

## **Song of Solomon ("What's love Got to Do With it?")**

Matthew 22:37 – "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt LOVE THE LORD THY GOD with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us..." (I John 4:16)

### **The Wisdom Literature of Israel**

- Psalms (song book by four primary authors, including David, Asaph and a few by Moses)
- Proverbs (wise spiritual sayings collected by Solomon)
- Ecclesiastes (a sermon on the meaning of life)
- Song of Solomon (a celebration of sexual love in marriage, seen as a symbol of the passionate love that Christ has for the nation of Israel and for the Church of Jesus Christ)

It is a poem, written by Solomon. It is about a love relationship. It is not only natural but spiritual, or it would not have been included in our bible. It expresses the love of God for Israel and Israel's love for her God. The Jews considered it the most important book in the Old Testament canon. They said if you cannot understand that book you cannot understand any book in the bible. To us as Christians, it speaks of God's LOVE for the Church and the church for the Lord.

A love poem that verbalizes the feelings of a Shunamite Maid for her lover/husband

Sex is honorable, clean, the creation of God, and given for mankind's enjoyment and fulfillment – not for procreation only.

### **READ KEY PASSAGES from Song of Solomon**

**FACT** – The Essence of our relationship with God is LOVE (Matthew 22:37)

**Songs** – Falling in Love with Jesus (Is the Best Thing I've Ever done)

Jesus Lover of my Soul

Oh How I love Jesus

I Love You, I Love You Lord Today

**Proposition** – It is important for you to think about the question of LOVE and GOD! This is something you should meditate in, because there is great benefit to you in two things

1.) to really make a DECISION TO LOVE God passionately

2.) To comprehend the way God LOVES you (Paul prays for that in Ephesians 3:18-19, that we might be able to comprehend, understand, recognize and appreciate the passionate love that God feels towards the church.)

**PRINCIPLE – THE INTENSITY and the DEGREE of God’s love for us.**

God’s AGAPE love is not less passionate than the eros with which so many people are familiar! Just because God’s love does not have a selfish, erotic aspect to it, that does not mean that it is surpassed by any passions that humanity is familiar with. His AGAPE loves surpasses the INTENSITY of any and all of man’s highest expressions of love!!!

**FACT** – For many people, their PRIMARY relationship with God is one of FEAR rather than one of LOVE! Mistakenly they find God more admirable, righteous, intimidating and imposing than they do LOVING! They are more SCARED of God than LOVING in their relationship to him.

**Marriage and Love Metaphors in the scripture –**

The Church is referred to as the “BRIDE of Christ” – and often in scripture the metaphor of marriage, etc. is used to talk about the relationship between Christ and the Church.

- Ephesians 5:25-32 – husband and wife
- Revelation 19:7 – Marriage supper of the Lamb (the “bride” hath made herself ready)
- Isaiah 54:5 – “thy husband is thy Maker” Bride & Groom relationship of Yahweh and Israel
- SONG OF SOLOMON – the entire book is written in this motif of
  - Mutual commitment
  - Intimacy
  - Passion

Negative scriptural examples

- Hosea 1:2-3 Hosea & Gomer – typify the faithful husband and the faithless wife
  - 1:2-3 – he marries her, knowing she is not a good woman
  - 2:1-6 – he describes how unfaithful she has been
  - 2:14-23 – God describes how he will WIN HER BACK to himself
  - 3:1-3 – HOSEA had to go and BUY HER BACK AGAIN after she had run off with a man

- Ezekiel 16:1-14 – he beautifies her and marries her, but she plays the harlot in the last verse of the chapter

In some senses the churches relationship to Christ seems somewhat *feminized*. It isn't often that men are comfortable being referred to as the "bride of Christ." But far beyond feminization, the primary issue of the LOVE relationship between God and Man is characterized by

Long-term commitment  
 The meeting of needs (emotional, spiritual, material)  
 Mutuality of enterprise  
 Trustworthiness, reliability  
 Exclusivity of relationship  
 Healthiness of interaction

The metaphor is not given to feminize men, but to reference the most desirable aspects of a healthy, sound marital relationship. Why? Because **in this world there is no more powerful and meaning relationship extant that surpasses the relationship of man and wife.** The bond of siblings to one another, the bonds of parents to children, the bonds of people as nations – no relationship is more essential than the relationship of man and woman voluntarily committed to one another until death. Parental relationships are not by *choice*. Sibling relationships are not by *choice*. National and cultural relationships are typically not by *choice*. But marital relationship exists because two person have made a voluntary commitment to be with each other forever. And this is completely true of Jesus and the church: God CHOSE to be in relationship with us, and we who walk the aisle and yield to Jesus have CHOSEN to be in relationship with him. He was free NOT to, and YOU are free NOT to. But because you have CHOSEN to be in marital relationship with God, the human marriage is the best metaphor that could be used!

Song – "I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice."

So the marriage metaphor is chosen, not to *feminize* us, but to point us to the healthiest, most volitional relationship possible.

Most of us need to know how to LOVE and how to BE LOVED! This is one of the healthiest things we can learn in life – and we will learn it BEST in our relationship with God!

To know the **love** of God that passeth knowledge (Ephesians 3:19)

## **One Key scripture from each chapter of Song of Solomon**

SOS 1:15-16 Behold thou art fair my love...

SOS 2:4-5 His banner over me is LOVE (an atmosphere and environment of constant love) - "for I am sick of love!" (love sick!!!)

SOS 3:1-4 "I have found him whom my soul loveth"

SOS 4:9 "Thou hast ravished my heart my sister, my spouse..."

SOS 5:9 What is thy beloved more than another? (What's so special about Jesus?)

SOS 5:16 He is ALTOGETHER LOVELY, etc." (verse 10-16)

SOS 6:5 "Turn away your eyes from me..." (more than I can handle!)

SOS 7:10 - I am my beloved's and his desire is toward me.

SOS 8:7 - Many waters cannot quench love

### ***New Testament scriptures which identify LOVE as the essential ingredient in man's relationship to God and God to man***

The LOVE of Christ constraineth us  
We love him because he first loved us.