

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

Friday, 11 March 2016  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

The Songs of Songs (1:9-14)  
“ENGAGING IN PRAISING !”

The impetus of the five verses we will study tonight is in verses seven and eight (1:7,8). Shulamite is looking for her husband (v.7) and her friends respond, *“If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep and graze your young goats by the tents of the shepherds”* (v.8). Hence, it is in these verses that we will learn the art and benefits a husband and wife of praising each other.

### HOW DOES HE RESPOND TO HER?

HE WAS INTENTIONAL IN TELLING HER HOW VALUABLE SHE IS TO HIM.

Note: It is important to understand what Gary Chapman calls and named one his books, *The Five Love Languages*. He suggests that every person has his or her own love language and it is rare to marry someone with the same love language. Hence, the difference in the language ensues problems and stress. Gary states that the five love languages are:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Receiving Gifts
3. Acts of Service
4. Quality Time
5. Physical Touch

We find out that both the lover and the beloved (Shulamite) understand each other’s love language.

TELL HER THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HER (vss 9,10)

- He calls her “most beautiful”
- She stands out among all the other women.
- There is joy in loving her

(v.9) During this time, Pharaoh’s chariot horses would have been stallions. In contrast, a mare would have stood out, been exceptional and valued among the other horses.

(v.10) The adornments do not make her beautiful. Rather, they complement her beauty. Matter of fact, she makes the adornments more beautiful and without her they have no value.

TELL HER NO COST IS TOO GREAT TO HONOR HER (v. 11)

- He is willing to honor her.
- Cost is not a fact...”Remember, he is only a shepherd”

*Richard Hess made a point regarding this verse. He said, “Whatever the cost, he will honor her. The focus of his love has no limits as the cost or task that he must undertake to bless her.”*

### HOW DOES SHE RESPOND TO HIM?

HER CONFIDENCE IN HIS LOVE FREES HER TO LOVE HIM IN RETURN WITH PASSION AND SENSUAL EXPRESSIONS OF THAT LOVE.

TELL HIM YOU DESIRE HIM (v. 12)

- “Perfume releases its fragrance,” is her way of saying she is waiting for and aroused by thinking about him. In addition, she used expensive perfume.

Nard was expensive and hard to transport thus making it valuable and exotic. It also suggests, if Shulamite had this perfume, she was a woman of wealth.

TELL HIM YOU LOVE HIM (v. 13)

- She places her lover close to the heart.
- She desires to experience his fragrance “myrrh”

She compares her shepherd-king to this precious sweet-smelling bundle of fragrance, one that lies all night between her breasts, close to her heart. Or as Landy said, “He is as it were of diminutive size and overwhelmed by her love when nestled together.”

Some allegorists stretch their interpretation, particularly Longman by saying, the following: The breasts are the Old and New Testaments, presumably only linked by their two-ness. Jesus Christ is the sachet of myrrh. The New Testament is in the old concealed; the Old in the New revealed. Jesus spans the testaments as the sachet spans the woman’s two breasts.

TELL HIM OF HIS VALUE

- She is a desert (En Gedi), but he is
- He is likened to luscious and fruitful water garden.

Most scholars suggest this verse goes back to the Garden of Eden before the fall—it was nowhere in sight (Gen. 1-2). There is only life in this paradise for lovers.

## MARITAL INTIMACY TEST

*(ANSWER: 4—OFTEN, 3—OFTEN ENOUGH, 2—NOT ENOUGH, 1—RARELY, OR 0—NEVER)*

How often do you show affection for each other? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you flirt with your partner? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you say something nice to each other? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you compliment your partner in front of others? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you enjoy sexual intimacy? \_\_\_\_\_

How often are you playful with each other? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you look each other in the eyes while talking? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you give each other a little surprise? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you say "please"? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you say "I'm sorry"? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Add up your points and divide by 10. You will get your score on a 4.0 scale, just like when you were in school !)*