

The Song of Solomon 1:1-4

The Eros of the Gospel

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Our good and God-given cravings for human intimacy are ultimately meant to point to and be satisfied in Jesus, the Bridegroom who is worthy of our desires.
2. **Melodic Line of the Book:** God is love and The Song of Solomon sings of that love, revealed in human marriage, a gloriously-intimate bond between God and His people.

KEY WORDS

1. **Solomon (*š^elomoh*) v. 1** – author of the poem; the king of Israel, 162 occurrences in the OT (109 times in 1 and 2 Kings alone); the son of David and Bathsheba, born in Jerusalem;
2. **Love (noun) (*doḏ*) vv. 2, 4a** – beloved one, lover; a term of endearment ranging from friendship and familial affection to romantic love.
3. **Love (verb) (*‘āhab*) vv. 3, 4b** – to love, like, be a friend; love can refer to friendship, familial love, romantic love, or covenant loyalty.
4. **Name (*šēm*) v. 3** – name, a proper designation of a person, place, or thing; by extension: renown, fame, character; “to call on the name of the LORD” means to proclaim or praise the excellence of Yahweh, to worship Yahweh, or to summon Yahweh by name for help.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. Introduction to the Book
 - A. The Song of Solomon is a poem.
 - B. The Song of Solomon is about marriage.
 - C. The Song of Solomon is about temporal human marriage AND it is about eternal divine marriage.
 - D. The Song of Solomon is for everyone, not just those that are married.
 - E. The Song of Solomon is designed to grace us with practical wisdom.
- II. The Text
 - A. Title and Author (v. 1)
 - B. Kiss Me! (vv. 2-3)
 1. The bride's voice starts things off.
 2. Three reasons for her osculatory desires.
 3. The bride's conclusion: she wants her man.
 4. A final word on kissing.
 - C. Choral Response (v. 4)
- III. Conclusion: Craving Love for God

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Human marriage is a pointer to divine marriage. Look along this poem to the ultimate Bridegroom of our soul, whose union and intimacy mean the most and which is designed for eternity – Jesus.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- Spend some time discussing how your heart is responding to the events of this past week.
- What past experiences or attitudes have kept you from seeing God as the lover of your soul? Or colored your view of a biblical marriage?
- Do you love God with a craving love? Are you besotted with God? Do you love him as a lover of your soul?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God that he has sent the ultimate Bridegroom, Jesus, the lover our soul.
- Ask that God would us his Word to purify you of cynicism toward marriage, to protect you from trying to find sexual intimacy outside of marriage, to enable you to joyfully love the ideals of this book without experiencing shame, and **ULTIMATELY**, to crave Jesus.
- Ask the Lord that every time you experience a longing for intimacy, sexual or otherwise, that He would direct that longing to Christ.
- Pray for all those affected by the events of this past week: for comfort, justice, and peace.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community that have not put their trust in Jesus, that God would open their hearts to His love.