

Song of Solomon 1:1-4 Sex, God and Love, Part 1

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

How many of you believe that this verse is true?

A) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is Profitable.

B) Today we are going to begin studying the only book of the Bible I have ever **been nervous to teach**

1) Wasn't nervous to teach – Romans – deep theological truths –

C) Hebrews with it's difficult passages

D) **Revelation with it's Prophetic pictures**

1) Even Leviticus – all the feast and festivals

I love teaching those books – some of my favorites

A) The one that makes me nervous – **Song of Solomon**

Please turn there

B) Visiting with us – here at CCV – we teach thru the Bible – Chapter by Chapter book by book

1) Joining us in a weird book

C) Why am I nervous? – We as a Congregation are pretty conservative –

1) And this book delves into things that are a little sensitive - and even Controversial

Song of Solomon is a Controversial book for 2 reasons

A) Content and it's intent

B) The Content speaks of the Physical intimacy between Solomon and his first wife – one true love – known as the Shulamite.

C) So the Content speaks of the Physical intimacy surrounding **a Husband and his bride.**

D) There is no mention of God in this entire book – which is very interesting for a book of the Bible.

1) There is no real theology in the book – no plan of Salvation

E) Some of the intimacy in the book is graphic enough that the Jewish rabbis said that a Jewish male was not allowed to even read the book until he was 30 yrs old.

Concerning INTENT: Two schools of thought:

The Jewish rabbis saw it as an illustration of God's love for the nation of Israel

The early Church Fathers followed that example and associated it with Christ love for the Church.

Although I do think the book provides for us some illustrations concerning Christ and the Church –

I don't think that was the original intent at all.

A) Mainly because there are too many things in the book that you have to really have to stretch W/ imagination to see it in that context

B) In fact it is almost embarrassing to make that connection in some places

1) I'll illustrate when we get to some of those places

Bb) But the other reason I think the intent is not to illustrate Christ love for the Church is because there are 4 warnings given in the 8 Chapters – key element

1) The warnings are directed to the Daughters of Jerusalem – **They are told 4 times do not awaken love before it's time.**

C) That is **never an exhortation** that we want to have connected to our relationship with Jesus –

1) We want our love for him to always be growing – exploding – always awaken – WAKE UP

So the 2nd view on the intent of the book is this – that the book is both a literal and historical account of Solomon's relationship with his first wife.

A) **His one true Love**

B) That view says – that the book is a beautiful picture of **Love, Romance, & intimacy.**

C)Those who take this book literally say: here is a book where the God who created intimacy is seeking to show us – what it is supposed to look like

1)That it is wonderful and enjoyable – part of every Godly marriage

That being said – guys you are NOT going to want to take this too literally in the sense that you start using some of Solomon's lines – Not relative to today

A)He will say to his wife – that her belly is like a round coblet or her belly is like a heap of wheat -

B)Guys you don't want to say – that your wives belly is like a heap of anything

C)He will say:*Your neck is like a tower of Ivory – Your eyes are like the fish pools of Hebron Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon* - doesn't work

1)Denise could maybe say that last one to my nose

D)Here is the Point – there is some Poetic beauty in this where, Solomon is comparing his wife to things in his day that were considered beautiful and Valuable

E)Today: Honey you Shine like the chrome on a Harley

F)That is the point we want to draw from this – see the Principle that is being illustrated and learn from it and seek to apply it in our lives

Why this book ? Why now?

A)There is a distorted view of intimacy and sexuality in our culture but also in the Church.

B)Part of the reason there is such a problem today in our culture and in the Church with Porn

C)Our culture is constantly pushing a warped view of romance and intimacy on young pp

D)I think we in the Church should be leaders – for the rest of the world on what intimacy romance and sexuality is supposed to look like.

E)We have been taking our cues for far too long from the Glamour Mags from the media –

1)movies on this subject

And it has always been Satan's strategy to push mankind to extremes in this area

A)Sex sells – used to sell everything

B)Because of that exploitation, we can start to think of physical intimacy as something that is dirty

1)and should not be talked about – something we are embarrassed by

C)Physical union and intimacy is a wonderful thing that God has created and that people will naturally desire – so Satan has always sought to exploit that.

The Church in the past has reacted to that exploitation in the extreme

A)Wonderful Church fathers who loved the Bible – loved Jesus – have had a warped view of Sexuality and intimacy

Examples: Tertullian and Ambrose – two early Church fathers favored the extinction of the human race over continued sexual intimacy.

Origen: Was so convinced of the evil's of sexual intercourse and pleasure that he not only allegorized the Song of Solomon – but he had himself castrated

Jeromone: He often threw himself into thorny bushes in order to inflict pain upon himself when struggling with lust – he did that as sort of a diversion

Augustine: Sex between a Husband and a wife was ok – but if they enjoyed it or derived any form of pleasure from it – That pleasure was a sin.

That really led to the concept promoted by Thomas Aquinas that Sex is only for the purpose of Procreation

What is interesting about this book – it talks a lot about Physical intimacy and never once mentions kids at all.

Listen when it comes to the subject of sexuality intimacy and romantic pleasure the world has been screaming at the top of it's lungs for yrs

A)And the Church has been silent

B)I have been a Christian for over 30 yrs – always gone to great Bible teaching Churches –

1)Never remember being taught this book –

1)Definitely didn't have someone teach it literally
{Never read it until after I was married

Bb)Growing up I was involved in a great JR. High and High Schools – groups – we learned the Bible

1)I grew in my relationship with Jesus – I loved the Lord

C) I was never taught about this subject – This was a **subject that was virtually ignored** – not talked about

1)Accept to say that sex before marriage was a sin and to avoid it

Problem was as a young male JR High and High Schooler – I had all these hormones raging inside of me – trying hard to deal with that!

A)To make matters worse I had a great mom – who loved me but was a bit naïve in this area –

B)I would go on a date – come home she would ask – did you kiss her goodnight

1)That was the norm Happy days inspiration pt.

C)That kind of encouragement wasn't good for me - in fact it Got me in a lot of trouble

1)Grace of God I was still a virgin when I got married –

Parents I think it is time for us to bring this subject out of the closet

A)Song of Solomon talks about the beauty of Sexual intimacy the way that God designed it –

B)It beautifully portrays – intimacy as something wonderful in marriage something to derive great pleasure from

1) God is ok with that – in fact He desires that we enjoy it in marriage– when we do He is glorified.

C) I really believe that if our young pp see this subject the way that God intends for them to as presented in this book

1)It will motivate them to want to stay pure and have relationships that are honoring to God and not pleasing their flesh.

The Characters:

Solomon: Israel's 3rd King – 10th son of David – 2nd son of David and his Wife Bathsheba.

A)Solomon man's man - - Prolific writer – despite being King – Builder – a General – Seamen – developed Shipping lanes for trade

Aa)Pride Prejudice / Little woman

B)Solomon was also a romantic

1)Also a Poet and a Song writer 1005 –songs 1 Kings 4:32 – but this is the only one preserved – this was his greatest Hit.

C)Notice how the book starts

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

I believe that Solomon wrote this book early in his reign as King about this young girl that he fell in love with – First true love – first wife.

I believe that Solomon wrote the book of Proverbs – when he was in his middle yrs – He had grown in wisdom

He wrote the Book of ECCL later in life after he had gone off the deep end – turned away from God –

He ruined this relationship by giving himself over to sexual promiscuity – 700 wives 300 sexual concubines –

Why so many ?– he was looking for the perfect sexual fantasy and never found it

He pursued pleasure and sexual immorality maybe more than any man who has ever lived – and the end – his conclusion – it is all vanity – it is empty

A)38 times in ECCL He gives that sentiment – This is empty.

Which I think only magnifies the beauty of this book and the beauty of living in a marriage relationship the way God intended in this book.

A)We will find Solomon so happy and fulfilled in this book –

B) But later in life he gives into temptation and lives out – what has become **many a man's sexual fantasy** – and he is absolutely miserable

C) When he writes the book of ECCL it is almost as if

he is looking back on his life – wishing he could go back to those simpler days when it was just him and his true love

Who was the Shulamite: Country girl possibly Abishag – David was old they brought her to his bed keep him warm

A) Simple girl hard working – but Solomon falls head over heels for.

B) She becomes a teacher for young women & – young married women – how to conduct themselves in the marriage relationship –

C) **But I will guarantee you this** – some of the things she says and does will surprise you
1) and maybe even liberate you

The Audience: I believe this is a Key to this book – and why it is important for our young pp -

A) The Audience are known as the Daughters of Jerusalem.

B) I believe these were the young virgins in the Kingdom –

1) **Not Harem** – makes no sense to tell them not to awaken love before it's time

More sense they are young virgin women

C) Solomon and the Shulamite as they look back over their courtship – sharing their experience

D) They are talking about the beauty of Love and Romance – **definitely creating an anticipation** – that this is something to look forward to

1) Something that is beautiful in it's time –

E) **But they continually give this warning – But don't awaken love before it's time**

F) There is a time and place for this and that time and place is in Marriage

Goals for this study:

1. Those who are in a good marriage – to renew your **passion and appreciation** for marriage and romance which should always be growing.

2. **Those struggling in marriage:** Bring healing and correction as you see God's design.

3. Those who are single wanting to be married – Come to appreciate God's design for dating and intimacy.

Hopefully clear some of the confusion about dating

4. **Those single and content to be single:** Have a better understanding of God's plan for relationships to help them counsel others in their singleness.

5. **Youth:** Take this subject out of the closet and away from the media which has made it too casual – and hopefully cause them to see it in a new light as something sacred, special, beautiful and something truly worth waiting for.

6. By pointing out some of the parallels in our relationship with Jesus help all of us grow in our relationship with Him.

Briefly today look at the first 4 verses!

The Shulamite Starts off!

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth —
For your love is better than wine.

She doesn't waste any time here in expressing that she enjoys – when her husband shows her Physical affection

A) Most women do! Studies Kissing is good for your health.

Studies showing that a man who kisses his wife in the morning before work will live five years longer.

A) Have 50% fewer illnesses and make 20-30% more money than the man who doesn't kiss his wife....

B) And He will have a healthier marriage

C) She says your love is better than wine.

1) Wine was a delicacy especially the Kings wine

D) When she says your love is better than wine – she is saying your love is better than anything this world has to offer.

Now v.3 reveals what is the first thing that attracts her to Solomon

A) Not Bulging biceps, not six pack abs – not wavy locks

B) Told nothing about how Solomon looks in this first Chapter.

**3 Because of the fragrance of your good ointments,
Your name is ointment poured forth;**

Some think that the first part of v.3 is referring to some type of cologne – Solomon wore

A) Use that idea to talk about the importance of having good Hygiene – taking showers

B) Which, young guys, is important- good idea

C) But as you continue in v.3 you see that she attaches the idea of his fragrance to his name

1) **Name speaks of Character** – reputation

B) The Hebrew word for name is Karuso – speaks of a metal tool used to etch something into stone.

C) It speaks of a Character and reputation that has been etched into making a lasting impact.

D) Because he is a man of Character – he is considered a good Catch.

Therefore the virgins love you.

They consider you a good catch

Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.”
ESV

WHAT does godly CHARACTER look like?

Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3:2-10; Titus 1:5-9; Titus 2:7-8

A man with good godly Character will be

1. A man with strong convictions that have been formed by the word of God.

2. Man of faith.

3. Man filled with the Spirit.

4. Above reproach – no accusations stick.

5. Self Control.

6. Treats people fairly

7. Humble

8. Respectful

9. Man of integrity { Faithful, can be trusted

10. Sound speech

Ladies you need to spend enough time with a man to find out what his real name is

A) Not the name that he tells you but the name that he shows you.

B) You want a man with a good name – a man with a good reputation.

C) If you are a man who has messed up blown Character – it can be restored

1) Takes time and consistency

Single ladies what are you looking for in a man?

A) Money / possessions / good looks – nice car

B) That is all superficial !

C) What matters is a **good godly Character**

Because He is a man of good godly Character she knows she can trust him.

A) So she says - **V4 Draw me away!**

B) She is not afraid to be alone with Him.

C) Longing to be close – have alone time –

1) Good to go to coffee – spend time together

C) Get to know each other better

The Daughters of Jerusalem

We will run after you.

The Shulamite

The king has brought me into his chambers.

Can't go there

She is anticipating their wedding night!

That is Ok – She should.

Normal thing usually is girls anticipate the wedding

A) And Guys are anticipating the wedding night –

B) She is anticipating the Wedding night and that is Ok

C) She is the one who is being open in her desire but she is letting him lead

D) She is not chasing him **no she is dignified** - but she is letting him know I am ready to be drawn away.

1) I can't wait to be with you.

Now understand something here girls you don't want to talk like this until you're a few weeks before your wedding – or else we will have guys coming for counseling who won't know what to do with themselves –

Going Crazy -

The Daughters of Jerusalem

We will be glad and rejoice in you.

We will remember your love more than wine.

They are Excited for Her

The Shulamite

Rightly do they love you. {His Character

Girls share way more than guys – Bathroom

He asked me out – That is what is happening here

They are just rejoicing in her story – her relationship

Close today by making a Parallel to our relationship with Jesus

A) The Bible says that we love Him because He first loved us.

B) Jesus is the Man of Perfect Character: Loves with an unconditional love –

C) **Sacrificial Love** He gave His heart – His life

We have found love of Christ is better than anything this world has to offer

Christ love moves us to want to seek Him

A) Be close to Him – draw near

B) More we do – the more impressed we get

C) Safest most secure – place we can be in close to Him