



SONG OF SONGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body

THE TWO SEX PATHS

Read the Text

Song of Songs 3:1-5:1

¹ On my bed by night

I sought him whom my soul loves;
I sought him, but found him not.

² I will rise now and go about the city,
in the streets and in the squares;
I will seek him whom my soul loves.
I sought him, but found him not.

³ The watchmen found me
as they went about in the city.

“Have you seen him whom my soul loves?”

⁴ Scarcely had I passed them
when I found him whom my soul loves.
I held him, and would not let him go
until I had brought him into my mother's house,
and into the chamber of her who conceived me.

⁵ I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the does of the field,
that you not stir up or awaken love
until it pleases.

Main Point

We live in a confusing time where culture worships sex and the Church (frequently) ignores it. The Bible talks about sex and sexuality though, so we *need* to talk about it so we can learn God's perspective and live it out and allow it to drown out the lies

that the world tells us about sex. So what can we do to pursue God's glorious path instead of the dangerous and hollow path of the world?

As we observe this couple, we see the loving and holy pursuit they have for one another. ***Whereas the world would tell us to "peacock" where we focus on impressing whoever we're interested in with our image and status, holy pursuit means going after our spouse with our whole being, body, and mind.***

Song of Songs is wisdom literature, meaning we can look to it for instruction on how to go through life with godliness and righteousness. With the woman's appeal to community and her mother's house for guidance and affirmation, we are reminded of the importance in following wisdom over following our hearts. Bringing her beloved to her mother's house implies the mother's approval of him, and the woman's appeals to the community of sisters shows that she did not choose her husband in isolation. Likewise, ***we need to draw on wise counsel of our community as we make big life decisions so that we can check our blind spots and seek helpful feedback and support.***

In this passage, we see the woman seek out her beloved in the streets and then take the man to the safety of her mother's house. The streets were dark and dangerous, but the safety of her home of upbringing provided a safe environment where they can enjoy one another freely. ***The hollow path of the world treats sex as something that can be consumed anytime, anywhere; but the Godly path reserves it as a special and sacred gift to be enjoyed in the context of marriage between a man and a woman.***

The faithful pursuit of this couple towards one another shows the beauty of the loyal devotion of a husband and wife towards each other. If we are married, we get to experience this as well! ***When we rejoice in our spouse and our devotion is towards them,***

we get to experience one of the most generous and indulgent gifts that God has ever given us to enjoy here on earth.

Reflect Together

This is a good week to separate into gender specific groups.

1. Generally speaking, the Church does not talk a lot about sex. Conversely, culture does talk A LOT about sex and perverts, distorts, and cheapens it. **What have been the shaping voices in your life that have taught you what sex is and how to think of it? How do you want to grow in a Biblically minded perspective?**
2. We talked about 5 different paths that can lead to glory or hollowness. They were pursuit vs. peacocking; following wisdom vs. following “your heart”; seeking godly safety vs. the streets of common culture; being a one woman man vs. one man for every woman; and rejoicing in the spouse of your youth vs. trying to find an out of your current marriage. **Which of these paths are you most prone to wandering down the path of hollowness? Why is that, and what needs to change in your life to bring you closer to the path of glory?**
3. We have covered a lot of ground so far in this series: anticipation of sex and marriage, how relationships change us, tackling conflict in relationships, and pursuing intimacy in marriage. **Is there anything specific you’ve been grappling with that you’d like to talk about in community? What is new to you? What are you growing in? What are you struggling with?**

We’re halfway through this series! It’s normal for topics like these to stir up shame, guilt, conflict, and confusion. If you need to process anything beyond your MC and DNA, remember that we have a gospel care team at Doxa that would love to talk to you. Visit <http://www.doxa-church.com/gospel-care> to fill out a form to get paired with one of our gospel care servants.