-8:14** How to grow old loving each other more?

Four Scenes of Love...Romantic Love...

- 1. Grows & Matures with Attentiveness**
- 2. MUST become a 2-Way Street**
- 3. Is Personal, Passionate & Possessive**
- 4. Builds on the past for the future by living in the present**

#1 Romantic Love Grows & Matures with Attentiveness 7:1-10 Solomon Praises –Shulamite Gives

- 1 *How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O noble daughter!*
- 2 *Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand.*
- 3 *Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine.*
- 4 *Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.*
- 5 *Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.*
- 6 *Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim.*
- 7 *Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, which looks toward Damascus.*
- 8 *Your head crowns you like Carmel, and your flowing locks are like purple; a king is held captive in the tresses.*
- 9 *How beautiful and pleasant you are, O loved one, with all your delights!*
- 10 *Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters.*
- 11 *I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its fruit.*
- 12 *Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples,*
- 13 *and your mouth like the best wine.*

6:12-13 They have restored their relationship enabling them to express their love verbally & physically.

*Sexual intimacy is an important part of a healthy marriage relationship—thermometer & thermostat.

*Solomon has already verbally expressed to his wife her beauty in 4:1-7 & 6:4-7.

Why repeated? 1) We cannot express our delight in our spouse too often 2) Praise is often not identical.

*Good chance the Shulamite has removed her outer garments and is in her undergarments or naked.

*Linda Dillow: "Nothing is as 'sexy' as a woman who gives in to her sensuousness, a woman who enjoys sexual intimacy with her husband and lets him know that she loves to give and receive sexual pleasure.

*Starts from her feet and works upward this time...the other two times, he began with her head and worked down.

- 1: Feet:** look beautiful in sandals; 'noble daughter'--not of royal lineage but she acts as a woman of nobility
Rounded thighs: her hips...are like jewels—shaped well—work of a master hand: visually arousing to Solomon.

- 2: **Navel:** Hebrew word probably referring to the innermost sexual part of a woman... constant source of pleasure...
Belly: Hebrew word probably referring to her waist—gently curved figure...fully desirable
- 3: **Breasts: (4:5)** soft, attractive, enticing...desirable.
- 4: **Neck:** majestic, stately, confident and dignified woman
Eyes: beautiful, pure, refreshing
Nose: strong in character, complements the rest of her face...
- 5: **Head:** Carmel range of mountains were one of the most beautiful in all of Palestine. You are above all others!
Locks: here described as being purple (deep red)...enticing to him
- 6: **Summary: Catches his breath:** Physically=stunning to me! Personally=pleasant to me!
- 7-9 **Variety is said to be the spice of life...when it comes to sexual intimacy...that is very true!**
***Different categories of sexual intimacy:** 'quickie', 'normal', 'Romantic', 'Adventurous', 'Hilarious'
- 7/8 **Stature:** swaying palm trees **breasts:** clusters of palms, that he wants to climb... **breasts...**
- 9a: **Mouth:** best wine...delicious, intoxicating...

9b *It goes down smoothly for my beloved, gliding over lips and teeth.*

10 *I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.*

9: **Shulammitte receives her husbands praise, responds to his initiating and delights in their love making!**

10: **She delights in knowing that she belongs to Solomon and he delights in her.**

Mutually Satisfying Sexual Intimacy (John Gries): 1. Talking, 2. Time, 3. Teachable
4. Patience, 5. Experimentation, 6. Humor

Husbands: 1. Are you attracted to your wife? Why or why not?

2. **Do you use Romantic speaking?** Easier than you think: tell your wife what you think, feel, desire

3. **Do you give your love, interest, attention ONLY to your wife--desire/arousal only for her?**

Matt. 5:28 *'But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart...'*

Wives: 1. Are you glad you are married? Why or why not?

2. **Do you delight in your husband--enables you to desire him--empowers you to give yourself to him**

#2 Romantic Love MUST become a 2-Way Street to Grow 7:11-13 Shulammitte Initiates Love-Making

11 *Come, my beloved, let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages;*

12 *let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded,
whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom.*

There I will give you my love.

13 *The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and beside our doors are all choice fruits, new as well as old,
which I have laid up for you, O my beloved.*

11: **Shulammitte initiates love:** she plans a romantic trip into the country, to spend the night in a romantic setting.

12: **Shulammitte's desire is for sexual intimacy!** It is NOT shopping or sight seeing (though those can also be done)
She wants to go & visit the vineyards—vines budded? Blossoms opened? Pomegranates in bloom?

THERE I WILL GIVE YOU MY LOVE...

13: **Shulammitte says their love making will be good:** mandrakes=aphrodisiacs=love apples saved up for him!

***All choice fruits: new and old...I have stored up to give to you! Desire! Thought! Planning! Anticipation!**

Wives: Low sexual desire &/or low sexual pleasure can be caused by: 1. Prudishness--Ignorance 2. Perversion—
Guilt/memories 3. Priority/Passivity 4. Physical: Hormonal, Overweight, Fatigue 5. Fear—mistrust

Husbands: Have you told your wife that you would like it if she also initiates in your sexual relationship?

Special Outings: Worth the money, effort...God pleasing & Marriage saving!

#3 Romantic Love is Personal, Passionate & Possessive! 8:1-7 Shulammitte Desires Solomon

1 **Be my brother:** *Oh that you were like a brother to me who nursed at my mother's breasts!*

If I found you outside, I would kiss you, and none would despise me.

2 *I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother — she who used to teach me.*

I would give you spiced wine to drink, the juice of my pomegranate.

3 **Be my lover:** *His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!*

4 *I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.*

- 5 **Be my hero:** *Who is that coming up from the wilderness, leaning on her beloved?
Under the apple tree I awakened you.
There your mother was in labor with you; there she who bore you was in labor.*
- 6 *Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death,
jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD.*
- 7 *Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.
If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.*

Romantic Love has many expressions. We see some of them here in chapter 8.

1-2 PERSONAL: Be my Brother...I want to be with you & express my love for you openly—if my brother...

Ancient Near East: only near relatives could show public displays of love & affection...brothers, sister not wife.

There is a chance she is also feeling neglected: his work...his other wives?... his other interests...

Husband's neglect of his wife is hurtful: LOVE says... I honor & value you, You are a real part of my life.

I would lead you to my home, where my mother taught me (about love)... I want to teach you about love.

3: PASSIONATE: Be my Lover: Awaken my love by embracing me.

*Times to awaken love and times not to awaken love, even when married (separated,

Even in marriage, there are unhealthy times, ways, and places to arouse and awaken love, particularly when it will be some time before you are with your spouse. Don't fantasize about what you cannot and do not have.

This awakens sexual desire at a time when it cannot be rightfully satisfied.

Balance: Grateful for the time and intimacy we do have with our spouse BUT not complacent about that!

5: POSSESSIVE: Be my hero: I see myself coming with Solomon from the wilderness...going to our tree...

She sees them coming together from the wilderness: time of difficulty is over...as they come together from it.

She is seen leaning on Solomon, taking comfort in him as she did in 2:3... in his shade, her "apple tree."

6: She wanted to be like a special seal on his heart... Am I special to you? **Seal on his arm:** Tattoo???

Love is as strong as death...death is sure, universal, permanent

Love: sure, permanent, powerful!

Jealousy is fierce as the grave... Jealousy=ardent love=possessive/exclusive Love: possessive & exclusive!

There is an appropriate jealousy that is an aspect of true love—

God is expressed as being jealous in His love for His people: **Ex. 20:5** *'You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...'*

7: Love (agape, phileo, eros) is strong... No amount of water can quench true love's fire: agape, phileo, eros.

No amount of temptation can put it out, for true romantic love in marriage truly does satisfy.

This kind of love is priceless, something which no amount of money can buy or for which one would sell it.

Those who have a great and God-honoring marriage wouldn't give it up for anything—even a billion dollars!

This kind of marriage is ONLY possible if God's principles of love (agape, phileo, eros) are followed.

Parents: Pr. 5 Teach your teenagers about romantic love...may they hear of God's gift from your lips!

Husbands: 1 Pet 3:7 Ask your wife to teach you about romantic love—she can teach you about slow cookers!

Husbands & Wives: be jealous for your spouse's love...AND Give ONLY to him/her your love

Agape love: committed, unconditional love/respect & forgiveness Phileo: work at being best friends=reciprocal

Eros: Men: touch, talk, teammate, tender with your wife? Women: cheer & connect with your husband?

#4 Romantic Love builds on the past for the future living in the present 8:8-14 Romantic Love is Sentimental

8 **FAMILY** (Flashback) *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?

9 *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.

10 **SHE** *I was a wall, and my breasts were like towers; then I was in his eyes as one who finds peace.*

11 *Solomon had a vineyard at Baal-hamon; he let out the vineyard to keepers;*

each one was to bring for its fruit a thousand pieces of silver.

12 *My vineyard, my very own, is before me; you, O Solomon, may have the thousand,*

and the keepers of the fruit two hundred.

13 **HE** *O you who dwell in the gardens, with companions listening for your voice; let me hear it.*

14 **SHE** *Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.*

- 8: Shulammitte's brothers were hard on her (1:6) but protective...**when she was younger...until her wedding
- 9: Wall: moral purity and unavailability to men...**adorn towers of defense with silver-sign of strength, honor
Door: moral vulnerability & weakness...restrict her freedom...barricading a door-sign of weakness
- 10: Yes, I was like the wall:** committed to moral purity/unavailable to men...but not because she wasn't desirable...
 Like a wall with her standards, she made sure she did not give away her sexual purity until she was married...
Yes, I saved myself for my husband ... My breasts were like towers & Solomon knew I saved them for him.
- 11: Solomon had a vineyard he entrusted to caretakers who were to bring a 1,000 shekels of silver for its fruit.**
- 12: She refers to her own body as a vineyard=I give my whole-self to Solomon=my virginity & my faithfulness!**
- 13: Romantic speaking: Let me hear your voice (2:14)...** I want to be with you...talk with you...listen to you...
 Please call out to me...
- 14: Romantic speaking: Come quickly to me as a gazelle (2:17)...**I desire you...delight in you...want you!
 Please come to me...

Love is responsiveness to the 'total self' of who you love.
Love is the capacity to receive from the Lord & give to another.

A husband loves his wife when he honors, appreciates & serves her—so she is inclined to love Jesus more.
A wife respects her husband when she cheers, desires & follows him—so he is inclined to love Jesus more.

The Big 3: Prov. 5:15-19, 1 Cor. 7:1-5, Heb. 13:4

10 GREAT Ways to Love your Lover...

1. **List the top 10 reasons** "I'm the most fortunate husband/wife in the world because..."
2. **Pray together** before you go to bed or when you get up in the morning or at the supper table...
3. **Surprise your spouse** by doing one of his/her chores. When asked why, give a passionate kiss and say, "Because you are worth it."
4. **Don't just show—also tell!** Daily say, "I love you." Or "I appreciate you because..." Or "Thank you for..."
5. **Coordinate your calendars together** on Sunday for the following week—put spouse time on your calendar
6. **Use the T.H.I.N.K. acronym** to determine whether an issue needs to be discussed...
 Is it True? Helpful? Important? Necessary? Kind?
7. **Surprise your spouse** with a 'I Love You' dinner with his/her favorite meal/restaurant-include flowers/chocolate.
8. **Daily Reconnect!** Husbands don't go sit in front of the TV...! Wives go & greet your man when he comes home!
9. **Learn to read each other:** Learn new things about each other and share them together.
10. **Men, treat your wife as a lady...**open doors, carry loads, hold chairs... Women...allow this to happen.

Proverbs 32 Man p 227