## Be Loving

## Solomon's Song of Songs

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### Marriage is under attack.

### Supreme Court Redefinition of Marriage 26 June 2015







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### Where will it stop?





### **Bill Cosby**



## **Bill Hybels**



## **Bill Hybels**

## Pat Baranowski



### Isaiah 5:20 NLT

### "What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter."



### Dialogue of Marital Love

#### Key Word

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### Key Verse

"I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me" (Song of Songs 7:10)

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## We are naturally curious about sexuality from our earliest ages

Yet traditional Judaism did not allow men to read Song of Songs until age 30

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|--|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|
|  | Dia                  | logue                   | of Marital                | Love                                    |  |  |
| Courtship to Wedding                       |                      |                         | Growth in Marriage        |   |  |  |
| 1:1-5:1                                    |                      |                         | 5:2-8:14                  |   |  |  |
| Beginning of Love                          |                      |                         | Bro                       | Broadening of Love                      |  |  |
| Selfish Love                               |                      |                         |                           | Selfless Love                           |  |  |
| "My lover is mine and I am his" (2:16a)    |                      |                         |                           | "I am my lover's and he is mine" (6:3a) |  |  |
| Single                                     |                      | Married                 |                           |   |  |  |
| Puppy Love                                 | uppy Love Love Un    |                         | Love Tried and True       |   | Love Recalled                                    |  |
| Courtship                                  | Wedding              |                         | Growth                    |   | Flashback  |  |
| 1:1–3:5                                    | 3:6–5:1              |                         | 5:2-8:4                   |   | 8:5-14   |  |
| Longing Intensification<br>1:1-11 1:12–3:5 | Procession<br>3:6-11 | Consummation<br>4:1–5:1 | Struggles<br>5:2–6:13     | Praise &<br>Response<br>7:1–8:4         | Love's Strength Love's Virginity<br>8:5-7 8:8-14 |  |
| Both at the vineyard                       |                      | Honeymoon<br>begins     | Honeymoon ends            | 1                                       | Both at the vineyard                             |  |
|  |                      |                         | Break up<br>5:2-16 6:1-13 | and the second                          |  |  |
|  |                      | and the second          | ca. 1 Year                |   |  |  |

## How can marital love become all that God designed?



# I. Wait for sex until marriage (Song 1:1–5:1)



Song 1

### **Synthesis**

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### **Dialogue of marital love**

#### 1:1–5:1 Courtship to wedding

#### 5:2–8:14 Growth in marriage

### "This is Solomon's song of songs, more wonderful than any other" (1:1 NLT).



Young Woman: "Kiss me and kiss me again, for your love is sweeter than wine. <sup>3</sup> How fragrant your cologne; your name is like its spreading fragrance. No wonder all the young women love you!" (1:2-3 NLT).

Young Woman: "Take me with you; come, let's run! The king has brought me into his bedroom" (1:4a-b NLT).

> "Let the king bring me into his chambers" (1:4b NIV).

#### The beloved's "friends" (see NIV marg.), elsewhere referred to as the "daughters of Jerusalem" (v. 5; 3:10; 5:8, 16) and "daughters of Zion" (3:11)

Young Women of Jerusalem "How happy we are for you, O king. We praise your love even more than wine. How right they are to adore you" (1:4c NLT).

Young Woman "I am dark but beautiful, **O** women of Jerusalemdark as the tents of Kedar, dark as the curtains of Solomon's tents. <sup>6</sup> Don't stare at me because I am dark— the sun has darkened my skin. My brothers were angry with me; they forced me to care for their vineyards, so I couldn't care for myself-my own vineyard" (1:5-6 NLT).

### **The Shepherd**



Young Woman "Tell me, my love, where are you leading your flock today? Where will you rest your sheep at noon? For why should I wander like a prostitute among your friends and their flocks?" (1:7 NLT).

Young Man "If you don't know, O most beautiful woman, follow the trail of my flock, and graze your young goats by the shepherds' tents" (1:8 NLT).



"You are as exciting, my darling, as a mare among Pharaoh's stallions. <sup>10</sup> How lovely are your cheeks; your earrings set them afire! How lovely is your neck, enhanced by a string of jewels. <sup>11</sup> We will make for you earrings of gold and beads of silver" (1:9-11 NLT).

Young Woman "The king is lying on his couch, enchanted by the fragrance of my perfume. <sup>13</sup> My lover is like a sachet of myrrh lying between my breasts. <sup>14</sup> He is like a bouquet of sweet henna blossoms from the vineyards of En-gedi" (1:12-14 NLT).



Young Man "How beautiful you are, my darling, how beautiful! Your eyes are like doves" (1:15 NLT).

### Literal or Figurative?

Young Woman "How handsome you are, my beloved, *And so pleasant!* Indeed, our couch is luxuriant! <sup>17</sup> The beams of our houses are cedars, Our rafters, cypresses" (1:16-17 NAU).

Young Woman "You are so handsome, my love, pleasing beyond words! The soft grass is our bed; <sup>17</sup> fragrant cedar branches are the beams of our house, and pleasant smelling firs are the rafters" (1:16-17 NLT).

### Figurative

Young Woman "You are so handsome, my love, pleasing beyond words! The soft grass is our bed; fragrant cedar branches are the beams of our house, and pleasant smelling firs are the rafters" (1:16-17 NLT). Song 2
Where to sleep?



I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, that you do not stir up nor awaken my love until she pleases (Song 2:7)

### So What?

 Exercise premarital sexual restraint so that marriage can be enjoyed to its fullest (i.e., allow love to blossom in its own time).

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"Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (2:7b NIV). Song 3

### So What?

 Exercise premarital sexual restraint so that marriage can be enjoyed to its fullest (i.e., allow love to blossom in its own time).

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"Do not"Carouse orarawaken loveavuntil it sourdesires"de(2:7b NIV).(3)

"Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (3:5b NIV).

### Solomon's Wedding



"Who is this sweeping in from the wilderness like a cloud of smoke? Who is it, fragrant with myrrh and frankincense and every kind of spice? <sup>7</sup>Look, it is Solomon's carriage, surrounded by sixty heroic men, the best of Israel's soldiers" (3:6-7 NLT). "They are all skilled swordsmen, experienced warriors."

> "Each wears a sword on his thigh, ready to defend the king against an attack in the night" (3:8 NLT).

"King Solomon's carriage is built of wood imported from Lebanon. <sup>10</sup> Its posts are silver, its canopy gold; its cushions are purple. It was decorated with love by the young women of Jerusalem" (3:9-10 NLT).



Young Woman "Come out to see King Solomon, young women of Jerusalem. He wears the crown his mother gave him on his wedding day, his most joyous day" (3:11 NLT).

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Song 4

## What does it mean to take the Song literally?



### **Very Descriptive!**

Your eyes are like doves Your hair is like a flock of goats Your teeth are like a flock of ewes Your lips are like a scarlet thread Your temples are a slice of pomegranate Your neck is like the tower of David Your breasts are like two fawn gazelle (Song of Solomon 4:1-5)

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"Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits" (4:16).

? R(A)

Song 5

"I have entered my garden, my treasure, my bride! I gather myrrh with my spices and eat honeycomb with my honey. I drink wine with my milk" (5:1a NLT).

"Young Women of Jerusalem Oh, lover and beloved, eat and drink! Yes, drink deeply of your love!" (5:1b NLT).



#### 'Eat, friends; Drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers." (Song of Solomon 5:1)

## How can marital love become all that God designed?



# I. Wait for sex until marriage (Song 1:1–5:1)



## II. Work for a good marriage (Song 5:2–8:14).



Young Woman "I slept, but my heart was awake, when I heard my lover knocking and calling: **'Open to me, my treasure,** my darling, my dove, my perfect one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night" (5:2 NLT).

"But I responded, "I have taken off my robe. Should I get dressed again? I have washed my feet. Should I get them soiled?"" (5:3 NLT).



"My lover tried to unlatch the door, and my heart thrilled within me.
<sup>5</sup> I jumped up to open the door for my love, and my hands dripped with perfume. My fingers dripped with lovely myrrh as I pulled back the bolt" (5:4-5 NLT).

"I opened to my lover, but he was gone! My heart sank. I searched for him but could not find him anywhere. I called to him, but there was no reply. <sup>7</sup> The night watchmen found me as they made their rounds. They beat and bruised me and stripped off my veil, those watchmen on the walls" (5:6-7 NLT).

"Make this promise, O women of Jerusalem— If you find my lover, tell him I am weak with love" (5:8 NLT).

"His mouth is sweetness itself; he is desirable in every way. Such, O women of Jerusalem, is my lover, my friend" (5:16 NLT).



Song of Solomon 5:16 MSC

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Song 6

### Young Man:

"You are beautiful, my darling, like the lovely city of Tirzah. Yes, as beautiful as Jerusalem, as majestic as an army with billowing banners" (6:4-5 NLT).



Song 7



### The Song of Solomon Illustrated (7:5-7)

"I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me" (7:10). Song 8

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, its jealousy as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame. <sup>7</sup> Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned" (8:6-7 NLT).

#### The Young Woman's Brothers

"We have a little sister too young to have breasts. What will we do for our sister if someone asks to marry her? <sup>9</sup> If she is a virgin, like a wall, we will protect her with a silver tower. But if she is promiscuous, like a swinging door, we will block her door with a cedar bar" (8:8-9 NLT).

"Solomon has a vineyard at **Baal-hamon**, which he leases out to tenant farmers. Each of them pays a thousand pieces of silver for harvesting its fruit. <sup>12</sup> But my vineyard is mine to give, and Solomon need not pay a thousand pieces of silver. But I will give two hundred pieces to those who care for its vines" (8:11-12 NLT).



## Summary Statement

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The love story of Solomon and his Shulammite wife from courtship to strong marital love shows the need for premarital sexual restraint and the effort required for growth in marital love.

## How can marital love become all that God designed?


# I. Wait for sex until marriage (Song 1:1–5:1)



# II. Work for a good marriage (Song 5:2–8:14).



# Beloving by waiting and working

# Main Idea of Song of Songs

# We need to help marriages in trouble.



### So What?

 Exercise premarital sexual restraint so that marriage can be enjoyed to its fullest (i.e., allow love to blossom in its own time).

"Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (2:7b NIV). "Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (3:5b NIV).

"Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (8:4b NIV).

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## **Virgins Until Marriage**



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### how men and women who waited feel about their choice



#### **Number of Accounts Per City**



"The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be blotted out" (Prov. 6:32-33).



### So What?

 Exercise premarital sexual restraint so that marriage can be enjoyed to its fullest (i.e., allow love to blossom in its own time-2:7b; 3:5b; 8:4b).

 Expect a good marriage to take work, and then work at it.

 Compliment both the physical and non-physical virtues of your spouse.

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