



SONG OF SONGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body

GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR SEX AND MARRIAGE

Read the Text

Song of Songs 7:1-13

¹ How beautiful are your feet in sandals,
O noble daughter!

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

² Your navel is a rounded bowl
that never lacks mixed wine.

Your belly is a heap of wheat,
encircled with lilies.

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

⁴ Your neck is like an ivory tower.

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

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

⁵ Your head crowns you like Carmel,
and your flowing locks are like purple;
a king is held captive in the tresses.

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.

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.

Main Point

In this passage, we see the couple further admire the beauty and design of one another's bodies. This is a reminder that part of God's purpose for our bodies is to compel us towards marriage and sex. As we've discussed before, however, this God-designed purpose gets hijacked and distorted by culture. Our culture tries to divide our bodies from God's design. Instead of compelling us towards monogamous marriage, culture tries to tell us that we get to choose how we treat our body and what we do with it. This division of God's design from what we do with our bodies leads to many ramifications such as sexual sin and gender confusion. It leads us to a place of ignoring God's good boundaries and good design and to instead give in to every whim, temptation, and urge. But ***the Biblical truth is that God's original design for sex and marriage was intended for one man and one woman, matching together perfectly in physical intimacy, spiritual equality, and complementary roles and responsibilities.***

Sadly, most of the world doesn't subscribe to the Biblical vision of marriage and sex. Instead of trusting in God's word, most people follow the worldview on sex which is that we can do whatever we want with whomever we want. No matter how much someone chases after their sexual desires though, fulfillment will never come. The aching desire to belong, to be fulfilled, to achieve satisfaction will never be attained outside of God's will. But, ***there is hope in the fact that Jesus longs to solve the deep ache we try to solve ourselves.*** Through Him, we are offered redemption, restoration, and forgiveness.

So what do we as Christians do as we live in this fallen world that

has totally unbiblical views on sex and marriage? ***We need to be grounded in Jesus and His Word and what it says about our body and soul; we need to serve and be in relationship with those who aren't; and we need to love our neighbors as ourselves no matter the cost.*** Jesus acknowledges that we are not of this world. But He still calls us to be in it and to make disciples. We need to resist the temptation to hide and disassociate out of fear and instead engage the world out of our rootedness in Jesus.

Reflect Together

1. The cultural worldview of sex and gender is everywhere! We are inundated all over the place about how our bodies are divided from our identities and how pretty much anything goes in terms of gender identity and sex. **Are there any areas in which you find yourself more influenced by culture than you'd like to be?** Maybe it's your view on gender identity or pornography or sex outside of monogamous heterosexual marriage, etc? What Biblical reminders do you need to bring you back to truth? How can your community speak into this to remind you of who God is and how He has designed us?
2. How do you feel about the call to engage those who either struggle with gender identity or who just fully subscribe to the cultural worldview on gender and sex? **How can you engage in this conversation with unbelievers in a winsome and loving way about God's design for sex and our bodies?** See if anyone in your group has a story where they've tried this.
3. **Where have you experienced Jesus' healing and bringing you back to the truth of how He has designed your body and sexuality?** Is there anything from this series that has stood out to you and redeemed and restored something that needed healing?