

SOLOMON'S SONG OF MARITAL LOVE (Song of Sol. 7:10)

Introduction

1. **Song 7:10** Celebrating the joy & security of committed love in marriage
2. **Song 1:1** The Song of Solomon is truly unique!
 - a. Most beautiful & unique of his 1,005 songs: celebrates passionate love in context of marriage
 - b. Courted & married the Shulamite in youth before political marriages marred his character
3. The value of studying this unusual book:
 - a. The beautiful story of love & marriage
 - b. Learning to cultivate true love in marriage

I. The Beautiful Story of Love & Marriage

- A. **1st SCENE Love's Passion (1:2-2:7)** Solomon & the Shulamite Share Admiration & Affection.
 1. **1:2-3** She expresses her longings & affection—she admires his good name, character, reputation.
 2. **1:15-17** They exchange compliments & praise.
 3. **2:1-2** Love grows: she expresses insecurity, he adds security.
 4. **2:7** “I charge you by all things beautiful & tender, let love grow in its own time & way.”
- B. **2nd SCENE Love's Promise (2:8-3:5)** The Springtime of Love Was Followed by Anxious Searching.
 1. **2:10 -13** Their young love flourished like the spring.
 2. **3:1-5** She dreams she cannot find him, then finds him & holds him fast: love's up's & down's.
 - a. **3:5** “I charge you by all things beautiful & tender, let love grow in its own time & way.”
- C. **3rd SCENE Love's Wedding (3:6-5:1)** After the Royal Wedding, Solomon Praises the Beauty of His Wife & She Invites Him into the Garden of Love.
 1. **3:9-10** “Behold King Solomon” & his entourage with his bride on their royal wedding day.
 2. **4:1-7** Solomon woos her with passionate praise of her beauty.
 3. **4:12-5:1** Solomon says she is a garden & praises her moral purity; she invites him to eat her fruits.
- D. **4th SCENE Love's Reconciliation (5:2-6:3)** Marital Love Includes Seeking & Finding, Alienation & Reconciliation.
 1. **5:2-8** She dreamed she did not open when he knocked at an inconvenient time; he left.
 2. **5:9-16** She greatly admired her husband as “the chiefest among ten thousand,” perfect for her.
 3. **6:2-3** After reconciliation, she yields herself to his care with a greater sense of security.
 - a. First, the separation in their relationship occurred. Second, she experienced regret, reflection, and re-evaluation. Finally, she found reconciliation, which resulted in a growing sense of security in a mutual, committed, exclusive relationship with her husband.
- E. **5th SCENE Love's Captivity (6:4-8:4)** The Two Lovers Are Captivated by Each Other.
 1. **6:8-9** Great King Solomon finds his wife the prize catch—the perfect mate—his one and only!
 2. **7:10-13** She invites him into the garden of love to enjoy her delicious fruit.
 3. **8:4** “I charge you by all things beautiful & tender, let love grow in its own time & way.”
- F. **6th SCENE Love's Security (8:5-14)** Solomon & His Bride Express Mutual Love & Commitment
 1. **8:6-7** The bride expresses their undying indestructible love.
 2. **8:8-10** Her brothers doubt her maturity, but she has proven her maturity.
 - a. If she is strong in character, we will honor & adorn her! If she is weak, we will protect her!
 - b. “I am a wall:” Her strong moral character is part of her total beauty which attracted Solomon.

II. Learning to Cultivate True Love in Marriage

A. Love Has Its Own Way to Grow.

1. **2:7; 3:5; 8:4** Repeated for emphasis: Love grows, it cannot be rushed, pushed, bribed, demanded, intimidated, or forced.
 - a. “I charge you by all things beautiful & tender, let love grow in its own time & way.”
2. Unselfish character: genuinely seeking the welfare of other people—NOT “What's in it for me?”

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3. Consideration, kindness, courtesy—NOT “Am I being noticed & pampered?”
4. Patience—NOT “I want what I want when I want it” applied to life & relationships.

B. Godly Character Is the Foundation of True Love.

1. Solomon & the Shulamite maintained godly character in courtship & marriage.
 - a. **1:3** “Thy name is as ointment [perfume].”
 - b. **4:12** “A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.”
 - c. **8:10** “I am a wall.”
2. Respect God & each other as made in His image.
3. Avoid conduct which erodes moral character: Coarse, profane, abusive language. Alcohol, illegal drugs, misuse of legal drugs. Lascivious dress & entertainment, pornography, fornication.

C. Maturity Is Essential.

1. **8:8-10** Marriage requires maturity.
 - a. If a door (easy access, lack of mature character): “inclose her with boards of cedar” (restrict her).
 - b. If a wall (maturity & strength of character): “build upon her a palace of silver” (honor her).
 - c. “I am a wall, & my breasts like towers: “then was I in his eyes as one that found favor”—
a mature man saw me as a mature woman.
2. Here are a few basic signs of maturity in a man & a woman:
 - a. Putting God 1st in all decisions.
 - b. Faithful in public worship, godly in private life.
 - c. Ready to accept responsibilities as husband, wife, & parents.
 - d. Good stewards of money & material possessions.

D. Express Love, Care, Compliments, & Admiration.

1. “You are the one, the right one, the only one.”
 - a. **4:7** “All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.” (NIV)
 - b. **5:10** “My lover is radiant & ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.” (NIV)
 - c. **6:9** “My dove, my perfect one, is unique, the only daughter of her mother, the favorite...”

(NIV)

2. Create an atmosphere for renewed passion.
 - a. **2:10-13** “My lover spoke & said to me, Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over...” (NIV)
 - b. **4:9** “One glance of your eyes” took my heart. (NIV)
 - c. **4:16-5:1** You are an oasis—“Let my lover come into his garden & taste its choice fruits.”

(NIV)

E. Be Patient with Cycles of Seeking & Finding.

1. These cycles help love grow stronger.
 - a. **2:14** She withdraws like a dove “in the clefts of the rock,” he coaxes & reassures her of his love.
 - b. **3:1-5** She dreams of searching for him, a sign of a setback or insecurity—she finds him!
 - c. **5:2-8** After marriage she had a similar dream: he sought her, she rejected him, later reconciled!
2. Love embraces the challenge of working to strengthen the marital relationship.
3. Reconciliation includes reflection, inquiry, self-evaluation, adjustment, & apology.

F. We Must Build an Atmosphere of Security, Loyalty, Fidelity, & Peace to Have Harmony.

1. Each mate contributes to these bonds of love.
 - a. **2:3-4** Solomon is like an apple tree giving shade & fruit—he honored her with a banquet: “His banner over me was love.”
 - b. **2:15** Guard lest little foxes “spoil the vines.”

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2. We work to maintain mutual & exclusive love: "My beloved is mine, & I am his." "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." "I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me"(2:16;6:3;7:10).
3. **8:6-7** The right atmosphere produces undying & indestructible harmony of hearts: marital love! An atmosphere of anger, abuse, intimidation, manipulation, broken vows, deceit, distrust, suspicion, & insecurity destroys harmonious love!

Invitation

1. **Song 7:10** Celebrating the joy & security of committed love in marriage
2. God's greatest gift of love: forgiveness in Christ: **Jn. 3:16** The gift above all gifts!
 - a. **Mk. 16:15-16** We must receive the gift!
 - b. **Ja. 5:16** Saints who sin can be restored!