

Teaching Through The Song of Solomon

The Christian Marriage Life (4)

INTRODUCTION: God's main provision in marriage is *companionship* (Gen. 2:18)

A. God Himself observed that *it is not good* for man to be alone!

B. Yet many married couples are still 'alone' through lack of intimacy

1. Consider the 'word-play' in *intimacy*

2. Consider the definition of *intimacy*

C. God's provision in Eve as helpmeet was even necessary in the pre-fall world

1. Trust is the most needed ingredient to allow the emotionally intimacy

2. How to build this sense of trust to nurture intimacy?

a. Godly character

b. Practiced praise

c. Leaving home

III. "Leaving the mountains" to nurture the intimacy in your marriage

A. CONSIDER SOLOMON'S INVITATION IN 4:8

1. Why this invitation within the lover's bedroom? (ch. 4:1-7; 9-15)

2. Why this invitation to make the journey together?

a. because it will deepen the joy of the intimacy at all levels

b. because it the Designer's first command to a married couple: Gen. 2:24-25

• observe that before *weaving* (one-ness) there needs to be *cleaving*

• observe that before *cleaving* there needs to be *leaving*

- observe the absence of *shame*

3. In this call Solomon and his bride *both have to move away from their past*
a. naturally we grow away from our parents as we mature into adults

b. yet many adults have and do experience *difficulties in leaving home*

- leaving *geographically* is easy but leaving *emotionally* can be hard

- this is especially true when there has been a degree of dysfunctionality

B. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON 'HARD TO LEAVE HOMES?'

1. the 'homes' that made us into a dependent puppet serving the parents
a. some parents parade *their needs* before their children

b. this inner attitude of *I have to please my parents* can provide fierce competition with *I have to serve the needs of my spouse*

2. the 'homes' that treated us as the star of stars

a. extreme attachment can also be *in being placed in very unhealthy spotlight*

b. selfishness is *the relationship killer* because it blinds us to our spouse's needs

c. those who marry later in life may feel a greater difficulty in adjusting to not being 'alone'

3. By setting proper boundaries: *they need to be clearly defined and visible*

4. By building a new home: *strive to be a 'first generation' if needed*

Follow up ...

1. Go back to the general time when you left home permanently. What part of the "letting go" process was smooth and healthy? What part may have been unpleasant and hurtful? Why?

2. What words, responses and actions toward your spouse may still be conditioned or influenced by your relationship to your parents? Which ones are helpful and which are harmful?

3. Often sins are generational. Such is the power of sin that the tendencies and effects are handed down into the next generation unwittingly. Honestly examine the weaknesses of your parents. Are they being copied, even in a subtle way as you relate to your spouse or if you have children, to your children? What steps can you think of together of how to break the cycle?

4. Discuss what your parents did right in rearing you. Even if you didn't come from a completely wonderful home, you have benefited from positives that should be reinforced in your relationship with your spouse. Make a list of all the positive traits, attitudes and behaviours you have inherited from your parents.

5. In-laws can become 'out-laws' when they infiltrate into your marriage. What particular boundaries were (and are) necessary to maintain a healthy relationships with your parents?

6. Are there any 'family skeletons' you have been hiding, even from your spouse? Or are there still 'white or black elephants' within your family circles? What steps are you going to make to deal with these Biblically?