

Route 66: The Song of Songs
A Celebration of the Joy and Passion of Love

I. Introduction

A. Love Songs

II. Proposition

A. God designed male and female sexuality; therefore it is good; however, God has also designed marriage as the only appropriate place in which the expression of that sexuality take place.

III. Exposition

A. **The sexual longing between a man and a woman is designed by God and, therefore, good (1:1-3:5).**

1. God's design (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18)
2. Since God designed it and it is good, it should be declared (1:1-2:6).
 - a. However, heed the biblical warning (2:7).
3. Since God designed it and it is good, it should be expressed (2:8-3:4).
 - a. Again, however, heed the biblical warning (3:5).
 - b. Note what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

B. **Marriage is the God-ordained and, thus, only appropriate context where male and female sexuality is to be expressed (3:6-8:14).**

1. The wedding day – 3:6-4:15
 - a. Solomon's procession to the wedding – 3:6-11
 - b. Solomon admires the beauty of his bride – 4:1-15
2. The bride longs to express her God-designed sexuality with her groom – 4:16-7:12
 - a. The bride invites her groom to partake of the fruit of "his" garden (4:16b).
 - b. The groom prepares to come to his garden (5:1)
 - c. The bride hears him knock (5:2-5), but he is gone (5:6-7).
 - 1). Perhaps it was a dream?
 - d. The bride longs for her husband (5:8-6:1).
 - 1). She asks for help in finding her beloved (5:8).
 - 2). The crowd asks what he is like (5:9).
 - 3). She is more than happy to respond to their request by describing him (5:10-16).
 - 4). The crowd asks where he has gone (6:1).
3. Preparation: The groom prepares to satisfy his bride's God-designed sexual longings – 6:2-7:10
 - a. Men, we must prepare our wife by getting to her heart before we ever touch her body!
 - b. Also, note how beautiful she is to him – our love for our wife should make her beautiful!
4. Consummation: The groom and bride satisfy one another's God-designed sexual longings – 7:11-8:7
 - a. Doug Wilson, *Reforming Marriage*, says that sexuality is given to the husband and wife for:
 - 1). Procreation, Protection, Pleasure
 - b. "Love and sexuality can be a source of great joy or deep grief and pain" (Garrett, 367).
 - 1). It is a source of great joy when experienced as God designed.
 - 2). It is a source of deep grief and pain when corrupted by sin.

5. The permanence of marital love (8:6-7).
6. The Premarital stage (8:8-12).
 - a. What of my sister? (8:8-9)
 - b. The bride admits she is beautiful in the eyes of her beloved (8:10-12)

IV. Conclusion

A. Some words to singles:

1. The longing you have for someone of the opposite gender is natural and God-given.
2. Heed the biblical warning to not awaken love until it is ready (2:7; 3:5; 8:4).
3. Embrace the biblical picture of 4:12.
 - a. Lloyd Carr suggests, “The image of the garden behind its walls and with the gate *locked* suggests the unapproachableness of the area to all but those who rightfully belong. Metaphorically the ‘garden’ is used as a euphemism for the female sexual organs and here, *a fountain sealed* and *a garden locked* speak of virginity. The couple, while approaching consummation of their love, still have not reached that level of intimacy” (123).
 - b. But what if you have “unlocked” the garden?
 - 1). Confess your sin to God.
 - 2). Receive the forgiveness that comes through Christ.
 - 3). Begin now with a renewed mind and a fresh commitment to Christ and your future spouse.
 - c. Pray for your future spouse that he/she would also embrace the picture of 4:12.
4. Learn about and pursue biblical courtship instead of worldly dating.
 - 1). “Her Hand in Marriage”
 - 2). “I Kissed Dating Goodbye”
 - 3). “Boy Meets Girl”

B. Some words to parents:

1. Do not be afraid to show your affection for your spouse in your home.
 - a. You don’t want to communicate that biblical sexuality is taboo or “nasty.”
2. Be sure to practice modesty at home!
3. Teach your children about biblical sexuality as they are ready, remembering the biblical warning of 2:7!
 - a. Answer their questions as they ask them.
 - 1). In other words, don’t answer more than they ask.
 - b. Teach them about biblical sexuality without putting crass images in their little minds.
 - c. Teach them using biblical language as much as possible.
 - d. Moms talk to daughters and fathers talk to sons.
3. Guard your children’s eyes and hearts.
 - a. Music, Movies, Peers

C. Some words to marrieds

1. Delight in your beloved!
2. Enjoy your God-given sexuality.
3. Satisfy one another’s longings in a biblical manner (Keep the marriage bed undefiled)!

D. What if your marriage is not like this?

1. Address sin in your life!

- a. Repent of any sin that hinders intimacy.
 - b. Confess that sin appropriately.
 - c. Receive forgiveness and grant forgiveness where appropriate.
2. Pray!
 - a. For yourself . . . for your spouse!
 3. Renew your mind with the word of God!
 - a. Sexuality is a good thing created by God!
 - b. Sexuality was intended for pleasure as well.
 4. Talk to your spouse in times of non-conflict in and in non-sexual times.
 - a. You can read together something like, “Intended for Pleasure.”
 5. Men, don’t be pushy! Love your wives as Christ loves the church!
 6. Women, try to say yes within reason! Follow the leadership of your husband.
 7. Take care of yourself physically for your spouse.
 - a. Exercise, dressing well, etc.
- E. God has given us male/female sexuality to better know Him and delight in Him and to point us to the satisfying truth of covenant faithfulness.
1. As we get to know our spouse and delight in our spouse, we reflect the knowledge that God has of us and that we are growing in Him.
 2. Jesus Christ is our bridegroom!
 3. John Piper, *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ, part 1* – “God created human beings in his image—male and female he created them, with capacities for intense sexual pleasure, and with a calling to commitment in marriage and continence in singleness.¹ And his goal in creating human beings with personhood and passion was to make sure that there would be sexual language and sexual images that would point to the promises and the pleasures of God’s relationship to his people and our relationship to him. In other words, the *ultimate* reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable. The language and imagery of sexuality is the most graphic and most powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people—both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not).”

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