

# SONG OF SONGS

**a series on:**

**SEX • ROMANCE • MARRIAGE • LOVE**



Parental Advisory Explicit Scriptures  
Why does the Bible include a sexually erotic song?  
Song of Songs 1:1

- “Pony” by Ginuwine (1996)
- “Sexual Healing” by Marvin Gaye (1982)
- “Your Body Is a Wonderland” by John Mayer (2002)
- “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran (2014)
- “I Will Always Love You” by Dolly Parton (1973) & Whitney Houston (1992)
- “I Walk the Line” by Johnny Cash (1956)

## Series Resources

Song of Songs 1:1  
The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s.

- It’s a Song!
- It’s Wisdom!
  - “15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. 16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, 19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love” (Proverbs 5:15–19).

What does Song of Songs teach?

Sex is God's gift to enjoy

- "16 Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow. Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits. 1 I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk. Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!" (Song of Songs 4:16–5:1).
- Sex is a gift to enjoy because sex is part of God's good creation.
  - "27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." . . . 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (Genesis 1:27–31).
- But sex is also part of God's good creation of marriage.
  - "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the does of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases" (Song of Songs 2:7; also see 3:5; 8:4).

Romance is a desire that takes work

- "Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, 3 Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. 4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. 5 Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies. 6 Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense. 7 You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards. 9 You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace" (Song of Songs 4:1–9).
- Romance is a desire that takes work because passion can wane with time.
  - "Our culture says that feelings of love are the basis for actions of love. . . . But it is truer to say that actions of love can lead consistently to feelings love" (Tim and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*, 103).

### Marriage is a lifelong commitment

- “6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealous 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” (Song of Songs 8:6–7).
- Marriage is a lifelong commitment because intimacy requires security.
  - Culture tells us we find intimacy in sex, but God tells us we find intimacy in marriage.
  - What about singles?

### Love is a reflection of God’s love

- “6 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealous is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord” (Song of Songs. 8:6).
- Love is a reflection of God’s love because the gospel is the paradigm for marriage.
  - “22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church” (Ephesians 5:22–32).
  - “Christ and the church are the reality of realities, and our Christian marriages are the metaphors” (Ray Ortlund, *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*, 100).

Sex is a gift; romance takes work; marriage is commitment; love is a reflection.