

Song of Solomon

The Christian Marriage Life (1)ⁱ

Introduction: *Why did the Lord Jesus do His first public act in the context of a wedding?*

- A. The reason has everything to do with what God considers the *foundation* of His Kingdom
 - 1. No place is as vital as *the marriage – family* unit (Ps. 11:3)

 - 2. Jesus miracle is symbolic of what His presence and power will do to any marriage (John 17:3)

- B. God gave us His revelation of truth for two main purposes
 - 1. Spiritually

 - 2. Practically

- C. Marriage and family life occupy a large place in Scripture
 - 1. By direct teaching: Gen. 2:18; 2:23-24; Lev. 18:6-18; Prov.18:22; 21:9; 31:10-31; Mal. 2:13-16; Matt. 5:31-32; Mark 6:17; 10:2-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-40; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-21

 - 2. By in-direct teachings of many case-studies: Adam & Eve; Cain & Abel; Lamech; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Moses; Eli

 - 3. By inspiring Song of Solomon
 - a. Why did God use Solomon for this purpose?

 - b. How are we to read and understand the Song of Solomon?
 - allegorical method

 - typological method

 - literal method

c. Which approach will be followed in this study and application of the Song of Solomon?

d. Who is this book written for?

D. Once again ... it is all about the Lord's kingdom!

1. God teaches us in the Song of Solomon to be *a more godly person and loving spouse*

2. With God's blessing His teaching will turn our homes into what God designed it to be (Gen.2:24)

II. THE SONG OF SOLOMON:

A. This book is *inspired by Holy Spirit – by God Himself*

1. Therefore it is the Creator's teaching on *love and marriage*

2. Solomon named it *Song of Songs* (vs. 1)

a. He was convinced it was *his best song* (1 Kings 4:32)

b. He wrote it as *a song of the love* between him and the Shulamite

• Who is the Shulamite? (compare 2 Chron 9:30 & 12:13)

B. This book sets out *eight pictures* of the marital relationship and love

1. A picture of *Inner Attraction*: 1:3

2. A picture of *Practiced Praise*: 1:5 – 4:7

3. A picture of *Walking toward Closeness*: 4:8

4. A picture of *Facing the Predators*: 2:15

5. A picture of *Sanctioned Intimacy*: 4:9-5:1

6. A picture of *Active Involvement*: 1:4a

7. A picture of *Strong Building*: 1:17

8. A picture of *Renewable love*: 7:11-12

Close: Song of Solomon is God's trumpet call to ***be something*** much greater than what you are now!

Home-work!

1. Love goes beyond mere feelings. God provides in Scripture a set of Biblical criteria that provides a standard to judge true, enduring love. Yet true love will be challenged as Satan will do everything to destroy and separate true love. Discuss together what negative developments (personal appearance, job tensions, communication failures, children issues, money etc.) have created distance between you and your spouse? Identify and openly discuss these issues and begin to make a plan of action.

2. Recall your days of 'courtship.' What concerns, doubts or fears did you have during that time about your marriage relationship? How have those issues been dealt with during the course of your marriage?

3. What actions – both positive and negative – of your spouse have affected you deeply? Share these with each other and discuss ways to deal with the negatives and ways to increase the positives.

4. As we will explore these 8 truths or ways to gain greater intimacy and build a stronger relationship, rate your past and present performance in the eight areas we have briefly glanced about. Rate your own first and then compare them with your spouse.

1 = poor; 2 = sincerely tried but sense failure; 3 = satisfactory yet need more growth

a. Your consistency in focusing on your character and walk to foster a romantic, passion-filled atmosphere. ____

b. Your exercise of leadership as male or your acceptance of leadership as female and ability to work together using each other's strengths and ministering into each other's weaknesses. ____

c. Your habits of building up your spouse (and/or children). ____

d. Your success in breaking away from a negative or dysfunctional past as well as any other unhealthy dependencies on parents or other adults besides your spouse. ____

e. Your ability to satisfy the physical and any other personal needs of your spouse. ____

f. Your daily walk, attitudes and actions that build toward the intimacy. ____

g. Your progress in building your marriage into a strong, Biblical, spiritually disciplined home life. ____

h. Your 'maintenance plan' to keep the marriage relationship fresh and growing in the midst of the daily toil of raising children and/or busy work schedules. ____

ⁱ I have used various resources but want to give tribute to Dr. John Trent and his teaching on marriage.