

**Song of Solomon 4 — “The Wedding Night: The High, Holy & Hot Delight Between Two Lovers!”**

“Our culture bows down to the god of sex. Ours is a sex-worshiping culture...”

**What does God say about sex [& purity]?**

Gen 2.24-25, Gen 4.1; Prov 5-7; Matt 19; Eph 5; Heb 13; 1 Thess 4; 1 Cor 7.1-5

**Remember:** SEX means unity. Indeed, it is an inexplicable act of mutual passion, possession, and self-giving = ‘I give my total self to you, and you give your total self to me. I’m not my own. I belong to you.’

- **What does this chapter teach about love & intimacy?**

- ▶ It's **private** (between 2 lovers, alone in a chamber)
- ▶ It's **pure** (heterosexual & focused on the *other* person, \*never\* selfish, self-focused, self-gratifying)
- ▶ It's **profound** (deep, spiritual union of love)
- ▶ It's **pointing** (pointing to eternal truths of the gospel)
- ▶ It's **passionate** (hotly & emotionally passionate)
- ▶ It's **pleasing** (satisfying, intoxicating, pleasurable, delightful, ecstatic)
- ▶ It's **biblical** (it's in the *Bible* for our instruction, wisdom & enjoyment)

- **We need God's Truth on this Matter, to...**

- ▶ 1. engage with culture
- ▶ 2. teach our children
- ▶ 3. protect CFBC's purity
- ▶ 4. retain distinctive witness
- ▶ 5. represent Christ accurately
- ▶ 6. enjoy our marriages

**THESIS — We wanna see a wonderful pattern of God-exalting love from Song of Songs 4.**

\*An outline adapted from Danny Akin

1. Express your **LOVE** for your mate (4:1-7)
2. Express your **DESIRE** for your mate (4:8-11)
3. Express your **AVAILABILITY** for your mate (4:12-16)
4. Express your **SATISFACTION** in your mate (4:16-5:1)

*By God's design, **sexual intimacy** is meant for the marriage bed and is to be kept pure, so that in its fullness it brings JOY to the couple and reflects the purity of Christ's love for His church" (Daniel Akin).*

The hot passions of this Husband & Wife that come together intimately **can't be compared** with the celebrated, everlasting, holy & hot passions that Christ the Bridegroom will enjoy with us His Bride on that future *Reunion-Day*. O let us keep this mystery in mind!

**I. EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR MATE! (4:1-7)**

vv. 1-7 - the husband's praise of the wife & her body.

vv. 1-6 -- there is only ONE occurrence of "I" -- all the rest is the man's absolute obsession with his bride and her body and her love.

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Thus, this shows that true, biblical, God-glorifying love is totally selfless, others-centered. marital love must always be caught up with the OTHER person & never self-pleasing, self-focused, self-gratifying.

*The idea? SHE IS HIS; and HE IS HERS.*

"The love of Christ for His Bride far surpasses anything known in the human level ... Never has a husband loved as Christ loved the Church. For Christ did not love those worthy of love, but sinners and enemies (Rom 5.8-10). ... Christ loved the church NOT because it was perfectly lovable but IN ORDER TO MAKE IT SUCH" (*Robert Saucy*).

## **II. EXPRESS YOUR DESIRE FOR YOUR MATE! (4:8-11)**

A.v.8 THE INVITATION — *pursuit*

B.v.9 THE EMOTION — *passion*

**He is caught up with her that he longs for her...**

- ➔He longs PASSIONATELY
- ➔He longs EXCLUSIVELY
- ➔He longs REPEATEDLY
- ➔He longs EMOTIONALLY
- ➔He longs HAPPILY
- ➔He longs VERBALLY
- ➔He longs INTIMATELY

C.v.10-11 THE INTOXICATION — *pleasure*

## **III. EXPRESS YOUR AVAILABILITY FOR YOUR MATE!** **(4:12-15)**

v.12-15 is a 'framed' section by the word "garden"

**Save yourself & your body (and your eyes!) for marriage!** Fight for purity!

v.12 shows the BLESSING OF A VIRGIN WHO SAVES HERSELF FOR THE ONE MAN IN MARRIAGE.

- ➔Fight for purity always!
- ➔Save your virginity passionately!
- ➔Enjoy your spouse unreservedly (holding nothing back!)
- ➔Worship your God intentionally.

## **IV. EXPRESS YOUR SATISFACTION IN YOUR MATE!**

### **(4:16-5:1)**

#### **Outlining this section of *satisfaction* in marriage:**

1. there is **HUMAN** SATISFACTION in marital consummation (4:16-5:1a)

2. there is **DIVINE** SATISFACTION in marital consummation (5:1b)

#### **Song of Songs 5:1b - “eat friends, drink! Imbibe deeply!”**

✓it is GOD who is the "unseen but present guest in the bedroom" (Daniel Akin).

✓He observes ALL that happens and he tells what he thinks about it. AND HERE he believes and speaks that is a GOOD THING... Thus:

1. Sexual Love must be **FREQUENT**
2. Sexual Love must be **SELFLESS**
3. Sexual Love must be **EXCLUSIVE**
4. Sexual Love must be **WORSHIPFUL**

Dear Christian! ...

“Christ delights himself in his love to his church, and his church delights herself in her love to Christ. Christ’s delight was to be with the sons of men, and ours is to be with Him” (Richard Sibbes).

#### **Why all of this? Why did God put this chapter in our Bible? Why should we know about this?**

✓Because SEX creates a hunger for something infinitely more powerful, beautiful, pleasurable, and satisfying: GOD!

✓“God gave us sex to arouse and satisfy a hunger for intimacy. Sexuality arouses a desire for union. Sexual consummation satisfies the desire, but it also mysteriously creates a hunger for more --- not only for more sex, but also for a taste of ULTIMATE UNION, the final reconciliation with God.” (Temper Longman)

✓So sexual intimacy is a precursor, a foretaste, a picture of future intimacy to come!

✓It is designed by God to be a pointer to the LORD of love -- in whom all longings are ultimately satisfied.

✓SEX is the sign-post (the banner, the billboard, the illustration) --- that drives us to God’s intimate presence & union with His people

#### **SO THEN, The ultimate meaning of sex:**

✓The intimacy of sex points to a greater intimacy that is yet to come in the *ULTIMATE marriage* -- with Christ, our Beloved Bridegroom, when we see Him, embrace Him, love Him, abide with him, dwell with Him, are satisfied in Him!

✓This is why sex in marriage is not merely to be tolerated, but it is to be actively celebrated. That’s why sexual intercourse (& all related sexual touching) is reserved **ONLY** for the marriage between the husband & wife

✓CJ Mahaney writes:

✓Sex is a gift from God, a gift to be enjoyed by a man and a woman exclusively within marriage. It’s meant to accomplish several key purposes: union, intimacy, comfort, pleasure, play, creation of life, protection from sexual temptation. Sexual intercourse, and those wonderfully intense passions it brings about, are designed to help husband and wife form a relational bond of unique, unparalleled richness. When these divine purposes are experienced and fulfilled, they bring **MUCH** glory to God.

**BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE**

Before the throne of God above  
 I have a strong and perfect plea  
 A great High Priest whose name is love  
 Who ever lives and pleads for me  
 My name is graven on His hands  
 My name is written on His heart  
 I know that while in heav'n He stands  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart  
 No tongue can bid me thence depart

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  
 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 with 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  
 With Christ my Savior and my God

**THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**

*To the tune of: “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”*

O church of God, thou spotless bride,  
 On Jesus' breast secure;  
 No stains of sin in thee abide,  
 Thy garments all are pure.  
 Of unity and holiness  
 Thy gentle voice doth sing;  
 Of purity and lowliness  
 Thy songs in triumph ring.

She stood attired in spotless dress  
 The early morning through,  
 And then into the wilderness  
 On eagle's wings she flew.  
 And nourished there from heav'nly clime,  
 She lived for many years;  
 Now, in this blessed evening time  
 Her glory reappears.

Thou lovely virgin, thou art fair,  
 Thy mothers only child;  
 Thy heav'nly music let me hear,  
 Thy voice is sweet and mild.  
 Thy cheeks adorned with jewels bright,  
 Thy neck with chains of gold;  
 Unfurl thy banners in thy might,  
 Thy graces rich unfold.

She leans upon an Arm of love  
 No sin her garments taints;  
 They're made of linen wov'n above—  
 The righteousness of saints.  
 The marriage of the Lamb is come,  
 His bride all ready stands;  
 The Bridegroom soon will take her home  
 To dwell in heav'nly lands.

**PRAYER MEETING GUIDE:**

- Prayer for singles = undistracted devotion to the LORD (1 Cor 7:35)
- Prayer for youth/teens/millennials = serve Christ wholeheartedly (1 Kings 2:1-4)
- Prayer for divorcees/retirees = live fully devoted to Christ, worshiping him, praying, discipling (Luke 2:36-38)
- Prayer for all marrieds = prayer for purity, for holiness, for exclusivity, for gospel-proclamation (Eph 5:31-32)
- Prayer for all believers = to fervently love one another *from the heart* (1 Peter 1:22)