



# You are Dearly Loved

## (Growing in Marriage, Part 6)

### Song of Solomon 6

THRIVE! Growing and Changing in the Christian Life

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, June 5, 2016, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“In math, if you divide an infinite number by any number, no matter how large, you still have an infinite quotient. So Jesus' love, being infinite, even though it is divided up for every person on earth, is still infinitely poured out on each one of us!”

– **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

1. No evening service
2. Trinity Christian Choir
3. Caleb Asher Polderman was born early Friday morning (Jun 3) at 1:36am. He was 7lbs 13oz and 21 in long.
4. Abraham Flores was also born May 29

If you don't have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Song of Solomon**. The title of our message this morning is “You are Dearly Loved by God.” This is part 6 in our series “Growing in Marriage.” We are looking at Song of Solomon 6 today.

#### Outline

We are called to grow in Christ. How do we do that? Consider...

- Consider **who** loves you, 6:1-3.
- Consider **why** He loves you, 6:4-10.
- Consider **how** He loves you, 6:11-13.

#### I. Consider **who** loves you, 6:1-3.

##### Daughters of Jerusalem- Most Beautiful Among Women

6:1a, “Where has your beloved gone,

O most beautiful among women?”

Consider what the daughters of Jerusalem call her, “O most fair, most beautiful among women.” This is what you are in Christ. You are the most fair. You are righteous in His sight. He who loves you has made you all glorious in the sight of God.

## We Want to Seek Him

6:1b, “Where has your beloved turned,  
that we may seek him with you?”

**Evangelism.** Christ has made you so beautiful and fair that others want to know Him. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to be a good evangelist. You just need to know Him. More and more you will know His Word. Better to know Him than just cold facts about Him!

**Fellowship.** But it's not just talking to lost people that makes an impact—it's the value and importance of talking with other believers about Christ. What happens when we do that? It strengthens our own faith, but it also stirs up in others their affection and their passion for Him, and most important of all, it blesses the Lord when we praise Him.

## I Belong to Him: Together in the Garden of Love She

Remember, the bride could not find Solomon earlier in chapter 5? But where is he? He is in their special place, their garden of love that he has prepared.

“6:2 My beloved has gone down to his garden  
to the beds of spices,  
to graze in the gardens  
and to gather lilies.  
3 I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;  
he grazes among the lilies.”

What a joy to realize we can say, “I am His and He is mine!”

## Acknowledging His Presence

She's acknowledging His presence! She's no longer enjoying him just because he's satisfying her and blessing her. She's now loving him, not for what he is to her, but for how she can bless him. There's a difference there.

Now, God does give us good and gracious gifts that He wants us to enjoy: His presence, His peace, His joy—but He wants us to treasure Him above all of that. This leads me to say a word here about this whole issue of feelings and emotions in our relationship with the Lord.

## Feelings

Can I just remind us that feelings have very little to do with reality. Feelings aren't bad, necessarily. Now, if we let them run our lives, that's another thing. But we have to learn to walk by faith when we cannot feel Him, and to trust when we cannot sense His presence.

There will be spiritually dry seasons in our lives, times when we don't have these warm, great, tender feelings toward the Lord. Sometimes it's maybe because of our lack of responsiveness in the past, and He's wanting to woo our hearts, to realize how precious He is.

## II. Consider **why** He loves you, 6:4-10.

### Our Identity in Christ

Christ loves you by working in you at least 9 things. These things are what make you who you are in Him. He gives you your identity. This is who you are in Christ. This is how He loves you. He loves you by identifying you with Himself.

### A Note on Self-Righteousness

The eight attributes that make up our identity in Christ in this chapter are not found in ourselves, but found in Christ through the Spirit.

### 1. In Christ you are Beautiful.

**Song 6:4a**, “You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem.”

You are God’s “Delight.” That’s what Tirzah - “delightful.” “You are beautiful as Tirzah” (6:4a). Tirzah is the most naturally beautiful and delightful city of northern Israel, an ancient garden city with natural beauty that would later briefly become the capital of the Northern Kingdom. Jerusalem is the capital of all of Israel. In other words, not one can compare to this Bride. She is beautiful. There is no one like the Bride of Christ.

#### Inwardly Beautiful

In Christ we are like Tirzah, naturally, inwardly beautiful. We have a new nature. We are Christ’s masterpiece. We have everything we need to live godly in Christ – the Spirit indwelling us, a new nature, the Word of God, the church of Jesus. Everything we need! Christ has made us beautiful inside like Tirzah.

### Delightful in Christ the Craftsman

You might say, “I don’t feel **delightful** to God!” That’s because you might be looking upon your flesh. The Bible says, in our flesh there is “no good thing.” So you’ll be looking in vain for something delightful there. What makes you beautiful is your union with Christ. You are a new creation in Christ. In and of ourselves we are not **delightful**. We are dead in sins.

But in Christ, who loved you for eternal ages before you were born, you are beautiful as Tirzah, the delightful city. Christ’s love cannot be discounted. Your beauty is great in the eyes of God the Father. To see the delight and beauty you are to God, you must look at Christ the craftsman. He has paid for you and has sent His Spirit within you to make you beautiful and delightful in the sight of God.

### Solomon Built Jerusalem

Jerusalem was a city which Solomon had built and beautified. It was the joy of the whole earth. He built in its walls the Holy Temple where God dwells.

And so you are beautiful because you are God’s Temple (so says St. Paul). Your heart is the city, the dwelling place of the Great King Jesus. Your heart is like a burning bush, like Jacob’s ladder, for Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life dwells in you. Your heart is His dwelling place. This is why you are so beautiful to Him.

#### Outwardly Beautiful

And so it is, like Jerusalem, God is building us, and we are outwardly beautiful. Now we are not completed yet. We are like a construction site with many things still left undone. But dearly beloved, you are in Christ and becoming more and more like him every day!

### **The Heavenly Jerusalem**

You are part of Christ's gospel-church which Paul says is the Jerusalem that is above (**Gal. 4:26**), the heavenly Jerusalem. When you come to your forever family, this assembly of saints, "you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (**Heb. 12:22-24**).

### **You are Darling to Him**

You can't do anything to make Him love you less. You can't do anything to make Him love you more. You cannot be more darling to Him. You are His bride. He doesn't simply love you. You are darling to Him and you will always be darling to Him, always, because He has done a work so that it will always be so.

He has made you His darling. His own work is solid and strong and permanent and eternal, immutable. It will not change. He is always there loving you. He has always loved you. "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (**Jer. 31:3**). He is always there looking to you, desiring you, loving you. It will never change, never.

### **Why is the Bride So Beautiful?**

Why is the Bride so beautiful? Remember in **Song 4:9-10a**, "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!"

The bride is so beautiful; she makes Solomon's heart beat faster. But **verse 9b** says, "with one jewel of your necklace – how beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride."

How gave her those jewels? Who made her beautiful love to flourish? "We love Him because He first loved us" (**1 John 4:19**).

### **I Don't Feel Beautiful**

You say, "I don't feel beautiful!" What did Solomon say in **Ecclesiastes 3:11**? – "He has made everything beautiful in its time."

### **In His Time**

In God's time, you'll grow into the beauty of Christ-like maturity. But now, consider that Ephesians says, you are seated with Christ in the heavenly places (**Eph. 2:6**). When God regenerated you, He raised you up and seated you with Christ.

Right now if you are in Christ, you are seated enthroned next to Jesus. Now Christ is not going to have a hag for a queen. You are beautiful in His sight!

### **Contradictions and Encouragements**

But you say, I don't feel beautiful. The old life is such a temptation. To that you can say in **Gal. 2:20**, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." And Christ is beautiful isn't He?

You say, I don't look like Christ! I'm not beautiful like He is! Ah, but **1 John 1:12** says, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (**1 Jn. 3:2**).

You see you are not done yet. You are in process. You are not there yet. But that great day is coming when how He sees you and how you see yourself will match.

What you see is an unfinished masterpiece. In His eyes, because He sees outside of time, you are already "as beautiful as **Tirzah**, as lovely as **Jerusalem!**" (**Song 6:4**).

## 2. In Christ you are Awesome.

**Song 6:4b**, "awesome as an army with banners." This girl inspires admiration mixed with dread. The idea is that this girl is splendid to look upon. Her beauty is so to be admired that it is **dangerous**. She can destroy the enemy's power with a glance.

Do you realize you are dangerous? Just as you would see an army with banner coming to cease you and run away, so powerful is this Bride.

The beauty of the Bride of Christ is dreadfully wonderful. The love of Christ constrains or grips us. The love of Christ is our armor.

If you think of the armor of God in Ephesians 6, it is all girded by the presence of God.

- The shield of faith
- The breastplate of righteousness
- The belt of truth
- The helmet of salvation
- The shoes of the Gospel of peace
- The sword of the Spirit

If you think about it, we could just as easily say, be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ. You are arrayed with power, "awesome as an army with banners." (6:4).

One commentator (J.A. Moyter) paraphrased this:

*Avert your tantalizing eyes,  
Your gaze which threatens danger.  
Your awesome beauty has the power  
To charm the depths of deep desire,  
To light the fire of yearning strong  
That drains me of all strength.  
A helpless victim I am left,  
A slave of beauty's mercy,  
Weak captive of magnificence.*

## Like Jacob

The saints of God have awesome power. Like Jacob, we are renamed Israel. We are no longer deceivers (as Jacob's name means) but we are now called Israel, which means "prevailer with God."

You have awesome power. Christ's banner over us is love. What army uses love as a weapon? God's heavenly army.

It is the power of Christ's love that melts the hearts of rebel sinners.

### 3. In Christ you are Desired.

**Song 6:5a**, “Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me...”

You are accepted in the Beloved One. He is **not** a God who **merely tolerates** you. I pray you never hear that preached here at Living Hope. God is the God who tolerates you because he has to, the God who tolerates you because of the blood... no. We preach of the God who loves you, the God who desires you, the God who yearns for you.

He is overwhelmed by you. This is why we can approach Him with gladness and boldness in prayer.

- Zeph. 3:17, *The Lord rejoices over you with gladness, He quiets you with His love, and He delights in you with shouts of loud singing!*

### 4. In Christ you are Covered.

**Song 6:5b**, “Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.”

St. Paul says that a woman’s glory is her hair because it covers her. Can I remind you of your beauty this morning, Church of Jesus Christ? You are covered in the beautiful life and righteousness of Christ. There is no shame or guilt that can be used against you. You are justified. You are covered with Christ’s righteousness. His holy life is applied to your account.

#### Luther’s “Alien Righteousness”

Luther called this an “alien righteousness.” The passage from **Romans 1:16-17** began the Protestant Reformation. **Romans 1:16-17**, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it **the righteousness of God** is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

These verses confounded Martin Luther in 1517. Luther began to understand that what Paul was speaking of here was a righteousness that God in His grace was making available to those who would receive it passively, for no one could achieve “the righteousness of God” actively, but that would receive it by faith, and by which a person could be reconciled to a holy and righteous God.

The word righteousness or it could be translated “justification” means to “count as righteous.” In other words, the righteousness that makes us just before God is not my own. Luther called it an “alien righteousness.” I need it. It is the righteousness that God counts toward me when I place my faith in Christ.

Aren’t you glad that you are counted righteous in Christ? Paul says it so clearly in **Philippians 3:8-10**, “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

### 5. In Christ you are Hungry.

In Christ you have a new hunger – and Jesus says your teeth are beautiful! **Song 6:6**, “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.” Because we have a new heart, we have a new appetite. We hunger and thirst for righteousness.

People with crooked, rotten teeth cannot digest food – they can’t chew it. When you were lost you had spiritually messed up teeth! You choked on the Gospel of Jesus.

Now you devour good, spiritual meat. You have a new nature. You are now hungry for the Word of God. You have a new appetite because you have a new nature. The teeth are clean and pure and even. They are all in order – none of them are lost.

The Spirit of God has given you a new appetite. You now desire the sincere and “pure milk of the Word” like a newborn baby.

### **Feed on Christ with Your Beautiful Teeth**

Can I just say that Jesus thinks you have beautiful teeth? Believers feed spiritually by viewing the beauty of Jesus Christ, as the body lives by food. The opposite is also true. If we don’t take time to view His beauty, we’re going to be spiritually malnourished. We’re going to starve spiritually.

Feed on the beauty of Christ. He is the Bread of Life; He is the One who fills us. As we view the beauty of Christ, our souls are fed.

### **6. In Christ you are Happy.**

**Song 6:7**, “Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.”

Your joy is fulfilled in Christ. He wants to fill you with all the fullness of God. It is in Christ we find true wholeness and happiness.

Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord...” Sometimes? When things go well for you? No! “Rejoice in the Lord always” and in case you forget, he says, “again I say: Rejoice!” Christ gives us joyful cheeks that find contentment in Him!

Rejoice in Christ!

- Your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life!
- You are not yet what you shall be, but you will soon be completely whole

### **We are like the Disciples**

We are much like Jesus’ disciples. They loved having the power to do miracles. Jesus said – don’t be delighted that you can call down fire from heaven or raise the dead. Rejoice because your names are written down in the Book of Life. We have a tendency to rejoice in the Bridegroom’s gifts, instead of in the Bridegroom Himself.

### **Don’t Rejoice in God’s Gifts, but in God**

Sure God gives us plenty of gifts that are joyful. But our gifts are not our gods. We must never make them gods. They weren’t meant to be a final means of happiness.

God’s gifts cannot save us, redeem us or transform us into Christlikeness. Only Jesus by His Spirit can do that. Be happy! Let your joy be full in Christ. Let those “cheeks.... like... pomegranate” be high in a bursting smile!

### **7. In Christ you are Unique.**

**Song 6:8**, “There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.” But he calls you (9a) “My dove, my perfect one, is the only one.”

There is no one that is loved more than the Bride of Christ. She has her place above all others in this world. We all have different gifts and abilities to complete the Bride of Christ, but more important than the sixty queens or concubines that a pagan king might have – the Bride of Christ is far more important and unique than 10,000 others because of the gifts Christ gives to His church.

Did you know you are a gift that Christ has given to His church? You are unique. You are loved. You are carefully placed in the Body of Christ to serve all.

**1 Cor. 12:27**, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” Ephesians 4:11-12 says that you are each given a ministry to do in the Body of Christ. God has gifted you specially to fulfill it.

### 8. In Christ you are Prized.

**Song 6:9**, “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.”

In Christ’s eyes, you are His dove, His **perfect** one.

In Christ’s eyes, you are **prized**, *as if you were the only one of your mother.*

What more could you ask for? You are **prized** in God’s eyes!

The pagan kings had hundreds of **queens** and **concubines**, and yet Mrs. Solomon outshined them all. Compared to all the young women of Jerusalem, yea of the world, this Bride is **blessed**!

- What greater blessing than to be unified with Christ? **Romans 8:32**, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”
- You have every spiritual blessing in Christ in the heavenly places (**Eph. 1:3**).
- God spares nothing for you. He holds nothing back.
- You are the apple of His eye. He says literally you are the “little maiden” of His eye (**Zech. 2:8**). That means you are so close to God you see your own reflection.

### 9. In Christ you are Radiant.

**Song 6:10**, “Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the **moon**, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”

We have the radiance of the dawn, bright as the sun, but the secret is that we shine with the beauty of the moon. Our radiant beauty is like **the moon who reflects the glory of the sun**.

Our radiance is the radiance of Christ! That radiance is so fierce, it’s awesome, like an army on a mission!

The beauty of Christ is so fearsome that it slays men and women of wanting anything but Christ. His beauty is so fierce that people give up all they have to know Him.

## III. Consider **how** He loves you 6:11-13.

### He Waits for You!

Sometimes we wander thinking God has left us. But He never will leave you. We find here that Solomon has been waiting for His Bride the whole time in the extravagant nut garden.



**She**

6: 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.

“She wanders down to the nut garden, where she believes her beloved will be, and makes the delightful discovery that it is springtime again in their relationship. Then all of a sudden she is placed in the king’s royal chariot, doubtless the first of his fleet, and she finds herself racing along at his side before all the people. It is a public display of total reconciliation. They are together again, and a new spring has begun.”<sup>1</sup>

**He Displays His Affection for you**

Christ’s display of affection for you is so great that others want to look upon you!

John said in Revelation 21:2, “And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

The whole world at that time will want to see the Bride. All the angel armies. Those who will be judged, who fight against the Lamb will see and deeply admire the Bride of Christ!

**Others**

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

The women of the palace call after her as she flies by in the chariot, wanting to see again the look on her face that speaks volumes about the joy of a restored relationship.<sup>2</sup> But she so busy with her King she cannot stop.

**Behold the Glorious Victory Celebration****He**

13b Why should you look upon the Shulammitte,  
as upon a dance before two armies?

This is a comment from the king. Looking upon his wife is just like the excitement of watching a lively, exuberant victory dance where the war has been one between two armies. The two sides have signed the peace treaty, and now they should celebrate! They have been reconciled!

**Conclusion**

You are in His victory chariot. He will always find you.

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<sup>1</sup>Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary : 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (So 6:11). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.