

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Oh that you were like my bother who nursed at my mother's breast if I should find you
- a) At this point, we have more opportunity of seeing what makes love last
    - 1) What are the ingredients that go into a relationship that help to make it enduring over time?
    - 2) NOTICE: V6, and V7
- II) INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH: One of the things that makes love last is found in V1
- a) IMPORTANT: She isn't saying: I love him *like* a brother!
    - 1) Very few things sting like when the girl you love says You are a good friend! You're like a bro
- III) WHAT IS SHE SAYING: Why does she wish that he were like her brother
- a) KEY: The love between a husband and wife is a bond that can be broken
    - 1) You can have genuine love for someone, but eventually it may fade and lose its power
    - 2) YET: A brother is always going to be a brother: he never is anything else
- IV) KEY: A brother and sister relationship is not a decision that we make
- a) I have a brother and two sisters, and was not consulted on the matter
    - 1) My parents decided to have other children and did not seek my permission
    - 2) BECAUSE OF THIS: I have two sisters who are younger than me
- V) WHY WOULD SHE SAY: Oh that you were like *my brother*
- a) Certain foundational elements exist in a brother/sister relationship that make it beautiful
    - 1) FIRST: There is the bond that exists because you are both from the mother/father or one of them
    - 2) SECOND: There is purity because there is no sexual tension or petty jealousies
    - 3) THIRD: It is a long lasting relationship, one that goes back to childhood and continues
    - 4) FOURTH: There is a strong love that a brother has for his sister, wanting the best for her
    - 5) FIFTH: There is a closeness, a friendship that you can have that makes it special
- VI) V1 NOTICE: If I should find you *outside* I would kiss you I would not be despised (disrespected)
- a) As her brother, she could show him affection openly and no one would say anything
    - 1) She could do so without embarrassment, and he would not turn his face away from her

2) I have sisters and I kiss them when I see them: even sister's in law that I openly have affection for

VII) HER POINT: I want our love to be in the open, all of the time without concern what others think

a) At this time, the only males she could show open love for were her father or brothers

1) IMPORTANT: I do not encourage outrageous displays of the physical kind!

VIII) STILL: She is making it clear that she enjoys their relationship and has passion and openness

a) She does not want to always be restrained around him because she desires him *always*

1) She could spend time alone with him, without anyone judging her (mother's house V2)

IX) V2 NOTICE: I would cause you to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate

a) I will serve you and refresh you: not necessarily sexually, but in the way a wife ministers to her man

1) Marie serves me my meals, and cares for me in practical ways

X) V2 IT IS INTERESTING: How she speaks of her mother as the one who used to instruct her

a) It is the mother's ministry to teach their daughters concerning the life and responsibilities of a wife

I) MOTHERS: Teach their daughters how to be ladies, and how to be wives

a) They learn such skills by being around their moms, and working alongside of them

1) Titus 2:3-5 The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

2) These skills are not taught by modern culture, but by loving faith filled mothers

3) STILL: There are some things that mother's cannot teach their daughters

II) V3 HIS LEFT HAND: Is under my head and his right hand embraces me (said before in 2:6)

a) In that context, they had yet to be married, and it came with a warning (V7 do not stir up love)

1) HERE: He is making it clear that she *rejoices* in her husband's affection

- III) **V4 I CHARGE YOU:** O daughters of Jerusalem do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases
- a) It is now proper for her to have a relationship with her husband, so lovemaking is proper
    - 1) Some feel condemned because they did not wait:
    - 2) A. W. Tozer: When a person makes a mistake and has to be forgiven, the shadow may hang over him or her because it is hard for other people to forget. But when God forgives, He begins the new page right there, and then the devil runs up and says, "What about this person's past?" God replies: "What past? There is no past. We started out fresh when he came to Me and I forgave him". (2 Co 5:17)
    - 3) Micah 7:19 He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.
- IV) **V5 WHO IS THIS:** Coming up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved
- a) Notice the picture we have here: the bride is leaning upon the arm of her husband
    - 1) This reveals not that she is weary and needs him to hold her up, but that *they are inseparable*
- V) **LOVE THAT LASTS:** Is the kind that when one person is spoken of, they are speaking of two
- a) Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
    - 1) When we become one, we protect our marriages
- VI) **FOR LOVE TO LAST:** There needs to be a prioritizing of our lives around the life of our spouse
- a) It ceases being all about me, and it becomes all about us
    - 1) Some people are not ready for a relationship that is "boring" to others
    - 2) They need to go out, and cannot stand the thought of actually being home every day
    - 3) Being married requires you to adjust personal wishes to be compatible with your spouse
- VII) **THIS REQUIRES:** A depth of dying to yourself as you make your spouse's desires equal to your own
- a) Some cannot make it in marriage simply because they are too selfish to be married
    - 1) Eph 5:25 Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her
    - 2) This kind of love safeguards your marriage

VIII) V5 NOTICE: I *awakened you* under the apple tree there your mother brought you forth there she who

a) Solomon points out the place where they first fell in love: *it was in her home*

1) The apple tree was probably next to her house, perhaps providing shade for a room

2) NOTICE: He remembers where they first fell in love (apples can symbolize love)

I) INTERESTINGLY: He is saying that his wife was born, *just for him*

a) One day, our lives interconnected, and we grew to love one another

1) Ps 37:23 The steps of a *good man* are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

II) FOR A LOVE: That endures this kind of understanding should exist in your marriage

a) The belief that you were meant to be together undergirds your marriage

1) Maybe it's intuition But some things you just don't question Like in your eyes, I see my future in an instant And there it goes, I think I found my best friend I know that it might sound More than a little crazy But I believe I knew I loved you before I met you, I think I dreamed you into life I knew I love you before I met you I have been waiting all my life

III) KEY: The trust that God actually engineered you two meeting one another strengthens you

a) This is rooted in your faith that God actually has concerns for you in all things

1) God gives you the person that you need to have in your life, to develop you

IV) V6 SET ME: As a seal upon your heart as a seal upon your arm for love is as strong as death

a) A seal during this time is a mark of ownership: containers, letters, etc were sealed

1) This is a request for a permanent love and a proper sense of ownership

V) A MAN: Does not necessarily have an immediate sense of ownership of a relationship

a) It takes time for him to grow more openly committed

1) Marie and I would go to places, and I would introduce her as my friend, or by her name

2) People would visit with her, and I would not show much concern

3) Eventually, I would come stand next to her and let the guys know she wasn't available

VI) A SEAL: Is simply a way of saying She belongs to me, she is my girl

a) IT IS SAYING: her heart and life are wrapped up in me!

VII) V6 FOR LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH:

- a) In what way: It is unending, undivided, entire, and enduring
  - 1) It is a passion that is powerful and lasting: Love just does not end, and love does not quit
  - 2) Even as no one can resist death, love too has a tremendous power over man
  - 3) 1 Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

VIII) V6 INTERESTING: Jealousy as cruel as the grave its flames are flames of fire

- a) Jealousy is desiring deeply what belongs to you: it is keeping others away from what is yours

IX) V7 MANY WATERS: Cannot quench love nor can the floods drown it if a man would give for love

- a) Expect challenges and pain in your marriages
  - 1) There will be disappointments, struggles, times of anger, challenges, and times of loss and pain
  - 2) Financial struggles, loss of loved ones, loss of a job, simple pains
  - 3) Marie's alopecia
  - 4) MAKE UP YOUR MIND: Nothing will cause you to stop loving one another

X) NOTICE: If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house it would be utterly despised

- a) No affair or flirtatious relationship is worth losing your marriage over
  - 1) In the end, you experience nothing new and lose all that meant anything