

Song of Solomon **The Christian Marriage Life (2)**

I. Song of Solomon Chapter One

- A. This Song describes the marriage relationship of Solomon and the Shulamite

- B. Ch. 1:2-7: *The testimony of young bride about her husband*
 - 1. vs. 2: *her ardent desire for him*

 - 2. vs. 3-4: *the reason for her strong physical desire*

- C. Ch. 1:5-7: *her insecurity behind her strong desire*

- D. Ch. 1:8-10 ... *Solomon's answer to Shulamite – Naamah!*
 - 1. vs. 8: Solomon directs were to find him

 - 2. vs. 9-10: Solomon adoring praise

- E. Ch. 1:11-17
 - 1. vs. 11: *unmarried friends promise of a present*

 - 2. vs. 12-17: *the dinner conversation between bride and groom*

II. Purified Character as related to Pure Passion

A. Pure passion is a *normal* and *Biblical* aspect of a marriage

1. Yet the 'fiercest' isn't necessarily the 'deepest'

2. Pure (physical) passion isn't anything to hide

a. God's Word speaks openly and approvingly of pure passion

- this is God's creative design

- this God's revealed will: Song 1:2-4; 4:16b; Prov. 5; Heb. 13:4

b. Yet God has 'instituted' only one 'fire-place' where pure passion is to burn: Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5; 8:4

B. Pure passion has a surprising 'secret' source within marriage

1. "Love making' isn't just a *physical thing* but an *action and character issue* (1:3-4)

2. Meaning of 'thy name is as ointment poured forth'

3. Importance of character: *in a marriage character counts double*

a. Purified character is the *foundation stone of a relationship*

b. The development and maintaining of such a character is to be our life-long task: *Do you have that vision for each other?*

III. What does *purified character* look like?

A. The Foundation: *your personal relationship to Jesus Christ*

B. Four Aspects of *purified character* as seen in Ps. 24:3-5

1. Clean hands ... *our daily public actions*

a. our *first love* was defined by *our actions* (Rev. 2:5)

b. it's our 'everyday actions' that define *how godly we are!*

- in relationship to our spouse and family
- also in our relationship with others within the world

c. how do you keep 'clean hands?'

- Daily study of Word (John 17:17; Eph. 5:25-27)
- Mutual exhortation and accountability (Heb. 10:24-25)

2. Pure heart ... *the root of 'clean hands'*

a. definition of *pure heart*

b. attitude of our heart *is to be love to God and neighbour*

- how do you *express* love to your spouse?
- to love one includes learning (1 Peter 3:7)

3. Devotion ... *not lifting up his soul to vanity*

a. definition of *lifting up*

b. how does 'devotion' turn into vanity?

4. Faithfulness ... *not sworn deceitfully*

a. definition of 'to swear'

b. 'unfaithfulness' crushes any relationship yet 'unfaithfulness' in marriage is far more than committing adultery

Follow Up!

1. Make a list of your spouse's positive character traits that have contributed to a growing trust and intimacy in your relationship. After that, share them with each other.

2. Now the hardest assignment: What ***personal*** character traits and/or actions can you identify in yourself that have acted or do act like a cold shower to your relationship? After identifying them, there is need for some confession!

3. This one isn't any easier but God calls us to 'speak truth in love' so that every hindrance to a warm and intimate relationship would be removed. What character traits and/or actions do you see in your spouse that he or she didn't mention in question two? Find a right moment to share these in love!

4. It may have been a long time that you wrote a love letter! But why not re-start something that worked quite well. Write each other a letter in which you openly express what you find so attractive and beautiful in your spouse. Instead of sending it via the mail, how about your deliver it in person and read it to your spouse!

5. Some years ago a couple decided it was time to repaint their house. But in several rooms there were long cracks in the wall that simply couldn't be painted over. They brought it a plasterer and painter who carefully patched and painted until the whole house looked new. After a few months, the cracks re-appeared. They called in a second painter and asked him how much it would cost to 'fix the cracks.' His answer was, "I can't give you a price because you don't have a 'crack in the wall' but you have a foundation problem. As long as you don't fix the unstable foundation, you will always have cracks" This story illustrates the greatest need in our marriage. As you discuss your marriage, ask yourself in what key areas is Christ at the centre: *your devotional life, decision making, motivation to work, leisure time etc.*

6. Often frustration or hurt because of unfulfilled needs or unmet expectations can cause major friction, cooling of love and even the breakdown of a marriage. In some ways this is a communication problem for we can't always read the mind of another. Besides, needs change and if we don't share them with each other, the other can't be expected to meet them.

So take piece of paper and over the course of five days, write down the various needs **you** experience as a person and as a spouse. These can be physical needs, spiritual, emotional, financial etc. Whatever that needs it, write it down.

Now comes the fun part. Read your lists of needs one by one to your spouse. Ask him or her to indicate one of the three upon each need or expectation you identify: *easy – sweat – no way!*