



SONG OF SONGS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Biblical Vision for Marriage, Sex, and the Body

THE GREATEST THING EVER

Read the Text

Song of Songs 1:1

¹ The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Main Point

This week marked the first of our 11-week Song of Songs series. This book gives us a Biblical lens on what God says about marriage, sex, sexuality, and identity. We need this lens because the world is pulling us further and further away from it. ***Our culture tries to detach us from our bodies so that we can find our “true selves”.*** This is called a fact/value split where facts (ex. our gender) become detached from our feelings (ex. identifying ourselves as being the opposite gender). So the fact that our bodies were created as one sex becomes detached with how we identify as a gender. But ***Jesus comes to attach and integrate our souls and bodies because we are made in His image.*** We

are not two separate entities of body and spirit. Rather, we are one integrated spirit made in the image of God. Our body effects our soul and our soul effects our bodies. God cares about our bodies. He cares about how He created us – in His image. Our culture has a low view of the body in thinking that we can change, medicate, and surgically manipulate it to align with our own desires. But **God calls us to have a high view of our bodies.** Male and female – we are created in His image. Once we enter into trusting that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we have freedom to view our marriage and sex as providing pleasure, holiness, worship, and identity where it properly belongs.

Reflect Together

- 1. Who is God?** What does it mean that we are made in God's image? Why is that important?
- 2. What has He done?:** God purposely integrated our bodies and souls, and Jesus died for both of those things. Have you considered God's design in integrating body and soul before? Why do you think He did it that way? What does that mean to you?
- 3. Who are you?:** How do you experience your soul and body as being integrated? We talked about how God created us for pleasure, holiness, worship, and identity in Him. Which one of these gifts is easier for you to grasp and experience? Is one of them more challenging to believe?
- 4. What are you to do?:** The body/soul integration of Christianity vs. the body/soul separation of the secular world are very different. How do you want to grow in your ability to approach this conversation with a Biblical lens? As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors. How can you engage in this conversation with non-believers with both truth and love?

Abide Together

This is going to be a very relevant and challenging sermon series, and we need to pray for our Church, the leaders, our people, and

our community as we all go out and live out God's truth. Pray for some of the topics below:

- Protection from spiritual attack
- Protection and flourishing of marriages and redemption for those who are struggling
- Flourishment and protection of hearts for those who are single
- Courage for parents to teach their children the biblical understanding of marriage and sexuality

Mission Together

As Christians, we hold a very different perspective on the relationship between body and soul compared to the culture that surrounds us. At the same time, we are called to love our neighbors and to be the light. How do you want to grow as a group in navigating conversations and relationships with those who are different than you and who hold different beliefs than you?