

Becoming One - The Man

The Joy Of the Lord Is Your Strength!

Hardly anything beats a "radiant face"

1. WELCOME TO THE BRIDGE - I'm Jared and here's why we're here.
1. Today we begin a brand-new series called ***Becoming One*** as we walk together through the Song of Solomon.
2. Now, if you've spent much time in church, you may have noticed that Song of Solomon is not exactly the book that gets preached every year.
3. In fact, for some people, this is one of those books that feels a little surprising to find in the Bible.
 - a. It is romantic.
 - b. It is passionate.
 - c. It is poetic.
4. *And sometimes it is so specific that it makes people a little uncomfortable.*
5. But heres a thought - I wonder if the reason many people are uncomfortable with Song of Solomon *is the very reason we need it.*
6. Because while the world talks nonstop about relationships, romance, sex, dating, marriage, attraction, and intimacy, *the church has often responded with silence.*
7. Culture has been shouting. The church has been whispering.
8. Here's the brutal truth: *When God's people stop teaching God's design, the world will gladly step in and offer its own version.*
9. What we have today is a culture that has deeply distorted God's design for marriage.
 - a. Marriage has become temporary.
 - b. Commitment has become optional.
 - c. Romance has become self-centered.
 - d. Love has become transactional.
 - e. And intimacy has been disconnected from covenant.
10. But Song of Solomon gives us something different. It gives us God's design.
 - a. Not Hollywood's version.
 - b. Not social media's version.
 - c. Not the world's version.
11. *God's version.*
12. And because He designed marriage, He gets to define it.
13. So before we go any further, let's anchor ourselves to a biblical definition of marriage.
14. **Marriage is: One man and one woman. In a covenant before God. For a lifetime.**
15. *That's God's design.*
16. And the journey of marriage can really be summarized in three simple words:
17. **Me becoming We.**

18. What's interesting is that before we ever get to the wedding, before we ever get to the marriage, before we ever get to the honeymoon, we meet two people who are becoming ready for one another.

19. And today we're going to focus **on the man.**

20. Because the woman says something remarkable in verse 2 of Chapter 1.

21. She says: *"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine."*

22. In other words, she is looking at this man and saying, **"I want him."**

23. And that should make us ask a question.

24. What kind of man is this?

25. What kind of man causes a woman to respond that way?

26. What kind of man earns that kind of respect? That kind of affection? That kind of admiration?

27. Because gentlemen, if we're honest, most of us have spent our lives asking the wrong question.

28. We've asked: *"How do I become more attractive?"*

29. But Scripture asks: *"How do I become more godly?"*

30.

31. So guys - let's look together at five characteristics of a godly man.

The very next verse she says in Song of Solomon 1:3:

"Your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you."

1. Notice what she praises first.

a. Not his appearance.

b. Not his physique.

c. Not his money.

d. Not his status.

2. **His name.**

3. **We see the first thing: 1. He Has an Honorable Name**

4. In Scripture, a name represented far more than what somebody was called.

5. A name represented character. Reputation. Integrity. Identity.

6. *Who you really are.*

7. She says his name is like oil poured out.

8. In that culture, fragrant oil would fill an entire room.

9. Before you saw it, you smelled it.

10. Before you noticed where it came from, its presence was already known.

11. *That's what she is saying about this man.*

12. His character enters the room before he does.

13. People know what kind of man he is. His reputation speaks for itself.

14. And notice something else. She says, *"therefore virgins love you."*

15. The people around her know about him too.

16. **BTW ladies - of course you're going to believe he is great - but his reputation is actually affirmed by others!**

a. His character is visible.

b. His integrity is observable.

c. His reputation is public.

17. Guys, hear me.
18. *One of the greatest lies our culture tells us is that appearance is everything.*
19. God says character is everything.
20. Your wife may appreciate how you look.
21. But she desperately needs to know that you are who you say you are.
 - a. Can she trust you?
 - b. Can she believe your word?
 - c. Can she depend on your consistency?
 - d. Can she count on your integrity?
22. Here's the deal - you're probably not going to get better looking - let's be honest.
23. But character only becomes more attractive with time.
24. A man's greatest asset is not what he owns. *It's his name.*
25. Proverbs 22:1 says: *"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches."*
26. Let me ask you a question. If someone at work heard your name, what would they think?
27. If your children heard your name twenty years from now, what would they say?
28. If your wife described your character to someone else, what words would she use?
29. Men, don't spend your life building a résumé and neglecting your reputation.
 - a. Build a name worth trusting.
 - b. Build a name worth following.
 - c. Build a name that honors Jesus.
30. Because very first we see a godly man has an honorable name.

Song of Solomon 1:8-10 says:

If you do not know, O most beautiful among women, follow in the tracks of the flock, and pasture your young goats beside the shepherds' tents.

⁹ I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots. ¹⁰ Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.

2. He Speaks Words That Build Up

1. Here's what just happened - he speaks his first words.
2. *(BTW, she speaks 60 percent of the time, he speaks 30 percent of the time, and the friends speak 10 percent of the time - that's just the way it works)*
3. But, he opens his mouth - And encouragement comes out.
4. He sees beauty - *and he communicates beauty.*
5. He notices value - *and he expresses value.*
6. He feels appreciation - *and he speaks appreciation.*
7. A godly man does not keep encouragement trapped inside his head.
8. He lets it come out of his mouth.
9. Now let's be honest.
 - a. Some men are naturally verbal.
 - b. Some are not.
10. However - regardless of personality, *every man is called to use his words to build up.*

11. Ephesians says: *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up."*
12. Notice that Solomon praises her specifically. Not generally. Specifically.
13. *He notices details. He pays attention. He communicates appreciation.*
14. And yes, we need to give Solomon a little grace here.
15. Comparing her to a mare among Pharaoh's horses may not work in modern dating.
16. He basically just said "You remind me of "seabiscuit"..."
17. But in his mind, that was a tremendous compliment. It was the highest language he knew.
18. Ladies, sometimes the compliment is clumsy.
 - a. But give grace for the effort.
- 19. I want to give a general warning for this series:**
 - a. If during this series, your husband or wife begins to try to change - don't criticize them.
 - b. Don't say "I know why you're doing this - you're doing this because Jared is doing the marriage series"
 - c. A sure fire way of making sure nobody does anything good is to criticize them when they do something good.
- 20. Men, keep trying.**
21. Because here's the principle: *A godly man uses his words to make his woman feel valued.*
 - a. Not criticized.
 - b. Not ignored.
 - c. Not invisible.
 - d. Valued.
22. Think about how many words your wife hears every day.
 - a. Instructions. Problems. Schedules. Questions. Responsibilities.
23. How often does she hear delight? gratitude? admiration?
24. Your words have incredible power.
25. *You can breathe life into a marriage Or you can slowly drain life from it.*
- 26. Many marriages are starving, not because love disappeared, but because encouragement disappeared.**
27. Men, don't assume she knows.
28. Tell her.
 - a. Tell her she's beautiful. Tell her you're thankful. Tell her you're proud of her. Tell her you appreciate her.
29. And tell her where other people can hear it too.
30. A godly man speaks words that build up.

Now, notice something interesting - drop down to Song of Solomon 1:16-17 says:

"Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful. Our couch is green; the beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine."

3. He prioritizes time spent away with her

1. This is poetry, but the picture is simple. *They're outside.*
 - a. "Our couch is green" means they're walking in a pasture.

- b. "The beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine" means they're on a hike through the forest.
- c. Here's the point - they're not isolated in their house - they're out still dating each other.
- d. *Spending time together.*
- 2. Not accomplishing something.
 - a. Not checking off a list.
 - b. Not solving a problem.
- 3. Just being together. *And that matters.*
- 4. *One of the easiest mistakes in marriage is replacing relationship with responsibility.***
- 5. You start dating because you enjoy one another. *Then life gets busy.*
 - a. Careers take off or change.
 - b. Kids take over the home.
 - c. Bills start coming from areas you'd never thing.
 - d. Baseball schedules blow up in your face!
- 6. *And before long you're managing a household but neglecting a relationship.*
- 7. But notice something about this man. *He enjoys her.*
 - a. Not merely what she does - not the role she fills.
- 8. He enjoys *her.*
- 9. A godly man likes being around his wife.
- 10. He likes talking to her. Laughing with her. Walking with her. Listening to her.
- 11. *Experiencing life with her.*
- 12. Men, when was the last time you spent time together with no agenda?
 - a. No project.
 - b. No errand.
 - c. No obligation.
 - d. No destination.
- 13. *Just presence.*
- 14. Guys, our relationships don't drift toward intimacy. *They drift toward distance.*
 - a. *Be careful with technology at night - you might be in the same room, but you're not together.*
- 15. Intimacy requires intentionality. Time is the currency of love.
- 16. You spend time on what matters.
- 17. And if you want a strong marriage, you must make time for one another.
 - a. Not leftovers.
 - b. Not scraps.
 - c. Not what remains.
- 18. Real time. Focused time. Intentional time.
- 19. Because a godly man enjoys spending time with the woman he loves.

Ok, next thing: Song of Solomon 2:3 says:

"As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

4. He Provides and Protects

1. This verse gives us two beautiful pictures.
 - a. Fruit which is provision...
 - b. And shade which is protection...
2. The apple tree provides nourishment. The shade provides shelter.
3. And she says she delights in both.
4. Now let's be careful here.
5. When we talk about provision, we often immediately think about money.
6. Certainly it includes financial responsibility. *But biblical provision is bigger than a paycheck.*
7. **A man can provide financially and still neglect his family.**
8. Provision means creating an environment where people flourish. Spiritually. Emotionally. Relationally. Physically. A godly man takes responsibility here.
9. He asks:
 - a. How can I help my family flourish?
 - b. How can I lead them toward Jesus?
 - c. How can I create stability?
 - d. How can I serve them?
 - e. How can I help them flourish?
10. And then there is protection. She says she rests in his shadow.
11. She feels safe. *Not fearful. Not anxious.*
12. **Safe.**
13. Men, your family should feel more secure because you are present. Not less secure.
14. Your wife should not have to protect herself from your temper.
15. Your children should not have to fear your unpredictability.
16. Your home should not become the most stressful place in their lives.
17. A godly man creates safety. Emotionally. Spiritually. Physically. Financially.
18. He becomes a place where people can rest.
19. One of my favorite pictures in Scripture is En Gedi.
20. En Gedi was an oasis.
21. On one side was the Dead Sea.
22. On the other side was wilderness.
23. Yet in the middle was life. Water. Shade. Refreshment. Rest.
24. Men, that's what we're called to create.
25. An En Gedi.
26. *A place where our wives can breathe.*
27. *A place where our children can flourish.*
28. *A place where people experience life instead of chaos.*
29. *A godly man provides and protects.*

Ok, last thing: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 says:

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping over the mountains, bounding over the hills. ⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, looking through the lattice. ¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, ¹¹ for behold, *the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.* ¹² The flowers appear on

the earth, the time of singing^[a] has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³ The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

5. Notice how **He Pursues and Leads Her in Every Season**

1. Then he begins talking about winter passing and flowers appearing and spring arriving.
2. What is he doing?
3. He's recognizing seasons. He's paying attention. He's aware.
4. And he's pursuing her in the middle of changing circumstances.
5. That's important because every marriage experiences seasons.
 - a. Some of you are newly married.
 - b. Some have toddlers.
 - c. Some have teenagers.
 - d. Some are launching children into adulthood.
 - e. Some are entering retirement.
 - f. Some are caring for aging parents.
 - g. Some are grieving loss.
 - h. Some are celebrating victories.
6. The season changes. And every season requires a different expression of love.
7. The mistake many men make is assuming what worked in one season will automatically work in another.
8. But healthy marriages require fresh pursuit. He notices the season. Then he responds to the season.
 - a. He shows up.
 - b. He engages.
 - c. He pursues.

9. *Men, hear this carefully. The pursuit does not end at the altar. It begins there.*

10. The wedding is not the finish line. It's the starting line.
11. *Because the woman you married at twenty-five will not be the same woman at forty-five.*
12. Life changes people. Experiences shape people. Seasons transform people.
13. And a godly man continually learns how to love the woman in front of him. Not the version he remembers.
14. The version standing beside him today.
15. The question is not: "How did I love her ten years ago?"
16. The question is: "How do I love her well right now?"
17. A godly man pursues her in every season.

The Man Behind Every Godly Man

1. Now men, before we leave today, I need to tell you something.
2. You may hear these five characteristics and think:
 - a. I need to try harder.
 - b. I need to do better.
 - c. I need to become more disciplined.

3. And certainly there is effort involved.
4. But here's the reality.
 - a. Even if you became the very best version of yourself.
 - b. Even if you succeeded in every category.
 - c. Even if you were a man of integrity.
 - d. A man of encouragement.
 - e. A man who spent quality time.
 - f. A man who provided and protected.
 - g. A man who pursued faithfully.
5. *You still could not be everything your wife needs.*
6. *And she cannot be everything you need.*
7. Because God never designed husbands and wives to save one another.
8. **He designed them to point one another to a Savior.**
9. The deepest longing of every human heart cannot be fulfilled by a spouse.
10. It can only be fulfilled by Jesus.
11. Think about Jesus.
 - a. His name is above every name.
 - b. His character is perfect.
 - c. His words always build up.
 - d. His presence never leaves us.
 - e. His provision never fails.
 - f. His protection never falters.
 - g. His pursuit never stops.
12. When we were running away, He pursued us.
13. When we were lost, He pursued us.
14. When we were dead in sin, He pursued us.
15. When we were unlovable, He pursued us.
16. *Every godly man is simply learning to reflect Him.*
17. So men, don't leave here asking, "How can I become a better husband?"
18. *That's a good question. But it isn't the first question.*
19. The first question is: **"How can I become more like Jesus?"**
20. (KEY) Because the closer you become to Him, the more you'll become the man God created you to be.
21. ***And ladies, the greatest gift you can give the man in your life is not demanding perfection.***
22. ***It's encouraging him toward Christ.***
23. Because when two people are rooted in Jesus, they discover something beautiful.
 - a. The storms still come. The seasons still change. The challenges still arise.
24. But they are standing on a foundation that cannot be shaken.
25. And that's where becoming one truly begins.

THE GOSPEL: Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope for every person. Though we are all sinful and our sin separates us from God, God made a way for us to be in right relationship with him again. That way is Jesus. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. God

promises that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. This is the good news of the Bible.

1. PRAYER TEAM!! This a great time to pray with someone!

COMMUNION: 1 Corinthians 11

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, ^[b] "This is my body, which is ^[c] for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

"May the Lord bless you and protect you;
may the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
may the Lord look with favor on you ^[b]
and give you peace."