

Song of Solomon 6 — “Pursuing Reconciliation After Conflict & the Happy Delights That Follow”

"THE GOSPEL REMINDS US that nothing done TO US, no matter how wicked or bad, will EVER SURPASS the wickedness done BY US, to the holy Son of God. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5.8).

*Resolving conflict is not *only possible* — it is COMMANDED!!!*

When there is a marital failure, there will be a breakdown in real communication. Wherever you find marital success, you will find a good communication system (Wayne Mack).

Some helpful thoughts for good relational (& marital) communication...

1. God intends the marriage relationship to be the closest of ALL interpersonal relationships (Gen 2.24)
2. This requires good communication and mutual openness and honesty (Eph 4.25; 1 John 1.7-10)
3. Self control is necessary for good communication (James 3:5-8; Prov 12:18; 16:27)
4. Judgmental, critical, demanding, demeaning, bitter spirits and attitudes must be REPLACED/ EXCHANGED with a charitable, encouraging, patient, accepting spirit (Eph 4:2, 29, 32)
5. A good relationship necessitates being a good listener (James 1:19; Prov 18:13)

Some important features to remember when we sin & need to reconcile:

1. when we sin, we don't apologize, we must confess it, repent of it, and ask for forgiveness.
2. biblical confession is specific
3. biblical confession is unqualified (don't provide an analysis, or justify it, or defend it, or blame others)
4. biblical confession is sincere (from the heart)
5. we must seek forgiveness and ask for it (plainly, clearly, without qualification)
6. we must grant forgiveness (always granting it when someone asks for it. it is never an option to NOT forgive someone — never!)

"A willingness to admit and forgive sin is NOTHING LESS than the good news of God's forgiveness of sin being proclaimed (and enfleshed) through your marriage" (Winston Smith).

Mark it! GOD is up to good in conflict – with His help & for His glory!

THESIS — what can we learn about marital growth. **We'll see 3 very important & crucial lessons.**

I. PURSUE THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION! (1-3)

Reconciliation!

Daniel Estes writes: "In marriage it is easy to lose sight of how special one's spouse is. The inexorable duties of life can dilute the delight of intimacy, so that what used to provoke excitement now evokes only a yawn. Indifference is a lethal blow to intimacy, because it communicates that the relationship is not as valued as it should be."

From verse 3 (I am my Beloved’s and my beloved is mine), we can infer the following:

- 1) *personal commitment - I AM...*
- 2) *exclusive covenant – my beloved's...*
- 3) *self-sacrificing pursuit – MY beloveds (belong to him/her)*
- 4) *preeminent relationship – above all others*
- 5) *satisfying union — my Beloved's (dodi) – speaking of lover/lovmaking/pleasure*

II. EXPRESS THE EXCLUSIVITY OF YOUR MATE! (4-10)

Affirmation

vv.4-10 -- the man speaks again in 'poetic ode' about his beloved wife's beauty. (Kinlaw)

HUSBANDS, we can learn 4 things on how to express verbal affirmation to our wives...

1. tell her she is **BEAUTIFUL** (v.4)

2. tell her she is **IRRESISTIBLE** (v.5-7)

3. tell her she is **SPECIAL** (v.8-9)

4. tell her she is **AWESOME** (v.10)

III. ENJOY THE INTIMACY OF TOGETHERNESS! (11-13)

Jubilation / celebration

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*vv.11-13 tell the story of the couple's reconciliation from the wife's point of view.

Some main thoughts/headings here from v.12:

1. She is utterly captured by his love.
2. He is lavishly generous toward his wife.
3. She is happily delighted by his actions.
4. He is powerfully protecting of his wife.
5. They are happily traveling off in union.

V.13 - she is called: ‘The Shulammite’

- a) The Word "**Shulammite**" is the **feminine** form of the name "SOLOMON"
 - (1) Solomon has chosen to refer to HER this way to provoke reflection on their oneness, unity, togetherness. She is his.
 - (2)* interesting, there's another time in the Bible where a woman receives a name derived from the man. **Gen 2.23 - MAN [ish] & WOMAN [ishah]**
- b) ***THE POINT?** The woman who marries the man becomes HIS helpmate, HIS companion, HIS spouse when the covenant between the two of them is made.
 - (1) HIS status becomes HER status.
 - (2) HIS name becomes HER name
 - (3) HIS identity becomes HER identity.
 - (4) HIS possessions becomes HER possessions.
 - (a) full and undisclosed and full openness in sharing, harmony, unity, one-fleshness.
- c) So here we see in the marriage covenant...
 - (1) equality in personhood yet difference in role.
 - (2) similarity in identity yet difference in function.
 - (a) We have a HEAD and we have one who SUBMITS.
 - (b) We have a LEADER and we have one who FOLLOWS.

Some helpful tips on moving forward in conflict & growing in grace!

1. Remember the big picture of conflict and don't give in to discouragement.
2. Be alert to the dangers of defensiveness (self justification, blame-shifting, etc.).
3. Deal with YOUR OWN SIN first.
4. Adopt the biblical approach that fits your knowledge of yourself, your spouse, and the need of the moment (GO TO GOD and His sufficient Word as the road-map for conflict resolution).
5. Don't get stuck on WHO IS RIGHT and WHO IS WRONG; always act to build up the other in selfless and Christlike love.

A question that *married couples* should regularly ask each other...

'HAS THERE BEEN GROWTH, DECLINE, OR A PLATEAUIING OF THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP DURING THE LAST 6 MONTHS?' [JAY ADAMS]

Song of Solomon 6 — “Pursuing Reconciliation After Conflict & the Happy Delights That Follow”**Prayer of REMEMBRANCE!***God I praise you because you are...**God I thank you that you have ...*

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
 O Thou of God and man the Son,
 Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
 Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fairest Lord Jesus

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
 Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
 None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
 Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
 Son of God and Son of Man!
 Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
 Now and forever more be Thine.

Prayer of REPENTANCE!*O Father, please forgive me for I have sinned in this specific way this week...**Precious Savior, forgive me for not speaking of you as I ought to...**O Holy Spirit, forgive me for not walking in holiness as I responded sinfully & selfishly when I ...***Jesus Paid It All**

For nothing good have I
 Whereby Thy grace to claim,
 I'll wash my garments white
 In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

Jesus paid it all,
 All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain,
 He washed it white as snow.

And now complete in Him
 My robe His righteousness,
 Close sheltered 'neath His side,
 I am divinely blest.

Prayer of REQUESTING!*O God of infinite power, I request that you would help me to honor you by...**Christ, O Head of your church, please help us as a congregation to...**Protect us, O Father, from the sins of...***My Hope Is Built**

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
 All other ground is sinking sand;
 All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide
 His face,
 I rest on His unchanging grace.
 In every high and stormy gale,
 My anchor holds within the veil.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
 I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
 How great thou art! How great thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
 How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
 Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
 He bled and died to take away my sin.