

SONG OF SONGS

a series on:

SEX • ROMANCE • MARRIAGE • LOVE



Parental Advisory Explicit Scriptures
Why Enjoy Marriage?
Song of Songs 6:4–8:4

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He

4 You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love,
lovely as Jerusalem,
awesome as an army with banners.

5 Turn away your eyes from me,
for they overwhelm me—
Your hair is like a flock of goats
leaping down the slopes of Gilead.

6 Your teeth are like a flock of ewes
that have come up from the washing;
all of them bear twins;
not one among them has lost its young.

7 Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate
behind your veil.

8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines,
and virgins without number.

9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one,
the only one of her mother,
pure to her who bore her.
The young women saw her and called her blessed;
the queens and concubines also, and they praised her.

10 “Who is this who looks down like the dawn,
beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun,
awesome as an army with banners?”

She

11 I went down to the nut orchard
to look at the blossoms of the valley,
to see whether the vines had budded,
whether the pomegranates were in bloom.

12 Before I was aware, my desire set me
among the chariots of my kinsman, a prince.

Others

13 Return, return, O Shulammite,
return, return, that we may look upon you.

He

Why should you look upon the Shulammite,
as upon a dance before two armies?

7:1 How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O noble daughter!
Your rounded thighs are like jewels,
the work of a master hand.

2 Your navel is a rounded bowl
that never lacks mixed wine.
Your belly is a heap of wheat,
encircled with lilies.

3 Your two breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle.

4 Your neck is like an ivory tower.
Your eyes are pools in Heshbon,
by the gate of Bath-rabbim.

Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon,
which looks toward Damascus.

5 Your head crowns you like Carmel,
and your flowing locks are like purple;
a king is held captive in the tresses.

6 How beautiful and pleasant you are,
O loved one, with all your delights!^[d]

7 Your stature is like a palm tree,
and your breasts are like its clusters.

8 I say I will climb the palm tree
and lay hold of its fruit.
Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine,
and the scent of your breath like apples,

9 and your mouth like the best wine.

She

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

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

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.
8:1 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 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.

Why should you enjoy your spouse?

Beauty is celebrated

- “You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners” (SoS6:4).
- The husband celebrates the beauty of his wife.
 - She is unique and awesome in her husband’s eyes.
- Beauty is celebrated because it is a gift of God’s creation.
 - “Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man’” (Genesis 2:23).
 - “All creation, especially the beauty of the human body, points to the beauty of the Lord our Creator” (Douglas Sean O’Donnell, *The Song of Solomon*, 102).

Intimacy is desired

- “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 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!” (SoS 8:1–3).
- The wife and husband desire intimacy.
 - “There is no shameful secrecy to pure passion. She wants to be alone for intimacy, but she wants everyone to know they are alone and intimate” (Douglas Sean O’Donnell, *The Song of Solomon*, 106).
- Intimacy is desired because it is a gift of God’s creation.
 - “18 Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’ 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man

to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18–20).

- We weren't just created not to be physically alone; we were also created not to be emotionally alone.

Sex is shared

- [He] Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. 8 I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its fruit. Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples, 9 and your mouth like the best wine. [She] It goes down smoothly for my beloved, gliding over lips and teeth. 10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me" (SoS 7:7–10).
- The husband and the wife willingly give themselves to each other.
- Sex is shared because it is a gift of God's creation.
 - "24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:24–25).
 - Sex was created by God to be a physical way of both uniting with and committing to one another.

Marriage is honored

- "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases" (SoS 8:4)
- The wife and husband not only honor their marriage but the institution of marriage.
- Marriage is honored because it is a gift of God's creation.
 - "24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:24–25).
 - Marriage is a covenant and sex is the means by which the covenant is (initially) confirmed and (continually) renewed.
 - "Marriage did not arise from historical forces. It came down by heavenly grace as a permanent good for mankind. God gave it, and God gives it" (Ray Ortlund, *Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel*, 31).
 - "19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord" (Hosea 2:19–20).

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4).

The gift of God's creation is given to us to enjoy in marriage.