

The Vow – Part 4: The Importance of Romance in Marriage

I. Disclaimer

- a. Romance does not always include sex, but *sex should always include romance*.
- b. Even though sex is not the lesson's focal point, it is important to remember:
 - *Sex, intimacy and romance* are a huge part of a successful marriage.
 1. It is something that should be talked about, revisited often and understood by husbands and wives.
 2. Sex is not a bad word.
- c. According to God's word, sex was created for a married woman and married man.
 - Outside of that context, the Bible calls it sin.
 1. As Christians our goal is to never sin against God.
 2. God gives us the power to control our sex drive and to save it for this thing called marriage.
 - Inside of marriage, sex is a great thing.
 1. He created sex for:
 - a. Procreation
 - b. Enjoyment and love in marriage

II. Songs of Solomon

- a. A book of the Bible about a man, his wife and the imagery about their love.

Song of Solomon 4:5 NIV

Your breasts are like two fawns,
like twin fawns of a gazelle
that browse among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 4:16 NIV

Awake, north wind,
and come, south wind!
Blow on my garden,
that its fragrance may spread everywhere.
Let my beloved come into his garden
and taste its choice fruits.

Song of Solomon 2:3-7 NIV

Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is my beloved among the young men.

I delight to sit in his shade,
and his fruit is sweet to my taste.

Let him lead me to the banquet hall,
and let his banner over me be love.

Strengthen me with raisins,
refresh me with apples,
for I am faint with love.

His left arm is under my head,
and his right arm embraces me.

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you
by the gazelles and by the does of the field:

Do not arouse or awaken love
until it so desires.

Song of Solomon 8:10 NIV

I am a wall,
and my breasts are like towers.

Thus I have become in his eyes
like one bringing contentment.

Song of Solomon 7:5-9 NIV

Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel.

Your hair is like royal tapestry;
the king is held captive by its tresses.

How beautiful you are and how pleasing,
my love, with your delights!

Your stature is like that of the palm,
and your breasts like clusters of fruit.

I said, "I will climb the palm tree;
I will take hold of its fruit."

May your breasts be like clusters of grapes on the vine,
the fragrance of your breath like apples,
and your mouth like the best wine.

III. What is Romance?

- a. The feeling of excitement associated with love
 - It is *not* sex, but it *can lead* to better sex.
 - It is important in marriage.

IV. Enemies to Romance

- a. Hardened heart
- b. Selfishness
- c. Laziness

V. The Story of Jacob & Rachel

Genesis 29:20 NIV

So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

VI. 21 Romantic Ideas

1. Say "I love you" often.
2. Never stop flirting.
3. Touch each other.
4. Make time to be alone.
5. Do something new.
6. Park your car somewhere and make out.
7. Put some life back into your conversations.
8. Make your spouse feel special.
9. Go over and above with thoughtfulness.
10. Give your spouse undivided attention.
11. Prepare a bubble bath for them.
12. Give your spouse a foot rub or a full body massage.
13. Stroll around a nearby lake.
14. Have a picnic at the park.
15. Sit on the same side of the booth in a restaurant.
16. Do something your spouse loves to do even if it doesn't interest you personally.
17. Write out romantic notes and leave them in places that your spouse will find them.
18. Watch the sun go up or come down together.
19. Go on a husband and wife vacation.
20. Fall asleep holding each other.
21. Prepare your bedroom for romance.