

**Song of Solomon 8 — “God’s Blueprint for a Marriage: Its Love, Its Strength, Its Passions & Its Permanence!”**

We need to be faithful teachers of biblical truth regarding such matters:

**THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE: WHAT IS TRUE MARRIAGE?**

1. **Heterosexual** [a man & a woman *only*]
2. **Monogamous** [*ONE man & ONE woman only.*]
3. **Complementary** [complement each other; obey God’s ways for your gender roles/function]
4. **Enjoyable** [sanctifying, happy, holy, delightful, intimate, joyous]
5. **Permanent** [lifelong, unending, unending, \*never give up\*; DIVORCE is \*never\* an option for believers]

**THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE: WHY DID GOD DESIGN THIS?**

1. **Companionship** [solve a problem of loneliness]
2. **Pleasure** [sex & intimate satisfactions; affection]
3. **Procreation** [children/progeny/generations]
4. **Sanctification** [growth in grace]
5. **Demonstration** [gospel -- love of Christ]

**Some Background Features of the ‘Song of all Songs’:**

1. It’s a **SONG** - a poem, figure of speech, erotic, full of language, pictures, --- it’s not a sort of anthology of brief poems of love but a unified piece of Spirit-given poetry.
2. It’s in the **BIBLE** -- this isn’t scribbled on a wall of a NYC subway as dirty & filthy; it’s inspired, authoritative, binding, relevant, needed, sufficient, for *ALL* of us, and it’s part of the unfolding of God’s plan of REDEMPTION.
3. It’s about **LOVE** -- it’s about human, marital love & its satisfying physical delights. It’s relished *only* in the context of a heterosexual marriage, the Bible’s *ONLY* authorized context for expressions of physical intimacy between a man and a woman.
4. It’s to give **WISDOM** -- it’s the *wisdom genre* of Scripture (capping off the poetic writings: Job, Pss, Prov, Eccl & Song of Songs). The refrain gives wisdom: Don’t arouse/awaken love till it pleases (2:7; 3:5; 8:4)
5. It’s about the **SON OF DAVID** -- it’s about Solomon -- David’s Son and yet there is another Son of David who came & who is the ultimate BRIDEGROOM (John 3:29; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:6-9; 22:17).

**Outline of SONG OF SOLOMON –**

INTRO (1:1)
1. <b>COURTSHIP</b> (1:2-3:5)
beginning of love (1:2-11)
growth of love (1:12-3:5)
2. <b>WEDDING</b> (3:6-5:1)
procession (3:6-11)
consummation (4:1-5:1)
3. <b>MATURITY</b> (5:2-8:4)
fighting apathy (5:2-6:13)
communicating affection (7:1-10)
initiating love (7:11-13)
intoxicating intimacy (8:1-4)
CONCL (8:5-7)
EPILOGUE (8:8-14)

God’s love always is to be the GROUND and IMPETUS of our love. God’s love gives meaning to human love & human love exists to display God’s love!

**THESIS — From Song of Songs 8, we see God’s blueprint for marriage -- what do we learn from Solomon’s wisdom as the Spirit of God teaches us? 3 essential features.**

**I. LONG FOR PHYSICAL HAPPINESS IN INTIMACY! (1-4)*****Pursue Intimacy!***

Vv.1-4 - the woman expresses her yearning for union w/ the man!

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“There is a sweet satisfaction, and unspeakable heart-quieting refreshment to be found in Christ’s arms” (James Durham)

Application for ‘instruction of these matters’ (cf. Verse 2):

This major 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the Song (5:2—8:4), that began with estrangement/selfishness/sin -- now ends with the lovers entwined in each other's arms. \***Remember:** Conflict can lead to consummation!

**WHAT CAN WIVES BE REMINDED OF IN DEVOTION TO THEIR HUSBANDS:**

1. show him admiration and appreciation (let him know he's your champion & lover)
2. nurture his friendship (work to be his best friend, he wants it)
3. lower your expectations (you married a sinner. he is a fallen, feeble man still in the process of growth & sanctification)
4. watch your priorities (is HE number one in your heart, mind, lips & life after Jesus)?
5. enhance your love life (continue to grow in creative, passionate, and sensual ways of love and intimacy)
6. be forgiving (as God in Christ has forgiven you – frequently, lavishly, immediately, constantly, never holding anything back or holding a grudge or bringing up OLD/PAST faults)

**II. EXPRESS THE****UNCONDITIONAL PERMANENCE OF LOVE! (5-7)*****Stay Together!***

"WE SHOULD by God's grace GROW OLD TOGETHER but our love, by God's grace SHOULD NEVER GROW COLD" (Daniel Akin)!

V.5a - a literary center-point: \*a **summary** of the book

They are TOGETHER.  
They leave the DESERT behind.  
The wife LEANS on her husband.

Some helpful ways to think of God’s plan for lifelong marriage!

**A. the permanence of love (v.6, a seal)**

**B. the strength of love (v.6 - love is strong)**

**C. the jealousy of love (v.6 - jealousy)**

“A husband's love for his wife must be the most dear, intimate, precious and entire that heart can have toward a creature; none but the love of God ... is above it, none but the love of ourselves is fellow to it, and all the love of others is inferior to it” (John Wing).

**D. the unquenchability of love (v.7 - quench)**

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“How comforting to know that we have ONE in heaven to intercede for us. How inseparable from his presence... My soul is in His very heart, and my sensations were such as they would be, were it possible that I could be lodged in the center of His heart with love, such love as belongs to Jesus only, above, below, around, within me, the air, the light, all, the very richness of love, my heart buried thus in the fountain of life and love, and feeling tenderly, exquisitely, the beating of the heart of Jesus in the OUTGUSHINGS of that love in the Holy Spirit springing up within me as a fountain of water unto eternal life” (George Burrows).

THINK of how permanent the love of Christ is:

- ▶Christ's love is STRONG
- ▶Christ's love is JEALOUS
- ▶Christ's love is UNFAILING
- ▶Christ's love is PERMANENT
- ▶Christ's love is INITIATING
- ▶Christ's love is UNDESERVED
- ▶Christ's love is FAITHFUL
- ▶Christ's love is UNQUENCHABLE (*His **can't** be quenched!*)

**John Flavel** -- There is nothing that believers want more than to be WELL ASSURED and satisfied of the love of Jesus Christ to their souls. And: pour out your soul to God, in genuine requests, for a sealed & confirmed & clear interest in His love today!

### **III. REMEMBER THE PASSIONATE BEGINNINGS OF LOVE!**

**(8-14)**

***Rekindle Love!***

Verses 8-12 - flash back to the Shulammitte's [wife's] life *before* meeting Solomon and their first encounter.

**YOUNG PEOPLE & SINGLES! Some thoughts to consider regarding \*PURITY\***

1. remember that your body is the temple of the Spirit & you've been bought with a price (1 Cor 6.19-20)
2. remember that you are to glorify God in everything that you do (1 Co 10.31). If it doesn't praise & worship God even in the moment, then don't do it!
3. pursue holiness and purity (1 Pet 1.15-16)
4. avoid the places of temptation and RUN from them (literally) (1 Cor 6.18)
5. discipline your thought life by daily immersing yourself in God's Word, seeking to develop the mind of Christ (Prov 23.7; Phil 2.5; Rom 12.1-2; 1 Cor 2.16)

Verses 13-14 - reveal their final & maturing love & ongoing passions for each other!

**NOW WHY THIS FEAR**

Now why this fear and unbelief?  
 Has not the Father put to grief  
 His spotless Son for us?  
 And will the righteous Judge of men  
 Condemn me for that debt of sin  
 Now canceled at the cross?

**Jesus, all my trust is in Your blood**  
**Jesus, You’ve rescued us**  
**Through Your great love**

Complete atonement You have made  
 And by Your death have fully paid  
 The debt Your people owed  
 No wrath remains for us to face  
 We’re sheltered by Your saving grace  
 And sprinkled with Your blood

*How sweet the sound of saving grace*  
*How sweet the sound of saving grace*  
*Christ died for me*

Be still my soul and know this peace  
 The merits of your great high priest  
 Have bought your liberty  
 Rely then on His precious blood  
 Don’t fear your banishment from God  
 Since Jesus sets you free

**CFBC PRAYER MEETING**

*Prayer meeting themes & song medley.*

**I. ADORATION** --- *praising God*  
*I adore & praise you, O God, because you...*

**Arise My Soul Arise**

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;  
 The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:  
 Before the throne my surety stands,  
 Before the throne my surety stands,  
 My name is written on His hands.

**SONGS****JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL**

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,  
 While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.  
 Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;  
 Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee;  
 Leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.  
 All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;  
 Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find;  
 Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
 Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;  
 False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;  
 Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.  
 Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;  
 Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity.

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He ever lives above, for me to intercede;  
 His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead:  
 His blood atoned for all our race,  
 His blood atoned for all our race,  
 And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
 He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:  
 With confidence I now draw nigh,  
 With confidence I now draw nigh,  
 And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

**2. CONFESSION** --- seeking His forgiveness

*I confess my sin to you, gracious Father, in that I have...*

**I stand amazed**

I stand amazed in the presence  
 Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
 And wonder how He could love me,  
 A sinner, condemned, unclean.

○ how marvelous! ○ how wonderful!  
 And my song shall ever be:  
 ○ how marvelous! ○ how wonderful!  
 Is my Savior’s love for me!

When with the ransomed in glory  
 His face I at last shall see,  
 ’Twill be my joy through the ages  
 To sing of His love for me.

**3. INTERCESSION** -- pleading for others

*We plead on behalf of CFBC and ask...*

**And Can It Be**

No condemnation now I dread;  
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
 Alive in Him, my living Head,  
 And clothed in righteousness divine,  
 Bold I approach th’eternal throne,  
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
*Amazing love! How can it be!*  
*That Thou – my God – shouldst die for me?*

## **4. PREPARATION** --- *preparing for spiritual battle*

*We humbly come to you & ask that You, O most loving God, would prepare us this week for spiritual battle when...*

### **Before the Throne**

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace,  
One in Himself I cannot die.  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God!

## **Concluding Remarks on Song of Solomon:**

"In a world awash with the debris of broken homes, crushed spirits, and fractured dreams, God's people need the message of the Song of Solomon as never before. The Song is a righteous antidote to a licentious society that has prostituted the sacred nature of human love. Hope exudes from its pages. If ever a book was written with a message more salient for a later generation, Solomon's ode is that book." (Paige Patterson)

In a Godly marriage, each SPOUSE must be \*INTENSELY devoted and committed to each other, and taking delight ONLY and SUPREME and REGULARLY in each other (Jack Deere).

### **Some lessons learned from this divinely-given & ultimate Song:**

1. Song of Songs praises the physical attraction & bodily enjoyment between a married couple (the whole Song).
2. Song of Songs presents the different roles & happy delights of each spouse fulfilling his God-given function & design in marriage.
3. Song of Songs affirms the necessity & duty to remain morally & sexually PURE before marriage (Song 4.12 & ch.8)
4. Song of Songs shows that premarital sex/living together has no place whatsoever in the lives of Christians (2:7; 3:5)
5. Song of Songs glories in marital FAITHFULNESS and EXCLUSIVITY before and all through the duration of the marriage (6:3; 7:10; 8:12)
6. Song of Songs pictures God's love for and commitment to & passionate pursuit of His Bride, His people!
7. Song of Songs exhorts married people to selflessly give and passionately please one's spouse sexually, frequently, happily, and humbly.