

A Marriage that Deepens Song of Solomon 6-7

CONTEXT: So far you have seen this couple during: Their **courtship**, Their **wedding**, Their **honeymoon**, Their first **Conflict**, Now, the next to chapters occur on into their marriage. We don't know how far, it could be months, years or even decades.

In Chapter 6:13 through 7 Solomon and the Shulamite have been married for some time. I want you to notice how their marriage is deepening. At this stage in their marriage, the shulamite has incredible security and freedom and Solomon has the sort of confidence that only a godly wife can bring.

One of the things we notice is that their love or desire for each other didn't fade over time, but it deepens and grows. It's more enjoyable, more life giving.

Intimacy apart from a committed marriage tends to progress differently.

- Let me show you sometime peculiar about sin - In 2 Samuel 13:15 a young man named **Amnon** developed an insatiable lust for a young lady named Tamar. It was ungodly and wrong in every imaginable way. But ultimately, he got what he wanted.

The text tells us that after he took Tamar, "his hatred of her was even greater than his former desire for her" (2 Sam 13:15).

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 9:17–18 (ESV) the words of the Adulterer.

¹⁷ "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." ¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

ILLUSTRATION: I've met young men who couldn't keep their hands off of a young lady. They pushed the limits, they crossed the lines, they violate the warnings of God. Then one day they marry that young lady and suddenly loose all desire for her. Why is that? They have acquired a taste for the taboo, the unsanctioned. Previously, the young lady was off limits... but now God says, "She's yours, as a matter of fact I command you to love and pursue her intimately", but what happens... he doesn't want her anymore because she's not **STOLEN WATER**.

That's not how God meant for it to be... what is presented here is God's plan. It's not free from conflict, it's not free from trouble, but there is a very real sense in which a marriage built on truth grows stronger and more life giving over the decades.

TEXT: Song of Solomon 6:1–10 (ESV) Verse one begins with a the chorus of the Shulamite's friends. ¹ Where has your beloved gone, O most beautiful among women? Where has your beloved turned, that we may seek him with you?

NOTE: That she is beginning to *leave* the close camaraderie with her girlfriends as she cleaves more and more to a friendship and love relationship with Solomon.

Remember this is NOT to do this in the dating stage...Friends and family are to surround the couple.

ILLUSTRATION: Recently, Cole went out with a young lady and just before they left the house she realized that Caitlyn didn't have plans... so she asked him if he wanted to take her with them. He was like, "no"... but that was amazing that she was thinking that way. Don't run from family and friends, if someone tries to pull you away from people who know and love you, it's a bad sign.

But in **marriage** it is very important that you **LEAVE** and **CLEAVE**. That is you begin to pull away from previous intimate friendships that you may more intentionally develop a relationship with your husband or wife.

**One of the keys to enduring romance is knowing what to say,
"NO" to in order to say, "YES" to your mate.**

- In OT Israel a newly married man was **exempt from military service** for the first year of marriage so the couple could focus on each other.
- The idea of a **honeymoon** is derived from the Scandinavian practice of drinking mead, or fermented honey, during the first month of the marriage (measured by one moon cycle) in order to improve the likelihood of conception. And I imagine it worked!

YOU MUST SAY NO TO THE GOOD TO SAY YES TO THE BEST.

You may need to say NO to your career for a season.
 You may need to say NO to your friends for from time to time
 You may need to say NO to hobbies
 You may need to say NO to video games
 You may need to say NO to fishing from time to time

NO - is not a four letter word.

People who have a great life simply learned to say, "no" to the good so they could say, "Yes" to the best.

There is a sense in which your life is measure by the things you decide to say NO to.

- You say NO to the world so that you can say YES to the Lord.
- You say NO to immorality so that you can say YES to a fulfilling marriage.
- You say NO to partying so that you can say YES to successful career.

² My beloved has gone down to his garden to the beds of spices, to graze in the gardens and to gather lilies. ³ I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies. ⁴ You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. ⁵ Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me—

SEVEN times in the Song of Solomon, the groom mentions the powerful effects of looking into his wife's eyes.

SOMETHING POWERFUL HAPPENS WHEN YOU LOOK DEEPLY INTO A PERSON'S EYES:

ILLUSTRATION: In a [study](#) published in the journal Environment and Behavior, researchers at Cornell University manipulated the gaze of the cartoon rabbit on Trix cereal boxes and found that adult subjects were more likely to choose Trix over competing brands if the rabbit was looking at them rather than away.

Think about it - Quaker Oats, the former Aunt Jamayma syrup, Uncle Ben Rice, Chef Boyardee, Cap'n Crunch, even the Gerber Baby have a character looking at us.

"Making eye contact even with a character on a cereal box inspires powerful feelings of connection," said **Brian Wansink**, a professor at Cornell's Dyson School of Applied Economics

Researchers have also found that children and adults who avoid or are denied eye contact are more likely to suffer from **depression** and feelings of **isolation** as well as exhibit antisocial traits such as callousness.

Even the brains of legally blind people have been shown to light up when someone looks them in the eye. It's a sort of primal awareness and why you sometimes feel someone is looking at you before you turn and see them.

IT SEEMS WHEN WE MAKE EYE CONTACT OUR BRAINS FIRE ON ALL CYLINDERS.

Many times in a wedding ceremony I will have the couple to gaze into each others eyes... It's a powerful and moving experience.

When is the last time you gazed into the eyes of your spouse without distraction? One your next date night with your spouse.. look them in the eye for 10 seconds.

The Eyes are the Windows to the Soul - it's a powerful thing to look into another person's soul.

Now Notice how the Wife is Visually Generous and the Husband is Verbally Generous...

Song of Solomon 7

¹ How beautiful are your feet in sandals.

He notices her feet in sandals - on the honeymoon he started with her eyes and worked down, but now their marriage has deepened, he starts with her feet and work up.

1b. O noble daughter!

That phrase literally means *princess*.

Earlier he called her lovely and beautiful... but now his opinion of her is one of nobility. She is lovely, but more than lovely she is regal.

ILLUSTRATION: When men want to show affection to each other, they demean each other. Happy birthday you big old dummy.

Now that doesn't work with ladies. You have to be verbally generous.

1c. Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand.

That is to say - they are finely crafted. She has a good form.

² Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies.-

To the Jew there were two great crop that received the early and late rains.

- The spring crop was grapes and fruits.
- The autumn crop was wheat.

To the Jew the sign of God's blessing and faithfulness was the fact that he sent the early and late rains and gave them plentiful wine and wheat. When God was displeased with Israel he closed the heaven's and they didn't prosper. Solomon recognizes his wife as a sign of God's blessing and favor.

Proverbs 19:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)

²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.

I know God loves me because God gave me **Jesus** and God gave me **Julie**.

³ Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.

Where did he use that phrase before? On his honeymoon. Don't stop saying the things you said to her on the honeymoon.

MEN - What is visually exciting to you, is verbally exciting for her. You want her to be visually generous - you must be verbally generous.

⁴ Your neck is like an ivory tower.

At the honeymoon he said, "your neck is like a tower of David" Now he says, "Your neck is like an ivory tower".

So it seems he has adorned her neck with jewelry. Men, jewelry may seem impractical but never overlook the way it makes a woman feel valued.

Your eyes are pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim.

Back to her eyes...

There are two pools outside the gate of the city of Heshbon, it was there that you would go to get away from the chaos of the city. It was like a sauna, a place where you relax, where you take a mini-vacation, recharge your tank. Solomon is telling his wife that her eyes are like that.

Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon, which looks toward Damascus.

The towers of Lebanon were a key part of Israel's national defense against Syria. They knew they were safe so long as those towers stood watching for the enemy. Solomon says your countenance gives me great peace and security.

Proverbs 31:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ¹² She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

ILLUSTRATION: I'll never forget one semester my wife was teaching a ladies bible study and about half way through the study she made a rule that said, "**No demeaning of your husband**" and the conversation was practically over. Half the ladies in the class didn't know anything else to talk about.

Proverbs 14:1 (ESV)

¹ The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.

LISTEN: I've been married 20 years and not one time in 20 years has my wife said

something mean to intentionally hurt me. She hasn't done it privately and I have every confidence that she hasn't done it publicly. I'm so secure with her.

⁵ Your head crowns you like Carmel.

When you take a trip to Israel, the first place they take you after you touch down in Tel Aviv is to Carmel. This is where Elijah called fire down from heaven, you look off of Carmel and you see the valley of Har-Magedon. Carmel is the perfect perspective to take in the beauty of Israel. If you go to my office, there you will see a panorama taken from Carmel.

Carmel is a crown on the nation of Israel. Solomon says your head crowns you the way Carmel crowns Israel.

Proverbs 12:4 (ESV)

⁴ An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,...not his job, not his car, not his clothes... his wife. Brothers, you need to set a HIGH value on your wife, she is your crown.

A man's wife is his greatest resume.

BTW, before you hire a man get to know his wife if possible.
She is his greatest resume.

5b. and your flowing locks are like purple; a king is held captive in the tresses.

He is saying, I couldn't leave you if I wanted to. I'm captivated.

- This is not the guy that flirts with other women.
- This is not the guy that has an online girlfriend.
- This is not the guy that send provocative texts to girls at work.

This guy sees himself as a slave to queen.

LISTEN: He says all of that before he touches her. But in verse 6 things get physical. Do you see his verbal generosity?

⁶ How beautiful and pleasant you are, O loved one, with all your delights! ⁷ Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. ⁸ I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its fruit.

That means what it says. There's no deep Hebrew meaning.

Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples, ⁹ and your mouth like the best wine. It goes down smoothly for my beloved, gliding over lips and teeth.

He mentions - dates, grapes, apples, wine - he sees their intimate relationship as something that nourishes and fills him.

Song of Solomon 7:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me.

Shaunti Feldhan – For Women Only, to help Christian women understand their husbands. Chapter 6, **The Keeper of the Visual Rolodex** – Here are the basic ideas of that chapter.

- **Virtually all men are visual**, with the exception of dead men. 25% of women are visual. If you are a visual woman you will have an easier time of understanding your man. Some are Highly visual others minimally visually.
- **A man cannot help but notice a beautiful woman**, but it doesn't mean he prefers her to his wife. – There's a truck, there's a hot gal. That's how it is.
- **Men's minds involuntarily file snapshots of beautiful women** and the rolodex is filled with images that stretch all the way back to boyhood and show up without warning. What he does with that file determines whether or not he is acting in a sinful way. Warning against pornography.
- **This has always been true, however - Our world assault's men with images of beautiful women.** He doesn't have to work hard at this.
- **Men derive some degree of pleasure simply by observing a beautiful woman.** – There are chemical releases in brain that men can get addicted to like any other drug.
- **This does not make him weird**, it makes him a guy. Women think, "He's different from me, there must be something wrong with him" NO – he's dif. God made them Male and Female.
- **There is a difference between temptation and sin** – wow, WOW.

Culture expects men to understand, empathize with women, but remember it works both ways. Learn, ask questions respectfully. You sicko pervert... Be sympathetic and talk opening about struggles and temptations.

- **WIFE YOU ARE TO serve your husband by FILLING His VISUAL ROLODEX.**
- **HUSBAND, you are to serve your wife by filling her VERBAL TANK.**

INVITATION/CONCLUSION - Remarks on Jeremiah 13