

Christian Faith Baptist Church
Marriage Enrichment Ministry
Pastor Kenneth D. Cooper
Senior Servant Leader

Friday, 13 November 2015
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The Songs of Songs
Chapter 1: 1-4

INTRODUCTION (1:1):

First Kings (4:32) informs us that Solomon wrote 1,005 songs, but there is one song that is far more precious than all the others. The “Song of Songs” is that precious song; it is his best song. The second century Rabbi Akiba ben Joseph said the following of this song, “All the ages are not worth the day on which the Songs of Songs was given to Israel; for all the Writings are holy, but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies” (Danby, Mishnah, 782).

I. BEING PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR MATE IS A GOOD THING (1:1-3)

I.1. Desire the physical pleasures of marriage (V.2)

- Marriage is the context in which physical passion and pleasure is set free. This is seen sometimes by a kiss, which is a universal expression of desire and affection.
- Notice how the senses of touch and taste came together resulting in an overwhelming passion.
 - ✓ His kiss is **sweet**;
 - ✓ His kiss has an **intoxicating** effect.

I.2. Experience the personal pleasures of marriage:

I.2.1. Delight in their fragrance (V.3);

- She is remembering the smell of her lover’s cologne.
- His smell was **exhilarating**.

I.2.2. Delight in their fame (V. 3);

- His reputation was unquestioned.
- A person is worth more than physical appearances; the true quality of a person is beneath the skin.

I.2.3. Delight in their friends; and

- Solomon was a desired man—he was a catch!

I.2.4. Delight in their faithfulness.

- This woman was confident and secure in their relationship, though rivals were lurking around (V.3).
 - ✓ She had no doubt that he was coming home to her, “ take me away with you—hurry.”
- He was her king and she was his queen; their love was majestic and royal.
 - ✓ She did not mind sharing him publicly and with others, because she possessed him as her own.
 - ✓ There are some things that a married couple share together and be private.
- Only one person was allowed in his [the King’s] chamber.

The Song of Songs begins with expressions of love, desire, passion, and longing for intimacy. It also addresses issues of character and reputation. Let us set forth some True-or-False questions to explore our perspective on these issues. Our goal, as always, is to have the mind of Christ (Phil 2:5), to think God's thoughts after Him. After answering each question, talk over your answers. Work hard on listening and understanding. Look for biblical guidance and insight as you proceed.

1. T or F Sexual desire and passion for the opposite sex is good, natural and God-given desire.
2. T or F The Bible frowns upon any type of intoxication, including being intoxicated with passion for your mate.
3. T or F When it comes to intimacy in marriage, it is wise to involve all five senses in the process (i.e. touch, taste, sound, scent, and sight)
4. T or F You should pay little or no attention to the opinion of family or friends when choosing a mate. It is your decision.
5. T or F Children are essential to a happy and fulfilling marriage.
6. T or F Sex is only for the young, not the old.
7. T or F Growing in friendship with your mate is a key to growing in your intimacy with him or her.
8. T or F Being a student of marriage is key to growing in my marriage.
9. T or F Being a student of my mate is key to growing in my marriage.
10. T or F There is wisdom in knowing the difference between my needs and my wants.
11. T or F It is not essential, even necessary, to praise your mate in public.
12. T or F I am honestly intoxicated with my love for Jesus.
13. T or F Who Jesus is and what He has done for me strengthens and sustains me day by day.
14. T or F I long to be with Jesus in intimate and private place where I can simply enjoy His presence.

Taken from Christ-Centered Exposition by Daniel L. Akin