

The Song of Solomon: A Beautiful Picture of Marriage

Apart from a person's relationship with Jesus Christ, there is no more important relationship than that between a _____ and _____.

Danny Akin – The Song of Solomon is “a beautiful love song. It portrays the deep genuine love that a man and woman should enjoy in marriage. It teaches us that a successful marriage requires commitment and involves work, but that it is worth every investment we make. A successful and lasting marriage will always be a triangle. It will involve a man, a woman, and God. Given the challenges of our day...we dare not move forward without God taking the lead.”

There are at least four prominent _____ in the Song of Solomon.

- _____ – “In a day when marriage is being redefined and reconsidered by contemporary culture, the Song of Solomon could not be more relevant. From the beginning, God established marriage between one man and one woman for a lifetime, and this is how it must be preserved (Gen 2:24). It is no mistake that this biblical view of marriage represents the pattern for the relationship between Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22-33) – a permanent union based on love, faithfulness, and purity.”
- _____ – “The physical dimension of married love is honored in the Song of Solomon as healthy and holy. The book's frank descriptions of the beauty of the human body – and the attraction such beauty inspires – greatly honors the Creator.”
- _____ – Solomon was rich beyond imagination and could afford to be extravagant in his demonstrations of love (3:6-11). But the importance here is how Solomon's actions demonstrate the investment that love and marriage deserve. The union created by God is limitless in its expressions and possibilities. If a marriage is going to prosper, Solomon's example should be followed in how he valued his beloved and their love.”
- _____ – The two most frequently used similes in OT poetry – like and as – occur 57 times in the English version of the Song of Solomon. The book is made up of 15 reflections written as lyric poetry. Read them as pages from a love journal – insights about love, romance, marriage, and sexual intimacy. Solomon and his bride plumbed the depths of their language and creativity to develop word pictures that would excite and enrapture one another. The book is a reminder to all lovers that there is a language of love that can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.”

1. It's wise to approach _____ (marriage) with “smart” love.

Song of Solomon 1:1-7 – *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine; your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you. Draw me after you; let us run. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you. I am very dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept! Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon; for why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?*

- God created people for _____ and _____.
- Love is a _____ experience.
- Marriage requires _____ expectations.
- A person's _____ shouldn't be ignored or inflated.

2. It's imperative to deal with the _____ in marriage.

Song of Solomon 2:15 – *Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.*

3. It's healthy to find times to _____ from the stresses of life.

Song of Solomon 7:11 – *Come, my beloved, let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages.*

- _____ Daily
- _____ Weekly
- _____ Monthly
- _____ Quarterly
- _____ Annually

4. It's crucial to understand _____ from God's perspective.

Song of Solomon 8:5-7 – *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. 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. 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.*

Love is... (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4)
 _____ (5) _____ (6) _____.

The Song of Solomon: A Beautiful Picture of Marriage

Apart from a person's relationship with Jesus Christ, there is no more important relationship than that between a **husband** and **wife**.

Danny Akin – The Song of Solomon is “a beautiful love song. It portrays the deep genuine love that a man and woman should enjoy in marriage. It teaches us that a successful marriage requires commitment and involves work, but that it is worth every investment we make. A successful and lasting marriage will always be a triangle. It will involve a man, a woman, and God. Given the challenges of our day...we dare not move forward without God taking the lead.”

There are at least four prominent **themes** in the Song of Solomon.

- **Marriage** – “In a day when marriage is being redefined and reconsidered by contemporary culture, the Song of Solomon could not be more relevant. From the beginning, God established marriage between one man and one woman for a lifetime, and this is how it must be preserved (Gen 2:24). It is no mistake that this biblical view of marriage represents the pattern for the relationship between Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22-33) – a permanent union based on love, faithfulness, and purity.”
- **Sexual Intimacy** – “The physical dimension of married love is honored in The Song of Solomon as healthy and holy. The book's frank descriptions of the beauty of the human body – and the attraction such beauty inspires – greatly honors the Creator.”
- **Extravagance** – Solomon was rich beyond imagination and could afford to be extravagant in his demonstrations of love (3:6-11). But the importance here is how Solomon's actions demonstrate the investment that love and marriage deserve. The union created by God is limitless in its expressions and possibilities. If a marriage is going to prosper, Solomon's example should be followed in how he valued his beloved and their love.”
- **Language of Love** – The two most frequently used similes in OT poetry – like and as – occur 57 times in the English version of the Song of Solomon. The book is made up of 15 reflections written as lyric poetry. Read them as pages from a love journal – insights about love, romance, marriage, and sexual intimacy. Solomon and his bride plumbed the depths of their language and creativity to develop word pictures that would excite and enrapture one another. The book is a reminder to all lovers that there is a language of love that can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.”

1. It's wise to approach **intimacy** (marriage) with “smart” love.

Song of Solomon 1:1-7 – *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine; your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you. Draw me after you; let us run. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you. I am very dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. Do not gaze at me because I am dark, because the sun has looked upon me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept! Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon; for why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?*

- God created people for **love** and **intimacy**.
- Love is a **wholistic** experience.
- Marriage requires **realistic** expectations.
- A person's **appearance** shouldn't be ignored or inflated.

2. It's imperative to deal with the **little issues** in marriage.

Song of Solomon 2:15 – *Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.*

3. It's healthy to find times to **retreat** from the stresses of life.

Song of Solomon 7:11 – *Come, my beloved, let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages.*

- **Die** Daily
- **Date** Weekly
- **Discuss** Monthly
- **Depart** Quarterly
- **Dream** Annually

4. It's crucial to understand **love** from God's perspective.

Song of Solomon 8:5-7 – *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. 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. 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.*

Love is... (1) **stable** (2) **secure** (3) **strong** (4) **sacrificial** (5) **self-controlled** (6) **selfless**.