

## Song of Songs: Song of Intimacy

### Song of Songs 4:1-5:1

This Semester, we're studying the Song of Songs to see how the melody of a relationship can present the message of the Gospel. This week, we're looking at God's original design for sex and how it can serve as a picture of the redemption found in Jesus Christ.

Read: Song of Songs 4.9-11

- So what's the purpose of Sex? Is it meant to make babies? Is it meant to reinforce a relationship or start a relationship or is it meant to be totally disconnected from relationships? Is it meant to fill an appetite? To find true fulfillment? To pass the time?

The Truth is...

- We're all walking in with different views & backgrounds with sexuality. Many of us have guilt mixed in with our backgrounds. Some of us have been burned by the Church or by Christians because of those mistakes. Some of us have shaken our fist and cast downward glances at others because of their mistakes.
- But hear me when I say we have no right to shake our fists at people who are broken in ways we're not. We have no right to condemn those who are caught in the mistakes we've hidden. Why? Because...

The Beauty is...

- We worship the God who loves to restore what is broken. The God who provides life in the midst of death. The God who offers forgiveness in the midst of rebellion. The God who brings no condemnation against those who trust in Jesus Christ.
- If you're here and you've been burned, I'm so sorry.

This Semester...

- We've been studying the Song of Songs to better understand God's design for relationships. Just as a song has a melody and a message, God created relationships to function the same way. We don't want to just pursue great relationships, we want to pursue Godly relationships that sing His beautiful song over the broken noise of our world! We want to see how the melody of a relationship can reflect the message of the Gospel!
- We've discussed How to reflect God in our attraction, How to reflect God in our pursuit, and How to reflect God in relationships?

This Morning...

- We're looking at Sex & how it serves as another opportunity to reflect the Gospel to a world that needs to hear it

Principles of Sex

- Romantic – Read: v1-4 – He starts at the top of her head and compliments every bit, resulting in a rather strange image, but why? Because sex should be romantic!
  - Ex: "Foreplay starts in the kitchen"
- Gentle – Read: v5-6 – He describes her breasts as gazelles, why? Because it implies gentleness & care! Sex should be gentle.
  - Ex: "You are safe, you are secure, you are special."; not lions to be hunted and killed
- Affirming – Read: v7-8 – He lavishes her with praise & is always completely positive. Sex should be affirming!
  - Ex: There is NO room for negativity with your spouse's body; this is one reason why we fight pornography

- Sensual – Read: v9-11 – They are experiencing each other with all of their senses. Sex should be sensual!
  - Ex: No other activity takes you out of time & occupies every sense; “I can take the deepest emotions and put them into action”
- Responsive – Read: v16b – He brings romance & she responds. This works both ways. Sex should be responsive!
  - Ex: Playing Scrabble is weird if only one of you wants to
- At this point, the curtains close, and they open again in chapter 5...

#### Purpose for Sex

- Unity – Read: 5.1 – After sex, the language completely changes to “mine mine mine mine mine” Why? Because sex creates unity!
- Society recognizes the unity created through sex
  - Ex: Sex is the goal of all famous romance – From *The Notebook* to *Lion King*
  - Society tries to deny, but “Why do we still see the difference between waking up next to your spouse compared to waking up next to a stranger after a one night stand?”
  - And how are the world’s sexual ethics working out?
- Science recognizes the unity created through sex
  - Dopamine: brain reward for risk, sex is one of the strongest transmitter
  - Oxytocin: mainly women - binding chemical released on 4 occasions... Intimate touch, sex, onset of labor, and nursing. It's the chemical that causes you to bond with your baby or your lover,
  - Vasopressin: mainly men - "monogamy molecule", sex strengthens synapses for sex and weakens synapses against sex, couples feel this bond no matter how short term this relationship
- Scripture recognizes the unity created through sex
  - Read: Mk 10.6-9 – Christ reminding everyone that divorce is bad
  - Read: Eph 5.29-31 – Paul reminding husbands to care for wives
- Why is Unity the focus?
  - Because we’re meant to be unified! We’re not meant to be alone! Unity is a return to our original design
    - Read: Gen 2.22-25 – The plurality of God is seen in His creation - God created humanity out of one flesh & designed us to desire restoration
- God designed sex not just as a physical appetite or action – God designed sex as a physical & emotional & spiritual act that binds two people into one! It restores humanity to its original relationship with each other!
  - It’s not moving forward to the next level of relationship, it’s actually moving back to the original design for relationships
  - Ex: Showing you how to use your phone for texting and calling instead of squishing insects
- If Christians hold onto this high view of sexuality, the world will notice, and sex becomes another reflection of the Gospel
  - Jesus Christ stepped out of Heaven and into earth not to take us to the next level of existence, but to bring us back into our original relationship with God

#### Application

- If you’ve never placed your trust in Christ as your God and Savior, take this opportunity to talk with God or one of our leaders in the back who will be praying for you during this time. God wants your belief before you even worry about your behavior.
- If you’ve failed to use sexuality according to God’s design, the beauty is that our God loves to restore what’s broken – Christ was broken for our sake, His blood was spilled to save us from all sin and death!
- If you are a Christian, take this opportunity to worship your Lord & thank Him for His grace

## He

[1] 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,  
    and not one among them has lost its young.

[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.

(Song of Solomon 4:1-7 ESV)

[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.

[10] How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride!  
    How much better is your love than wine,  
    and the fragrance of your oils than any spice!

[11] Your lips drip nectar, my bride;  
    honey and milk are under your tongue;  
    the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon.

[12] A garden locked is my sister, my bride,  
    a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

[13] Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates  
    with all choicest fruits,  
    henna with nard,

[14] nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon,  
with all trees of frankincense,  
myrrh and aloes,  
with all choice spices—

[15] a garden fountain, a well of living water,  
and flowing streams from Lebanon.

(Song of Solomon 4:8-15 ESV)

[16] Awake, O north wind,  
and come, O south wind!  
Blow upon my garden,  
let its spices flow.

### **She**

Let my beloved come to his garden,  
and eat its choicest fruits.

(Song of Solomon 4:16 ESV)

### **He**

[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.

### **Others**

Eat, friends, drink,  
and be drunk with love!

(Song of Solomon 5:1 ESV)

[6] But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' [7] 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, [8] and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. [9] What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

(Mark 10:6-9 ESV)

[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."

(Ephesians 5:29-31 ESV)

[22] And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

[23] 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."

[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 2:22-25 ESV)

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was

betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV)