



# gracefellowship

Song of Solomon  
Attraction  
February 23, 2020

Song of Solomon 1

Ask: Raise your hand if you have never done a study through the Song of Solomon? Raise your hand if you have heard a sermon in your church from SoS?

This is a book that sometimes gets avoided in church. It contains material that a lot of people don't like to talk about. But God placed this book in Scripture for a reason. When you look at our culture, sex is everywhere- but it's not often expressed in a God honoring way. And I believe part of the reason for that is because the Church has largely avoided talking about sex. So, we are going to talk about it. But this isn't just a book about sex. It's a book about marriage relationships. There are so many practical things in this book if you know how to interpret it. I understand that not every person in our church is married. Some of you have lost a spouse; some of you have been through a divorce; some of you have never been married. I want you to hear this today: You are not "less than" because you are not married! Your marital status doesn't mean you are broken in some way. In fact, in the book of 1 Corinthians Paul addresses singleness: "But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: it is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion" (1 Corinthians 7:8, 9).

There is a place for singleness and a purpose within God's Kingdom for a full pursuit of Him outside of a marriage relationship.

Whether single or married; whether you've been married for 50 years or 5 months, there are some amazing things you can take from the Song of Solomon. One of the things our Elders have identified within our church and in our culture are the hurts and struggles that exist in marriage relationships. I feel like when we know about 2 or 3 or 4 marriages that are hurting and in trouble, there are probably 10 or 12 or 14 more we don't know about. For those reasons, leading up to our Marriage Conference in April we wanted to address God's design for love, sex and marriage.

Materials for Study:

- *The Mingling of Souls*, Matt Chandler
- *The Book of Romance*, Tommy Nelson
- *Solomon on Sex*, Dr. Kurt Trucksess (Teaching Series)
- *Multiple Commentaries*

There have been different ways people have approached this book over the years.

- Some take the view this book is talking about Christ and the Church, not a literal relationship between a man and a woman. They read it as an allegory.
- Others see the book as a poetic telling of a relationship between a man and a woman at various stages of their relationship. This is the approach I'll take with the book.
- The book is poetry and songs written between a man and woman, but it is not necessarily set in a linear path. You can best think of the book like snapshots of their relationship. We will look at some of the snapshots as dating or courtship, another snapshot will be at their wedding; a third snapshot is the honeymoon- I'm sure we will all be excited to come to church that Sunday; then there will be a snapshot of their life dealing with conflict and resolution; and finally a snapshot of the way they keep their marriage vibrant beyond the honeymoon.

There are differences of opinion as to who wrote Song of Solomon. Some people have a difficult time accepting Solomon as the author because throughout his life he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Something went very wrong in Solomon's approach to women and marriage. He couldn't get enough women in his life. Here is my personal opinion about who wrote the book. I believe it was written by Solomon in the early part of his reign prior to his sexual failures. The approach I'll take to the book is that Solomon wrote this about his first love and that the book is written to describe the ideal relationship. None of us enjoy the ideal relationship- in any of our relationships! So don't feel bad when you read this book and find you don't measure up! I can assure you that Heather and I do not measure up to the standards presented in this book and if we had it to do over again from our dating relationship to now there are a lot of things we would do differently! So, let's read it with the understanding that while Solomon made vast amounts of mistakes in his later years, it is God who desired to capture the sweetness of this relationship and include it for us to learn from as we study the Song of Solomon together.

Before we jump in...

Question: What was the thing that first attracted you to our spouse?

Are you still pursuing your spouse like before you were married, or have you settled into lethargic rhythms?

- **Homework assignment #1: Ask one another this week, "What has changed that you miss from the exciting season of our dating life?"**

- Guys, you should be setting the tone in keeping romance alive in your marriage by making time for date nights and bringing home flowers and keeping your marriage fresh and exciting.
- But it's not only the man's responsibility! Ladies, you have a role to play here too. In marriage, each partner needs to pursue the other in healthy ways.
- In fact, in the Song of Solomon you will find that the woman speaks first, speaks last and speaks most!

## **:: Song of Solomon 1**

### **1 Solomon's Song of Songs.**

#### **She**

**2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your love is more delightful than wine.**

**3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you!**

#### **Friends/She**

**4 Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers. We rejoice and delight in you ; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!**

**5 Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon.**

**6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I had to neglect.**

**7 Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?**

#### **Friends**

**8 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.**

#### **He**

**9 I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariot horses.**

**10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.**

**11 We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.**

#### **She**

**12 While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.**

**13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.**

**14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.**

**He**

**15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.**

**She**

**16 How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant.**

**He**

**17 The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.**

**1 Solomon's Song of Songs.**

**She**

**2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your love is more delightful than wine.**

The first chapter of this book is a snapshot of the time period of first attraction and the dating relationship between Solomon and the Shulamite woman. I believe this first verse is her daydreaming about Solomon. Maybe she's even writing in her journal. Notice this...

**The Bible doesn't just describe physical attraction, it sanctions and blesses it!**

The woman is in love and daydreaming about kissing Solomon.

"...your love is more delightful than wine." His love is intoxicating, she can't get enough- and this is God glorifying. Relationships, marriage and sexual intimacy are gifts given to us by God. These things are worshipful and bring glory to Him when enjoyed within the boundaries He created them to exist. But like anything else in life, when we take these things outside the context God intends them to be enjoyed they can have devastating effects. From the very first line of the book we find the woman drawn to Solomon in a physical attraction. And while physical attraction is a good place to start- you should be attracted to your spouse or the person you're dating, but that can't be all a relationship is built on. Look what she says next:

**3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you!**

**The perfume she is describing is his character (his name).** Name is always associated with character. Guys, godly women are attracted to your godly character. When your hair falls out and your abs melt away, your character is what your wife will always be attracted to! Work hard to develop a character that reflects the nature of God.

- **Homework assignment #2: Wives, find a way this week to tell your husband something you really admire about his character!**

#### **4 Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.**

She is inviting him to pursue her as they begin their relationship. Guys aren't always that smart and we need help to know when and how we should move forward with some things in a relationship. She is giving him a green light and saying, "It would be great if you draw me in to your presence." And there seems to be an urgency about it in her heart. In verse 3 she said "no wonder the young women love you!" She recognized there was competition for Solomon's affection, so she is urging him to pursue her.

#### **Friends**

**We rejoice and delight in you ; we will praise your love more than wine. How right they are to adore you!**

The Shulammitte woman's friends approve of the relationship. They see someone who is going to treat their friend as a prize and take care of her. Guys, this is something you need to know if you're not married yet: you will be inspected by the friends of the woman you date! She will talk to them about you and they will be giving their opinions and feedback. If you want the girl, you need to build some relational bridges with her friends!

#### **She**

**5 Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon.**

**6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard (body) I had to neglect.**

In our culture a good tan and dark skin is desired. But at this point in history being darkened by the sun showed that you were of low status and had to work hard.

She faced the same issue many women face: she didn't like her body image- she has a battle with insecurity. She doesn't see herself as beautiful. Is this true? NO! She was beautiful enough to attract the attention of the King! But it's how she feels.

- **Homework assignment #3: Ladies, bring your insecurities into the light and tell your husbands where you struggle. Guys, do NOT try to fix anything! Listen and be understanding, then find ways you can be encouraging and supportive of your wife.**
- We are going to see how Solomon handles this in a minute.

**7 Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?**

The Shulammitte is essentially looking for a commitment to Solomon's presence. She wants to be near him! Solomon is the shepherd of the nation and he works hard all day at a job that keeps him occupied and can act as a distraction from their growing love affair. This may be the equivalent of her asking, "When's your lunch break so we can find time to be together?"

Don't let life get so busy that you forget to spend quality time with one another! So, her friends give her some advice:

**Friends**

**8 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.**

Her friends know how she feels about herself and the struggles she has with her image, so they encourage her- "you're beautiful! Go find your man!"

When Solomon sees her look how he responds:

**He**

**9 I liken you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariot horses.**

First, don't tell your wife she looks like a horse! That's not what he is doing! Solomon had 12,000 horses and 1,400 chariots. Pharaoh's horses were always white Arabians. Among the other horses in the field or the stables, they stood out, they were unique. Solomon is telling her that he sees her and she is magnificent! She isn't like anyone else in his eyes. The other thing going on in this verse is that you didn't pull chariots with a mare, you used stallions for that. Historically there are accounts of the enemies of Egypt letting mares in heat loose in a battle that would distract the stallions pulling Pharaoh's chariots! The battle couldn't continue until the mare was killed! Solomon is basically telling her that the beauty she possesses drives him wild! That's better, right ladies!?

Solomon continues...

**10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings, your neck with strings of jewels.  
11 We will make you earrings of gold, studded with silver.**

She dressed up for the lunch date! She put on earrings and a nice necklace and took time to make herself appealing to Solomon when she showed up at his work place to take him to lunch.

Our culture has gotten more and more casual- which I like a lot, actually! But there is something to be said about putting on your nicer clothes and looking your best. That doesn't mean you have to look like you're going to the prom when you

spend special time together, but it also means you shouldn't always be in your workout clothes or big baggy sweats. Men tend to be more visually stimulated than women, so ladies find time to get the extra mile and occasionally get a little more dressed up for a date night.

Guys, the same applies to us. Women may not be as visually stimulated as we are, but they want us to look good! Don't be slouches, especially in public. Put in extra effort to show your wife you want to look good for her.

Now they are sitting at lunch and we get to peak into the mind of the Shulammitte woman.

**She**

**12 While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.**

**13 My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.**

**14 My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyards of En Gedi.**

Not only was she dressed nicely for the lunch, but she was also wearing perfume. This would have been an aromatic gum that grows from the bark of a tree. In its liquid form it was carried in a small bottle, like perfume. It was mixed with a bit of fat to take on a solid form and it was worn in a little pouch as a necklace. The heat from her body would slowly melt it, releasing its fragrance and it left a sweet smell on her chest.

She says, Solomon is like a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.

Remember, they are dating, so she isn't being literal. But the message she is conveying is that she wants this relationship to linger and she is excited about future intimacy. She's hoping for a long lunch to keep spending time together.

She also says he is a cluster of henna blossoms from the vineyard of En Gedi.

Surrounding the En Gedi region is a landscape that is desolate, but the En Gedi is beautiful. The henna blossom was a white flower with a blue-black berry and a sweet fragrance that lingered in the air. She is basically sitting at the lunch table thinking, "You're my oasis in the desert! You are a refreshing presence to me."

Guys, that's what we should strive to be for our wives. They face all kinds of pressure in the world, but around us they should feel invigorated, refreshed and full of life!

The end of the date...

**He**

**15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.**

**She**

**16 How handsome you are, my beloved! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant. (green)**

**He**

**17 The beams of our house are cedars; our rafters are firs.**

Their love may be exclusive at this point, but they are still being wise about where and how they spend time together. If you're in a dating relationship or you hope to be in the future, let me encourage you to find ways to be private publicly. Too many couples end up going too far too fast because of where, when and how they spend time together in their dating relationship. Your love can be exclusive without it being physically intimate before marriage. We will talk more about this next week.

He reassures her of the beauty he sees in her and tells her that she is filled with peace and innocence (your eyes are doves). She replies in kind by telling him that he is handsome and charming. She's had a good time on the date! It's one to remember!

- **Homework #4- In the next couple weeks try to recreate a special date you shared before you were married.**

#### Life Group Discussion Questions

Read Song of Solomon 1 together as a group. Have men read the "he" parts, women read the "she" parts and read the "friends" parts altogether.