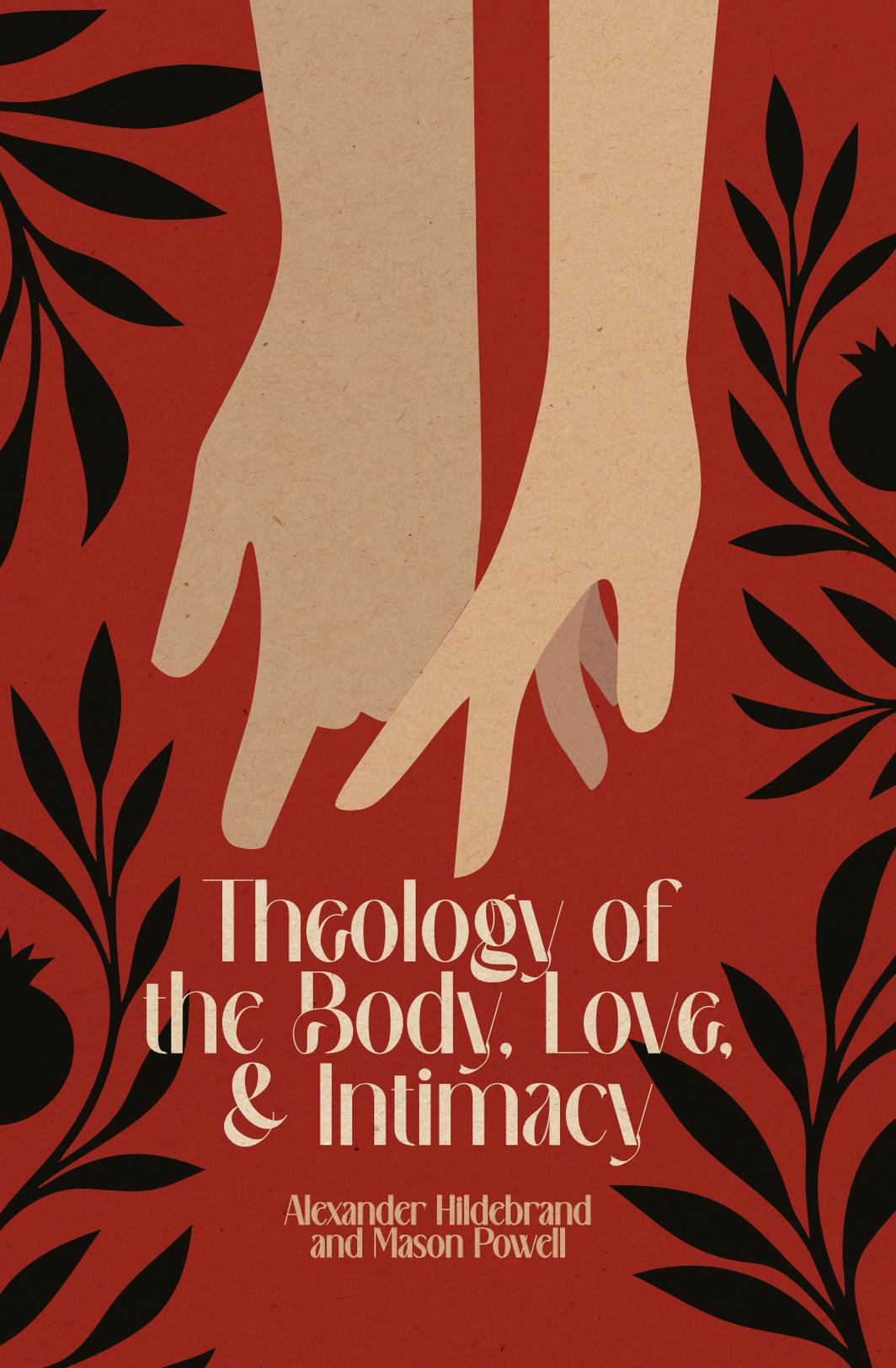


Song of Songs





Theology of
the Body, Love,
& Intimacy

Alexander Hildebrand
and Mason Powell



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WHAT IS THE SONG OF SONGS?

The Song of Songs is a collection of Hebrew love poetry which describes and celebrates the intimate and sexual love between a husband and wife. The phrase “blank of blank” is often used by Hebrew writers to state that the subject is the greatest version of that topic. For instance, “King of Kings” means the greatest of all kings. Likewise, the Bible is claiming that this piece of love poetry is the greatest song to ever be written. That’s a bold claim!

We don’t know exactly who wrote the Song or when it was written. While the Song is often referred to as the “Song of Solomon” due to how its opening verse is translated into English (“The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s”), the original Hebrew is ambiguous. The opening line in Hebrew could be understood as “The Song of Songs written by Solomon,” “The Song of Songs written for Solomon,” or “The Song of Songs written to Solomon.”

King Solomon loved art and loved studying. This poet/scholar king wrote his own wisdom and poetry, but like any good poet or scholar, he engaged with plenty of wisdom and poetry written by others. Solomon was the kind of king who tried to collect and accumulate as much poetry and wisdom as possible, and he certainly had the riches to do so. From philosophy to plant and animal study, human love, and the mysteries of the universe, King Solomon wanted to know about it all. And like many of the Hebrew scholars, he did not want to simply know; he wanted to express his knowledge with great artistry.

We learn from 1 Kings 4 that Solomon’s team of officials included scribes and scholars, meaning that he had a team of people who he could task to write for him. We also know from history that it was common for Hebrew writers to attribute their writings to an individual they were taught or inspired by. This explains how the Song of Songs can belong to or be attributed to Solomon without necessarily being written by Solomon.

Regardless of whether the Song of Songs was written by King Solomon, written by a scribe employed by King Solomon, or written by a future poet inspired by the wisdom and poetry of Solomon, one thing is for certain: the Song of Songs is a fascinating mystery.



THE PERPLEXING NATURE OF THE SONG

The Song of Songs has been a mystery to Jews and Christians for thousands of years. Like Esther, the Song seems to have little mention of God. Like the psalms and much of the prophets, it speaks through poetry, not a straightforward narrative or instruction manual. But unlike any other book of the Bible, the Song's primary focus is on human love, desire, and marital intimacy.

While a love song is nice to have, many Jews and Christians have wondered why the Song is so deeply important that it is considered to be Scripture. Why did God deem this song to be on the same level as books discussing creation, sin, and redemption? Likewise, there has been confusion over how we should understand and apply the Song to our lives today. Is the Song designed to just give us marriage advice? Is the Song meant to be interpreted allegorically? Are there hidden meanings buried under symbolism? Who is the Song even for? Was the Song meant strictly for married couples, or is there something about the Song which edifies every believer, regardless of their stage in life? These questions have brought about two results.

**The Song's primary focus
is on human love, desire,
and marital intimacy.**



The first result is that the Song of Songs is one of the most commented on Scriptures by scholars over the last 2,500 years. There are few portions of the Bible that have been studied, pondered, and meditated on more than the Song of Songs. The Song has been so provoking and layered that it has allured scholars to strive to unlock its mysteries.

Ironically, the second result of the Song's perplexing nature is that many Christians choose to ignore it. It is an unfortunate reality that many Christians today do not read the Song because they do not understand what it means or how it connects to the gospel. The reality in which we live is that one of the most studied portions of the Bible is sadly one of the most overlooked portions of the Bible for the common Christian.

If 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is true, that “All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work,” then that means the Song of Songs was designed for every Christian: the young Christian, the old Christian, the married Christian, the single Christian, the widowed Christian, the divorced Christian, and the celibate Christian. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us that all Scripture is for every Christian, and that we need to engage with all of Scripture in order to be equipped for every good work.

We make a great mistake if we overlook certain sections of Scripture and only engage with a portion of the Word of God.

HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THE SONG?

So, if the Song is so mysterious, how should we read and understand this Scripture? There are three basic principles you must have in order to properly engage with the Song of Songs: we must know the genre, know the subject matter, and know the themes.

First, we need to treat the Song of Songs as its intended genre: love poetry. The Song is a love song! The Song of Songs is not a narrative. This Scripture is not a straightforward story told in chronological order. The Song is not an instruction manual on what to do and what not to do. The Song is love poetry celebrating how God made us as male and female, how God made us as sexual creatures, and how God unifies man and woman in one flesh through the mystery of marital intimacy. What this means is that the Song is designed to be treated first and foremost as a provocative piece of art. The Song is intended to invite you to ponder, imagine, and meditate upon its beautiful artistry.

Second, we need to understand what the Song is about. The Song of Songs is speaking about real physical humans having real physical intimacy. Some people have made the mistake of treating the Song as purely allegorical and trying to find hidden symbolism in every line. This is not how we should think of the Song. We must accept that the Song is talking about human beings in human relationships. The human focus is not a flaw. While some may be frustrated that God is not directly spoken about, this is a feature intended by God Himself. The human focus does not mean that the Song has nothing to do with God or the gospel. Rather, we are



invited to understand God and the gospel in a greater way through the Song's focus on human love. This understanding leads us to the third principle.

In order to properly engage with the Song of Songs: we must know the genre, know the subject matter, and know the themes.



Third, we need to understand how the Bible utilizes themes. Marriage is a theme that the Bible develops in order to give us a greater understanding of our salvation and the relationship we have with Jesus. Marriage is one of the most utilized illustrations by the Bible to describe the relationship that God has with His people. This is why we have the Song of Songs. God designed the human marriage relationship to give us a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church. God designed sexual intimacy as a picture of the oneness we have with Christ in the Kingdom of God. When reading the Song of Songs, we should not dismiss the subject matter or rush to jump to the thematic connection. We need to understand the first meaning in order to understand the deeper thematic meaning.

These three principles should guide us in our study of this Scripture. When we utilize these three principles, we acknowledge that the Song is describing a real physical intimacy between a husband and wife, but we do not leave the application of that Scripture to pure physicality. In engaging the text in this way, we are invited to ponder how the goodness of human marriage describes the goodness of our God's relationship with us.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

This devotional is designed to be used in conjunction with the 2025 Song of Songs sermon series at First Church of Christ in Altoona, PA. Each week contains three devotionals for you to read in between sermons. These three devotionals are designed to guide you in reading and meditating on the Song of Songs (and other connected Scriptures). It is best to carve out three intentional blocks during your week so that you can engage in the reading of God's Word and prayer.

If you are reading this devotional after October of 2025, you should be able to find the sermons for this series on First Church's website and YouTube channel.

God's Word never returns void! Even if it may seem confusing, or you have trouble seeing the connection between the marriage relationship and the Church's relationship with Christ, we urge you to continue to dwell on the Scriptures and ponder their mysteries. It is these mysteries which are revealed in Christ, and in hearing the Word of the Lord, we have the opportunity to grow in our understanding of Jesus and His mission of restoration.

So take this devotional as an opportunity to intentionally spend time in prayer and study, knowing confidently that God will work in you through His Word.



**Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes
that are ruining the vineyards, while
our vineyards are in blossom.**

– Song of Songs 2:15





KEY SCRIPTURES CONNECTED TO THE SONG OF SONGS

Genesis 1-3

Formation of marriage and intimacy / joyful and safe garden imagery / distortion of love in the fall

Exodus 19-24, Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 6-7

God forms a marriage covenant with His people

Ruth

A love story which leads to redemption and fruitfulness

Ezekiel 16, Hosea 1-3

Israel's covenant faithlessness

1 Corinthians 6, 2 Corinthians 6, Ephesians 5

The connection between sexual intimacy and our union with God

Revelation 19 & 21

The marriage of Christ and the Church

We make a great mistake if we overlook certain sections of Scripture and only engage with a portion of the Word of God.



A Symbol of Our Union with Christ



God created the marriage relationship between a man and a woman to be a symbol pointing to the union which we will experience with Christ. From the very beginning, the marriage of Adam and Eve pointed to the marriage of the Lamb and the Church. There is a purpose and design in every facet of the marriage relationship: from our maleness and femaleness to the act of sexual intimacy. All of it points to the ultimate love which is found in Jesus.



MALE AND FEMALE THEY WERE MADE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read: Genesis 1:26-2:3, Song of Songs 1:12-2:2

Dwelling Point:

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1 makes it a point to communicate to us that our maleness and femaleness is no accident. What it means to be male or female is linked to God’s initial design for human beings. Not only is our gender intentionally designed by God, but our gender is connected to the concept of being made in God’s image and fulfilling our purpose as human beings.

The man and the woman are both equally made in God’s image. The man and the woman are both equally given the responsibility of ruling over and caring for the creation which God had made. It is not until God made man and woman that creation is considered to be complete. It is not until God made man and woman that creation is called “very good.” It is not until God made man and woman that the days of creation are concluded and God rests from His work. This equality between man and woman does not mean that there are no differences between the man and woman; far from it! Rather, the text is communicating to us that the differences between the man and the woman are a blessing through which the human beings can fulfill their calling.

The Bible says that God blessed the man and the woman. This blessing includes the call to be fruitful and multiply and the call to rule over and care for God’s creation. What is important to note is that these callings would be impossible to fulfill if the man or woman were to attempt them alone. The only way in which the human beings could multiply and subdue the earth is to come together! It is only through the union of male and female that multiplication and dominion occur. The man could not possibly multiply himself, and neither could the woman.

The similarities between the man and the woman are God's intentional design. The differences between the man and the woman are God's intentional design. If the man and the woman were too similar, they would not be able to come together in a complimentary way – they would not have something different to offer the other. Likewise, if the man and woman were too different from one another, they would not be able to unify at all.

It is only through the unification of both the man and woman's similarities and differences that their blessing is realized. The Song of Songs speaks of the union between a man and a woman as utterly beautiful and joyful. The Song points back to God's initial design and blessing. May we recognize that our maleness or femaleness is a good thing designed by God to bring about blessing!

Look to Christ:

Apart from Christ we can do nothing.

Christ is both like us in that He is fully human, but He is different than us in that He is fully God. Just as someone of the opposite sex shares similarities with you in being human, but has many differences due to their sex, Christ reveals Himself to us in this "same, but different" way.

The Scriptures communicate to us that we cannot fulfill God's purpose for us apart from Christ Jesus. If we want to know what it means to image God, and if we want to experience His blessing, we must be unified with Christ. The beautiful mystery of a man and woman coming together actually points to our need to be unified to Christ! Just as a man and woman's similarities and differences work together in a perfect way to enable compatibility, Christ's humanity and divinity work together to give us precisely what we need in a Savior.

**The Scriptures
communicate to us that
we cannot fulfill God's
purpose for us apart
from Christ Jesus.**



Closing Prayer

Jesus – As the Word which brought forth all of creation, you had intention in making us male and female. May we see the purpose and beauty which you have imbued in our gender. Reveal to us the goodness in men and women, and may we see all people as beings made in the image of God. Amen.

THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Genesis 2:18-25, Song of Songs 4:16-5:1

Dwelling Point:

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2 provides a deeper look into how God made human beings male and female. Instead of creating two separate and independent creatures, God initially creates one single being. God creates the man out of the dust, but there is a problem. The man is alone. He has no one else who is like him. God declares this isolation to be “not good,” a quality that stands in great contrast to the rest of His good creation.

Instead of making a second human out of the dust, God causes the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man sleeps, God takes his side, and from it, forms the woman. What a mystery! The man is healed from God’s “surgery,” and the woman is made into a full human being. Both the man and the woman are their own independent beings, yet they are two halves of the same source. The man looks at the woman and recognizes an intimate connection with her saying, “this is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.”

This story is designed to be the foundation for the biblical understanding of marriage. The man and the woman are the same flesh and blood, yet they are wholly unique and independent beings. Yet the man and woman are designed in such a way that they are able to “re-unify” and become one flesh again. The side (or “rib” depending on your English translation) that was taken from the man is able to return and become one with the man again.

Look to Christ:

God's splitting of the man into two beings is a mystery. And God's unification of the man and woman in marriage, a unification that makes them "one flesh," is a mystery. Yet these mysteries serve such a profound purpose. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul comments on this passage from Genesis, connecting it to the relationship between Christ and the Church. "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

Just as a man and woman in marriage experience a mysterious union unlike any other, we know that we will be unified with Christ completely and totally. The intimacy between a husband and a wife is designed to point to the union between Christ and His Church, for our destiny is to belong body and soul to Jesus.

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

God's unification of the man and woman in marriage, a unification that makes them "one flesh," is a mystery. Yet these mysteries serve such a profound purpose.



Closing Prayer

Jesus –May I recognize that the longing within my heart cannot be satisfied by anything other than you. May I recognize that you made me as a complete and whole being, and that it is sin which makes me experience insecurity and incompleteness. When faced with my own sinful brokenness, may I not try to fill a void with the things of this earth. May Your Spirit keep me from using other people in an attempt to heal what only you can.

Instead, may I day by day, with hopeful anticipation, look to the day when I am unified with you again. Amen.

NAKED AND UNASHAMED

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Genesis 1:31,2:25-3:13, Song of Songs 7:1-9

Dwelling Point:

“And the man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.”

In a perfect world, where there were no threats, no dangers, no insecurities, the husband and wife were naked without shame. The husband and wife’s nakedness speaks to their vulnerability, purity, and intimacy. It is only after the husband and wife bring sin into the world that they feel shame about their nakedness.

Before there was any sin, the man and woman were able to experience deep unity with God and deep unity with one another. There was nothing to hide, nor was there anything which needed protecting. But what happens after the man and woman sin? They separate from God. They try to hide from Him. They cover themselves up and keep themselves away from one another. The husband and wife turn against each other and cast blame on one another.

The picture of being “one flesh” in Genesis 2 is tarnished in Genesis 3. No longer are the man and woman perfectly and intimately united with God and no longer are they perfectly and intimately united with one another. Where there was once freedom and innocence, now there is anxiety, fear, and shame.

Yet the Song of Songs reminds us that even in the midst of our broken and sinful world, the marriage relationship still gives us a glimpse of that intimate, free, and safe intimacy which human beings were designed to have from the beginning. Within the marriage relationship, the husband and wife should love one another in such a way that the other knows they are safe. The husband and wife should love one another, and be willing to give of themselves, to make their spouse know they are secure, loved, and pure. There is a freedom within the marriage relationship that points to our need to be free from sin and its chains of shame and fear.

Look to Christ:

"This is my body, this is my blood."

Jesus freely offered his entire body for us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was a complete and total sacrifice. Jesus kept nothing to Himself; He offered everything.

The gift of the Lord's Supper is a reminder weekly that Christ has given Himself to us. Jesus held nothing back; He kept nothing private. And it is only because of this gift that we can be free from shame ourselves.

Jesus' nakedness on the cross brought about our freedom. The shame Jesus bore on the cross brought about our peace and security.

As we look toward the new creation, as we long for the new heavens and the new earth, we look forward to the day where there is no more shame, no more insecurity, no more hidden sin. We look forward to the day where we experience unashamed unity with God and one another again.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – May I hide nothing from you. Help me to trust you and experience the freedom which you so freely offer to me. May I grow in confidence of your faithfulness, knowing that you will never leave me or forsake me. Even in the darkest of nights, may I trust in your ever-present light. Your light will expose all sin and brokenness. Help me to not flee from your grace, but to run to it. Amen.



**Christ held Himself in His hands
when He gave His Body to His
disciples saying: 'This is My Body.'
No one partakes of this Flesh
before he has adored it.**

– Saint Augustine of Hippo

The Point of Hebrew Love Poetry



God gave us Hebrew Love Poetry to help us grow in our understanding of the passionate love which He has for us and to see the goodness in His creation. The enemy wants to do everything he can to convince us that God does not love us and that His design of creation was not good. The enemy will try to distort and pervert God's gifts or convince us that the gifts themselves must be avoided. God's gift of love, marriage, and sexual intimacy are blessings that in a mysterious way point to the incredible love He has for us.



BEAUTIFUL BODIES

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 1:15-2:2; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Dwelling Point:

It is quite clear that the bride and the groom within the Song of Songs see each other as beautiful and attractive. Looks certainly are not everything in a relationship, and we should not elevate them as a priority, but that does not mean we should regard them as evil or nonexistent. The couple revels in each other's physical beauty, not of their own beauty but in how they find their spouse attractive. Their bodies are not something to be avoided or ignored. The physical bodies of their lover are something to be seen and delighted in. The same is true for the presence they offer each other.

God made human beings to be beautiful.

Our beauty is a good gift from God, a gift which should not be ignored. Each of our bodies are unique and loved by our Creator, so we should take great care to see the uniqueness of our spouse's body and love it! This love and recognition is to be delightful, but not selfish. Rejoicing in the beauty of a spouse's body should always be understood as a gift from God, not an idol to replace Him. Likewise, we must not fall into the trap of comparing a spouse's beauty to the beauty of another. Instead, let us humbly thank God for our bodies and for the bodies of our spouses. Let us daily see the gifts He has given us and enjoy them as He intended.

Our beauty is a good gift from God, a gift which should not be ignored.



Look to Christ:

The love of Christ is beautiful, and that beautiful love came in the form of a normal and ordinary man. The great mystery which the Gospels proclaim is that in Jesus, God became flesh. He was born in obscurity and great humility, laid in a manger with the company of shepherds

and livestock, and He looked so fragile. The prophet Isaiah describes the body of Christ as plain and unextraordinary. Jesus' physical body was not an Adonis-like figure. He was like one of us. Yet His love is far more beautiful than anything we could ever imagine, and now the great mystery is that He, in His infinite wisdom, has called His followers His body. Today, the church represents the physical body of Christ and his presence in the world. Certainly, we can say plenty about the ugliness of the church, but if Christ now calls the church his body, we should instead change our words to appreciation, awe, and gratitude that God has made something beautiful in the world through our fellowship.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – You truly are beautiful in every way. Beauty itself finds a definition in who You are as its creator. And what a beautiful thing You have created in calling us to be part of Your body in some great mystery of affection You have for Your followers. Teach us to see beauty in You, Your church, and the one You have called us to love. Amen.



**We do not want merely to see beauty...
we want something else which can
hardly be put into words– to be
united with the beauty we see, to pass
into it, to receive it into ourselves,
to bathe in it, to become part of it.
That is why we have peopled air
and earth and water with gods and
goddesses, and nymphs and elves.**

– C.S. Lewis

INNATE WORTH

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 1:6-9; Ephesians 2:1-10

Dwelling Point:

The bride did not understand her own physical beauty before falling in love. She questioned how the groom could love her because she did not see herself as attractive. Despite the bride's own insecurity, the groom saw her worth and beauty and desired for his bride to see herself as he did. Why? Because her beauty captivated his heart. While the bride does not see her own beauty, the groom finds her worthy of being adorned with exquisite jewelry.

We must never forget the worth of our spouse and our responsibility to help them see themselves as beautiful as we see them.

Why? Because they are worth being treated this way. How we treat our spouse is a direct reflection of how we see their worth. A person's self-worth is often directly related to how they have been treated. If we treat our spouse poorly, they will think little of themselves. But if we treat our spouse with great worth, honor, respect, and love, our spouse will see their worth and beauty in time for themselves.

Likewise, we must recognize the innate worth of our brothers and sisters in Christ and treat them accordingly. All human beings are made in the image of God. All human beings have innate worth. Jesus saw the lowly and treated them as valuable and beautiful. Jesus worked and taught to elevate the poor, lowly, and downtrodden because He believed that they had innate worth and value. We must recognize that we have innate worth because our God loves us. We must recognize that each brother and sister has innate worth, because our God loves us.

Look to Christ:

God made us with a deep beauty that goes beyond mere physicality. By our sin and rebellion, we have distorted that beauty. Yet despite our sin, we have not lost our worth. God loves us and continues to love us even when we stray away from Him. God actively sought to rescue us,

free us, and restore us by His grace and mercy. His intention was to restore us to be something beautiful, a bride for Jesus. The Church is His bride, made up of redeemed believers that Jesus died for. Christ has given us worth and poured out His immeasurable riches of grace and kindness on His beautiful bride.

The enemy will do everything he can to trick us into believing that we do not belong and that we do not have worth. The enemy will try to deceive us into thinking that our sin has still stained us. Yet Christ's life, death, and resurrection have purified us from our sin. Christ has given us a new life, and we are being conformed to His likeness. Christ loves you and sees you as a part of His beautiful spotless bride.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You that You see us for who we really are, not in how we might perceive ourselves. Thank you that You pursue us, seek after us, and want to see us restored. Thank You that our ultimate worth is found in You. Help us take these thanksgivings and bring them into our most intimate and vital relationships. Amen.



The image of God carries with it the right not to be mistreated or harmed.... Regardless of their record or character, all human beings have an irreducible glory and significance to them, because God loves them.... So we must treasure each and every human being as a way of showing due respect for the majesty of their owner and Creator.

– Timothy Keller

WHAT SHOULD WE LOVE?

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 1:1-4; Proverbs 31:1-31

The character of Jesus shows us how much God wants to be where we are and for us to be where He is.



Dwelling Point:

The Song begins with the bride expressing her great attraction towards the groom. While the bride is physically attracted to the one she is about to be married to, her love for the groom is rooted in something far deeper than looks. The groom is described as a man of great love, a man known by the community whose name alone brings delight to those who hear it. The bride is not the only one who thinks highly of the groom – plenty of other young women see the quality of character in the groom! And it is not only the young women who praise the groom, but the entire community approves of the man whom the bride is seeking. When the bride and groom embrace in love, the community rejoices in their love! If the man had a bad reputation or character, surely the community would not view such a relationship in good light. The groom's good name is described as fragrant oil being poured out to all those who hear it. His character cemented him as a man who loved well and who ought to be loved well.

When love is first blossoming, there are many reasons why we might be attracted to another, but not all those reasons may be good.

Throughout the Bible, character is regarded as having a greater importance than any other attractive quality. Beauty, money, and all other

things eventually diminish and fade. When everything else has fallen away, what remains is one's character. A love that is rich will celebrate the character of their spouse. They elevate their beloved's character above all other things. They proclaim it to others and praise their lover when they see good qualities in them so that their beloved's character may be made more evident.

Look to Christ:

Before Jesus ever took the cross, it was His character that attracted people, and it was His character that eventually led Him to the cross. In his Gospel, John wants us to see Jesus, to see His character, to see in Him that God has sought to dwell among us so that we might see His grace and love. The character of Jesus shows us how much God wants to be where we are and for us to be where He is. The character of Jesus shows us the grace that God has for us. The character of Jesus shows us the extraordinary love that God has for us. Being in a relationship with God is not about getting to heaven - it is about being consumed with awe and love for the character of Jesus. And as we grow in our love of Jesus, we will seek to embody His character in our own lives.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – We love You, not merely because of what You have done for us, but because of who You are. Your character inspires us and reminds us that character, more than anything else, should draw us toward others. Teach us to celebrate the excellent character of others and help us embody more of Your character in all of our relationships. Amen.



**Who can find a wife of noble
character? She is far more
precious than jewels.**

– Proverbs 31:10

Patient Love



T rue love is not uncontrolled and unbridled passion. While the Song of Songs shows us that passion and desire are good gifts from God, they become distorted curses when we blindly follow our emotions. God shows us that true love comes with wisdom and discipline. Christ's love for us was displayed through the wisdom and discipline He bore. Christ knew that there was a specific timing to His life, His ministry, and His journey to the cross. He came neither early nor late, but precisely at the time the Father deemed best. Likewise, Christ's return is set for the perfect time according to the will of the Father.



A COMMITMENT TO GIVE OF YOURSELF

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 2:16, 6:3, 7:10; Philippians 2:1-5

Dwelling Point:

The Song of Songs expresses a multitude of feelings between the bride and groom. Love certainly wraps itself up with plenty of feelings, but love is more than a feeling. Love is a choice and with that choice is the vow to be committed to each other.

There is a repeating refrain within the Song: “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine.” This refrain communicates a sense of belonging and commitment. The bride is no longer her own isolated, individual self. Likewise, the groom is no longer his own isolated, individual self. The bride and the groom belong to one another and have committed themselves to one another.

This commitment to one another changes how the bride and groom act. Instead of focusing on themselves, they now place their focus on their spouse ensuring that their spouse is loved well. Everyone has certain needs to feel loved, and in a thriving relationship, spouses commit to fostering that love by knowing and fulfilling those needs. To say you belong to someone and that they belong to you requires each spouse to unveil their needs before one another. Each spouse must trust each other to take responsibility in the pursuit to satisfy the needs of the other. Such as the need to...

...feel Safe,
...feel Seen,
...feel Heard,
...feel Appreciated,
...feel Valued,
...feel Respected.

If we act as though we truly belong to another, and we strive to serve another, we will love as Christ loves.

Look to Christ:

Throughout the Gospels, people approach Jesus with a problem. They need something, or they think they need one thing when they actually need something else. Again and again, Jesus proves he knows what those around Him need, and He is eager to provide that need. The famous story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 embodies this truth well. Jesus knew her story, what she needed, and the many pains she had experienced searching for what she needed. He didn't shame or judge her, but instead, offered her the very thing she had spent her entire life searching for. And He did so with extraordinary gentleness and love. Read the Gospels carefully and you will see how Jesus treats people with love, showing His commitment to us. Jesus has made the Church His bride. He knows our needs, and He loves us with such great love that He humbles himself to serve His beloved. He is committed to us, and His promises will never fail. May we love Christ with such a humble love in return. For we are not our own, but belong body and soul to our Savior.

**If we act as though
we truly belong to
another, and we strive
to serve another, we will
love as Christ loves.**



Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for Your example of what it means to be committed to a relationship with us. You sacrifice for us, showing You both know our needs and desire to fulfill our needs. Teach us to love in commitment toward those You have called us to love. Teach us what it means to be committed as we see Your commitment to Your church. Amen.



Q: What is our only hope in life and death?

**A: That we are not our own but belong,
body and soul, both in life and death to
God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.**

– New City Catechism

BOUNDARIES FOSTER LONG-TERM LOVE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 2:15-17; Romans 6:20-23

Dwelling Point:

The groom and bride in the Song describe their relationship often like a garden or vineyard. It was a place of life, but they understood that this life only thrived when carefully maintained. That maintenance included keeping unhealthy or destructive forces out, like foxes. The Song uses symbolic language to address the fact that for bride and groom's relationship to thrive, some things needed to be kept outside the boundaries of their relationship. Every relationship, especially a marriage relationship, requires healthy boundaries. Some things need to be left out of the relationship in order for the relationship to remain healthy.

**Creating boundaries means that we are
employing discernment and wisdom in order
to love the people that God has called us to.**



It is a complicated matter when two become one.

Each partner comes into the relationship with desires and expectations and assumptions. Then there is family history and relationships with others to be considered. Boundaries are essential for navigating this space and preserving what is healthy. Setting and enforcing boundaries, especially in a marriage, might not seem like the most loving thing to do. In the short run, it might cause more conflicts when we enforce those boundaries. But boundaries help prevent long-term harm, even if they require temporary hurts, so that the relationship can thrive.

Likewise, we only have so much of ourselves to give. The bride and groom make it clear that they belong to one another. They make each other the priority in their lives. As Christians, we are called to love everyone, but we must recognize that we are not God. We do not have God's omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence. We can't be everywhere. We can't do everything. There will be times where we have to say "no" to a good thing in order to love well. We may have to say "no" to a brother or sister to love our spouse or our children well. Creating boundaries does not mean we are failing in our calling to serve one another. Creating boundaries means that we are employing discernment and wisdom in order to love the people that God has called us to.

Look to Christ:

From the beginning, God has understood that boundaries are good and necessary. It was God's love and wisdom which brought forth the command to Adam and Eve to not to eat from the forbidden tree. In the same manner, it was loving and wise for God to give the Israelites the Ten Commandments. The same can be said for why there was a restriction on who could enter the temple, why touching the Ark of the Covenant was forbidden, why sacrifices were necessary, and why God asks his people to do certain things and avoid other things. God wants us to be in a thriving relationship with Him, one that is full of life. But our self-destructive nature calls for restraint. It calls for "foxes" to be removed and boundaries to be submitted to. Because God is holy and we are not, it is God who sets the boundaries on how we can be with Him. Therefore, sin deeply hurts because it involves a step across a boundary which God has said is necessary for a thriving relationship with Him. Through faith in the perfection of Christ, restoration happens, and through His faithfulness we can find a new thriving in this relationship with God.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for Your boundaries. They give us clarity, and they give us a safe space. You give boundaries because You intend to keep us from harm, and You give them because You seek for our thriving. May we learn to see them the same in our relationships, and may we set and enforce them so that our earthly relationships might be the spaces where we can effectively show Your love to the world. Amen.

TURN, MY BELOVED

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 2:7-17; 2 Peter 3:8-9

Dwelling Point:

“Turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of Bethel.”

The second chapter of the Song of Songs contains a moment of intentional withholding. Whereas much of the song describes the unity and intimacy of the husband and bride coming together, Song of Songs 2:7-17 describes the bride turning her groom away. Unlike a later conflict found in chapter 5, this command for the groom to turn away is not born out of selfishness, insecurity, or rejection of any kind.

Rather, the bride simply recognizes that it is not the right time for she and her lover to be intimate.

The reason for this delay is not stated within the Song. Some commentators understand this section to be pointing to the engagement period before their wedding, while others hypothesize a plethora of other situations which could prompt the bride’s decision to wait. Regardless of the specific reason, the point being communicated is that in this particular moment, it is good for the bride and groom to withhold themselves despite their desire to come together.

This passage is not communicating that the bride and groom’s desire for one another is wrong or sinful. Make no mistake, the Song of Songs describes the bride and grooms’ desires as good and honoring to God as per His design. Instead, we should understand this passage as a wise description of what it looks like to not be controlled by our desires. When we are ruled by our passions, we inevitably end up failing to experience our passions in the ways in which God designed. However, when we submit ourselves to the God who designed our passions, we then can employ His wisdom to engage with those passions in a way that is safe and loving.

Look to Christ:

The delayed gratification which the bride and the groom experience in the Song not only points to the safe and free love found within the bounds of the marriage relationship. The need for the bride and groom to wait until the time is right has a deeper application in that it points to Christ's patience in returning to us and completing our unification with Him.

The Bible reveals to us the promises which God has made to His people. For thousands of years, the people of God have often wondered, "God, why are you waiting to fulfill your promise? Why don't you save us now? Why don't you return now?" Peter addresses these honest questions when he says that the Lord's patience in returning is actually for our sake! Not only is God's patience good for us, but His patience enables others to be saved as well.

The desire we have to be united with Christ and to see the world made new is a good desire. Longing for the day when we are free from sin and death is a right longing. But we must understand that our time in this present age is similar to that of an engagement period. We must trust in God's perfect wisdom and timing that Christ will return when it is best. And as we wait, we must remind ourselves of the sweetness which is to be experienced when we experience that true unity and intimacy with Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – May I grow in my trust of you and your timing. There is purpose to your patience. When the hardships of this life seem too difficult to bear, remind me that your ways are perfect. Amen.



**The Lord is not slow to fulfill his
promise as some count slowness,
but is patient toward you, not
wishing that any should perish, but
that all should reach repentance.**

– 2 Peter 3:9

Seek Love and Find It



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught to seek, and in your seeking you will find. For some, love came quickly and easily. For others, it took much searching before a spouse was found. Some have searched and not yet found, while others grew weary and gave themselves to one who did not love them well. Each of our lives contains their own unique stories. But regardless of marital status, Christ has promised that if we seek the ultimate love—found in Him—we will find it. His love will last forever and satisfy every longing.



LOVE CONSUMES OUR FOCUS

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 4:9-10; Matthew 4:23-25

Dwelling Point:

Love, especially youthful love, does this funny thing to us. As one develops an initial attraction to another, it is easy to become “love-drunk.” Our minds often drift into daydreams of our beloved, and some may simply repeat the name of their crush, as the name alone brings delight. As you read through the Song of Songs, you see that the bride and groom in the poem are “love-drunk” for each other. All they can think about is the other individual and how much they love them.

What we love is what our mind focuses on.

Whether it is a person, a hobby, or a goal, our love dictates our attention. Since love is such a powerful force, let us be careful what we set our heart’s desire on. Likewise, that which we give our attention can cultivate, or even reawaken, the feeling of love. Love and attention are interconnected forces we must be mindful of. As such, let us examine where we place our attention in order to understand what we fill our heart with love for.

Christ has given us the promise that if we seek the ultimate love, that being found in Christ Jesus, we will find it. There is a love that will last forever and satisfy every longing. That love can be found.



Look to Christ:

Jesus was attentive to those He loved. He was locked in on his mission to help the broken, heal the sick, feed the hungry, teach the longing, and proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. His focus was clearly on the surrounding people, to be the source of light in their darkness and to share with them love. Jesus is still going about doing this work today. Jesus loves you and focuses on you. How can you daily give your attention to Christ? How does the continual, focused love of Christ encourage you to daily love your spouse?

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Our minds are fickle things. We so easily lose focus or fixate on that which does not warrant our attention. At a time where everything is fighting for our focus, spark a new love for You and a desire for those You have put before us. Help us examine the feelings that draw our attention and help us make the conscious decision to fix our attention on that which we know is worthy of our love, but at the moment, we may not feel. Thank You for Your continued faithfulness to us, which is born out of Your love for us. Amen.



**Think of the purest, most
all-consuming love you
can imagine. Now multiply
that love by an infinite
amount—that is the measure
of God's love for you.**

– Dieter F. Uchtdorf

THE PAIN OF BROKEN LOVE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 3:1-5; John 21:15-19

Dwelling Point:

There are two moments in the Song of Songs in which the bride experiences great turmoil. The first moment is in chapter three, where the bride expresses distress and painful longing when she cannot be with her beloved. The second moment is during a conflict between the bride and her husband in chapter five.

When we become attached to someone, moments of detachment from that person become incredibly painful.

Whether it is a physical separation, a relational conflict, or even covenant betrayal, the more we love someone, the more we will feel pain when commitment is broken. The bride knows this experience well and cautions women younger than her to not awaken love until the time is right. Love requires maturity and commitment. If maturity and commitment are absent, the lovers will experience great pain.

Look to Christ:

Jesus promises to never leave us or forsake us. Christ is the one constant in our life in which we can fully place our trust with no fear of betrayal or separation. And this is true even considering our own constant betrayal to him. When Jesus was arrested, Peter did not demonstrate true commitment to Jesus. We can read the account in each of the Gospels and feel the pain both Peter and Jesus feel in this. Yet Jesus still welcomes Peter back, forgives him for the pain of betrayal, and shows him love. And Jesus does the same for us day after day. Even when we sin against God, He continually reminds us He loves us and does not abandon us.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Forgive us. We know we have caused You great pain. You have committed yourself to us, knowing fully well that we have hurt You and will continue to hurt You because of our lack of commitment. Yet You remain. You give out grace and mercy and love. Teach us to do the same for others—especially our spouses—when they hurt us. When those times come, teach us to be as gracious, patient, merciful, and forgiving as You have been to us. Amen.



**Forgiveness is the key
that unlocks the door of
resentment and the handcuffs
of hatred. It is a power that
breaks the chains of bitterness
and the shackles of selfishness.**

– Corrie Ten Boom

LOVE IS WORTH CELEBRATING

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 4:1-5:1; Psalm 37:4

Dwelling Point:

There is a difference between good sex and great sex, and the pair of lovers in the Song have discovered the difference. It is not about form or technique or frequency of intimacy, rather, the difference is found in how the bride and groom share a deep emotional vulnerability with each other. They have opened their hearts to each other. They have shared expressions of love.

Their delight was first to be in each other's presence, to have an intimate knowledge of the other, before delighting in the bedroom.

Because of that open emotional vulnerability, the two finally come together and discover a delight that each describes to be like tasting sweet fruit, honey, and wine. They have come to fully desire the other, and in that mutual desire, they discovered sex that was more than just physical but also emotional and spiritual. This was all because the two were open and honest with each other, sharing their desires and not afraid to be open about their vulnerabilities. Sex was not the goal of the relationship, but a celebration of their love for one another.

**The difference is found in how the bride
and groom share a deep emotional
vulnerability with each other. They have
opened their hearts to each other.**



Look to Christ:

God wants to be the delight of our hearts more than anything else. Often, we look to God merely when we are in need or see Him only as our rescuer from trouble. But we should ask ourselves, would we be pleased if people only came to us when they needed something from us? Christian maturity involves coming to a place where our love for God is for Him before what He can do for us. God wants us to delight ourselves in Him, to be thrilled simply to be with Him, and to know that we can be vulnerable with Him. We can share our hearts, our dreams, our desires, and our concerns with Him, even if they are about having a relationship with Him. It is something God desires in a relationship with us, why He came to dwell with us, and what an intimate relationship with Him looks like.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – We see in Your words how clearly you delight in us and desire to be with us. You made us feel at home in Your presence, to feel safe and seen and loved. As we discover the delight in being with You, may that spill over into our most intimate of relationships. Teach us to delight in our loved ones by softening our hearts to be emotionally vulnerable with each other and opening ourselves up to love. Amen.



The great secret of the Christian life is to begin experiencing God as He desires me to experience Him. God's greatest delight is to bring me into His presence.

– A.W. Tozer

Conflict in the Midst of Love



In the midst of our broken world, we will experience conflict. Conflict in this life is inevitable, especially with those who are closest to us. What is striking is that even the bride and groom in the Song of Songs experience conflict! Some of us avoid conflict, while others domineer others within it. Christ Himself experienced conflict throughout His life and He is perfect in every way! We must grow in our imitation of Christ and His love in order to handle conflict in a way which fosters greater love.



INTIMATE KNOWING

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 5:9-6:3; Genesis. 2:24-25, 4:1; Philippians 3:7-11

Dwelling Point:

Throughout the Song of Songs, the bride and groom describe each other's bodies with great detail and imaginative imagery. While the descriptions might sound strange to us, the intimacy within it is easy to grasp, and represents a deep knowing that the two have for each other. In Genesis 4:1, the author uses the phrase "to know" in order to describe sexual intercourse. While other words could have been used to describe this act, this wordplay is intentional and frequently used in a positive light within Scripture.

By using the phrase "to know," the biblical authors describe sex as being incredibly intimate.

A husband and wife know one another by being intimate with one another, which includes sexual intimacy. God designed the physical act of sex for this reason, that the two would fully embrace one other and become one flesh. This is why sex is such a unique experience; human bodies cannot get any closer in any other way! A healthy marriage is one in which the husband and wife know one another through intimacy with one another - physically, emotionally, sexually, and spiritually. Intimacy cannot exist without truly knowing someone. Knowing someone cannot happen unless we spend time with them. Married couples have the opportunity to experience an incredibly intimate moment with one another which fosters a unique relational unity.

By using the phrase "to know," the biblical authors describe sex as being incredibly intimate.



Look to Christ:

Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our needs, our wants, our thoughts, and everything else there is to know about us. Jesus knows us, and He wants us to know Him. We will not fully know Jesus in a single day, just like we will not fully know our spouse in a single day. Knowing Jesus is a lifelong pursuit. How are you intentionally seeking to know Jesus? How are you being vulnerable with Jesus?

As Christians we experience great hope and longing as we look forward to the day when we are unified with Christ completely and fully in every way. John describes this union in Revelation with the marriage supper of the Lamb. Our time now, is that of an engagement period. Our Savior has made a promise to make us His own. As we grow in our faith and intimacy with Christ in this life, we look forward to the complete and total intimacy with Christ for all eternity.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for knowing us. You made us, and You know our hearts. You know us better than we know ourselves. Give us a passion to know You greater and teach us how to live with that same passion toward our spouses. May they come to see and believe that we truly want to know them as deeply as we can in every way imaginable, as we in time share that passion toward You. Amen.



**It is simply not enough to know
about God. We must know God in
increasing levels of intimacy that
lift us above all reason and into
adoration and praise and worship.**

– A.W. Tozer

WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 5:2-8; Ephesians 2:13-15

Dwelling Point:

The middle section of the Song of Songs curiously depicts a conflict between the groom and the bride. While most of the song consists of the couple swooning over each other, this middle section intentionally depicts a conflict. We don't know what caused this problem, or even what exactly is, but we can clearly see its effects on the relationship. The groom wants to be with the bride, but the bride initially refuses. Then, after changing her mind, the bride goes to receive the groom, only to find that he has left!

For one reason or another, marriages will experience problems.

Problems can create some kind of separation, whether it be physical, emotional, sexual, or in some other fashion. It is important to recognize that problems within a marriage are to be expected because we live in a sinful world. We must also recognize that when problems are not addressed properly, these issues will naturally produce some form of separation—which is the opposite of God's intention for the marriage relationship. Jesus Himself said, "Let no man separate what God has joined together."

Look to Christ:

While our sin against God created separation in the garden of Eden, Christ intentionally eliminated that separation by making himself close to us. God has never been the guilty party in our relationship with Him. We always have been the ones at fault. We all have sinned against God, creating a problem and a following separation. But God did not set-

It is important to recognize that problems within a marriage are to be expected because we live in a sinful world.



tle for that separation. He could have, and none would have judged Him. Yet because of His great love for us, God did not give up on us. He had every intention of making a means of reconciliation for us. God sent Jesus to solve our great conflict with him. Jesus is called Emmanuel, which means "God with us." If God's response to our sin is to make Himself close to us, how should we respond to others when problems arise?

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for not giving up on us. You had every right to be-
cause what we have done again and again to You was wrong. But You
do not walk away from us. Your great love is a constant comfort and
a constant guide through the conflicts in our life. Teach us to make
peace like You did for us. Amen.



**To be a Christian means
to forgive the inexcusable
because God has forgiven
the inexcusable in you.**

– C.S. Lewis

CONFLICT THAT BREEDS INTIMACY

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 6:1-13; Luke 7:36-50

Dwelling Point:

When the bride and groom have worked through their issues and conflict, the result is not a mere restoration of the relationship, but a deepening of it. The matter which threatened them, when handled appropriately, has resulted in the two by the end of the song having a deeper bond with one another. Their love is no longer built on hormones but has been tested by fire and pruned to become something more glorious and abundant. They are more than the people attracted to each other. They are the people who have chosen each other, especially in the face of conflict.

When the conflict threatened to wound and tear them apart, they remained steadfast in their decision to still choose the other.

When the bride and groom face the problem of separation, their response is not to continue to separate from one another, but to seek one another out. The bride chases after the groom, and when she finds him, he receives her. The groom does not begrudgingly receive his bride, but he welcomes her with deep love and enchantment!

When we feel hurt by someone, our initial response is to separate. Yet what we find in the Song is that when the bride and groom decide to face their hurt in pursuit of reconnecting, they experience a deeper intimacy. Now the bride and groom reap the rewards for that faithfulness and commitment to one another. Conflict can be healthy in a marriage, and any relationship, when handled properly. In the middle of the conflict, it might not feel that things can get better, but when perseverance, honesty, and humility are applied to a relationship, the outcome can produce a greater love than what was before.

Look to Christ:

Jesus is the ultimate example of what it looks like to be a person of stable patient committed forgiveness. One example of this steady faithfulness is seen in the story of a sinful woman in Luke 7. The woman was a great sinner who encountered a God who offered her a forgiveness which was greater than her sin. And as the woman experienced such great a forgiveness, she grew more in love. Jesus connects the concepts of love and forgiveness in this story. The one who forgives little has little love. The one full of forgiveness is full of love.

We cannot know love without knowing forgiveness. And where is the ultimate forgiveness found? It is found in the person of Jesus. When we experience forgiveness through Christ, we gain an ability to show true love to others. And when situations arise in which we need to forgive as Christ forgave, then we must enter those situations knowing that forgiveness will produce greater love.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus – Our conflict with You was far greater than we could ever hope to imagine or understand. Yet You offer forgiveness and never give up on us. The more we see that, the greater our love for You. Help us to treat our relational conflicts the same way, as an opportunity that through this pruning something greater might take birth than what was before. Amen.



And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

– Luke 7:37-38

Exclusive, Unique Love



God described Himself to the Israelites as “a jealous God.” God’s jealousy is not born from wrongdoing or selfishness. Rather, His jealousy is an outpouring of His passionate love for His people. The Bible tells several stories of adultery and several stories of men taking multiple wives. Every single story in the Bible of a person going outside the bounds of God’s intended design for the marriage relationship ends in great pain. God knows that if His people seek out other gods, they will fall into great sin, and this descent into chaos is precisely what happened. God wants to be the ultimate love in our life.



INTENSE LOVE REQUIRES EXCLUSIVITY

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 8:7-12

Dwelling Point:

The final portion of the Song allows the bride to reflect on everything which has been said and offer up some final points for us to remember as we come to its end. This section provides some of the most straightforward teachings within the Song. Whereas the rest of the Song is provocative poetry calling us to dwell on its imagery, we find here some refreshing statements which directly guide how we ought to think about love.

In these final statements we find that the bride takes a stand for her love and seeks to keep it pure.

Solomon is described as owning a vineyard at place known as Baal-hamon. “Baal-hamon” is actually a play on words meaning “lord of the multitude” or “to marry a crowd,” and relates to kings having a multitude of wives or sub-wives in their harem. The bride is highly critical of Solomon, wants nothing to do with him, and refuses to sell out. Regardless of the wealth or lifestyle it could bring her, the bride values her body, and values love, more than any possible dollar amount. Love cannot be bought, nor can it be divided.

The bride is clear that her vineyard freely belongs to her groom and her groom only. She refuses to give herself to another, and she refuses to be a part of a relationship in which she would share her spouse with another. Love cannot be commodified. There is no price tag which can be put on love or the ones being loved. Solomon, in accumulating a massive amount of wives, is shown to not know love at all because in doing so, he devalues his lovers as if they can be freely swapped out.

Love cannot be commodified. There is no price tag which can be put on love or the ones being loved.



Look to Christ:

From the moment that God established a covenant with His people, it was exclusive. He was their God, and they were His people. God would not put up with outsiders encroaching on His territory. He was jealous of the heart of His people, and He made that plainly known. The people knew what type of relationship God wanted with them. Unfortunately, they did not want the same. Again and again, it was the people, not God, who did not keep this covenant exclusive. The people often served other gods (often referred to as Baal). Yet Israel's unfaithfulness did not change God's heart.

He wanted to be the only arms that wrapped around His people. He wanted them to feel safe in His embrace. So again and again, God pursued His people. Jesus carries this forward, again and again crying out for His people to repent and return to God. God desires an exclusive relationship with us. He wants to be our God that we commit to, and He wants that commitment to inspire godly character and action in every area of our lives.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for always being more committed to us than we are to You. You are faithful when we are fickle and prone to wander. Yet You still declare Your love for us and remain constant in Your commitment to us. Guide us back into sharing that exclusive commitment with You, and may it inspire us to do the same in our most vital of relationships. Amen.



Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

– Song of Songs 8:6

A BEAUTIFULLY UNIQUE MARRIAGE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 1:1, 7:10; Matthew 18:20

Dwelling Point:

The Bible uses the phrase “the blank of blank” repeatedly. It is a Hebrew expression to display that the “blank” is the best “blank” to ever be. Therefore, we need to recognize that this song, the “Song of Songs,” is claiming to be the greatest song ever written. There is no better song! It should be striking to us that the best song ever is a love song. It is a love song that displays an intense unity and physical intimacy between a husband and wife.

This intimacy is beautiful.

From the songwriter’s perspective, there is no topic that is more beautiful. If there were, this would not be the best song ever! God designed our marital relationship, and the many factors of intimacy within it, as a beautiful gift. Sometimes our relationship does not seem to look or feel beautiful. Sometimes a marriage can seem routine, hurried, or frustrating. But God’s design for marital intimacy and connection is to be a beautiful gift. When feelings of frustration or complacency arise, let us remember the beautiful gift that it is.

Look to Christ:

When was the last time you had a particular moment where you felt especially close to Jesus? Our faith should not be based on our feelings, but God gave us feelings for a reason. God gives us specific moments where we can feel a sense of

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intimacy with Christ, where we can be assured that He is with us, and those moments are a taste of what life will be like in the New Heaven and the New Earth. Just like you have moments where you may feel especially close to your spouse, God gives us moments where we can feel especially close to Him. Jesus promises us that when we gather in His name, for His glory, He promises to be there with us. Our faith will not feel that intimate every day, at least not in this life. But those moments are something to keep close to our heart and recognize as beautiful.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for always being with us. You promise to be here with us in all things, and we can be sure that is a guarantee because You are trustworthy. It is a beautiful and intimate matter to know that we can count on You being there for us. In the same way, teach us to do the same with our spouse. Teach us to find our relationship beautiful and guide us to nurture that relationship into deeper beauty. Amen.



**When God is our deepest
pleasure we display Him
as our highest treasure.**

– John Piper

MY PERFECT ONE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 6:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Revelation 21:1-4

Dwelling Point:

“But my dove, my perfect one, is unique”

In the groom’s eyes there is no one greater than his bride. No queen compares to her. Not only is the bride considered to be greater than any other woman on the planet, but the groom finds no fault within her whatsoever. He considers her to be perfect.

The Hebrew word that is translated as “perfect” here does not simply mean “without fault.” The Hebrew words “tam” and “tamim” convey a sense of completeness. To be perfect in this sense is to be totally whole. In the groom’s eyes, there is nothing wrong with his bride, nor does she lack anything. She is in simpler terms, the “complete and total package.”

What is so striking for the groom to consider her perfect in this way is that the groom is acknowledging that the bride is totally complete on her own. The groom does not view his bride as in need. The groom is not “completing” her. She is complete and perfect all on her own. The bride’s completeness is something that draws the groom to her. Song of Songs does not depict a woman who needs rescued, or a woman who is missing her other half. Rather, the Song depicts a woman who is complete on her own and has a desire to love her husband which is built upon the secure foundation of who she is.

The Hebrew words “tam” and “tamim” convey a sense of completeness. To be perfect in this sense is to be totally whole.



Look to Christ:

Unlike the bride in the groom's eyes, we are not perfect. We know that we are sinners and in need of a savior. Yet despite our weakness and our faults, Christ loved us. Christ sees us in our weakness, and He is not turned away by it. He loved us first, and He loved us while we were still sinners and enemies against God.

Even today when we experience weakness while we strive to follow Jesus, Christ continues to love us. And in our weakness and failures, God does not leave us or forsake us. Rather, God's grace is enough. God's grace is complete and perfect. And God's power is perfected in us through our weakness. And as God's grace continues to work in us and through us, He is fashioning us to become a perfect bride.

Revelation 21 depicts the new Jerusalem descending as a perfect and complete bride. The new Jerusalem is without fault and lacks nothing. The new Jerusalem is the Church, those who have experienced God's marvelous grace in their weakness and have now been made complete to be presented to Christ as a perfect bride! Though we struggle and stumble today, know that God in His powerful grace is working in you to make you complete and perfect.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – You are perfect. Through your perfect love you make us whole. Help us to remember that nothing else can complete us or make us perfect other than your love. May we be confident in your love, knowing that in your love we can consider all else as loss. And may we live in such a way that we may show others that they can be made whole in your love as well. Amen.



Christ is not only truly human—He is perfectly human. Only He has fulfilled the vocation of human beings to love the Lord above all else. That makes Him the most human person who has ever lived, because only He has done what human beings were made to do.

– R.C. Sproul

The Flame of the Lord



Love is described in the Song of Songs as a fire, the very flame of the Lord. Fire is of great benefit to us. We need its light and warmth to survive. Just as fire can bless us, it can bring just as much chaos and destruction. When fire is uncontrolled and escapes the bounds set around it, nothing can be expected other than disaster. Just like fire, love can be an incredible blessing to our lives. But when abused or used improperly, love can bring about the greatest wounds in our stories. Jesus not only gives us a love that can heal our wounds, but He teaches us how to love well. We must always look to Jesus and love as He loved!



BURNING LIKE FIRE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 8:6-7; Hebrews 12:29

Dwelling Point:

The ending of the Song summarizes the main takeaway of the entire poem. Here the bride gives commentary on what love is and how it has played into her life. She describes love as a consuming fire that washed over her like a flood. Anyone who has fallen in love knows the feeling well, and they know it burns like fire. They also know the delight, joy, and agony that is involved.

Fire is wild.

When maintained and properly cared for, fire sustains life and provides security. Fire provides light and warmth, necessary for our survival. Just as fire is necessary for our survival, it can also bring about disaster. If it is not controlled and managed, fire can cause great harm and destruction. When neglected, fire can rage or easily be snuffed out. Love can be the same way. Bringing forth love can be a gradual process, but if neglected, it has the potential to cause significant harm or fade away. But when love is nourished and cared for, it provides such rich blessings for those who share it together. The bride and groom experienced this, and all those who are married ought to take it into account. How are we working to nourish love in our relationship to receive its rich blessings for us?

Look to Christ:

Throughout the Bible, God displays His presence and power as a fire. Sometimes this fire is a sign of God's faithfulness such as the example of Elijah's famous contest. Other times it is a sign of God's security and presence like the burning bush or His guidance through the wilderness. At other times fire is used to display God's justice and protection for His creation. God's love is holy, passionate, and powerful, something that should not be approached carelessly.

**God's love is holy, passionate, and powerful,
something that should not be approached carelessly.**



Christ's life, death, and resurrection has enabled us to be in the presence of God's fiery love. The author of Hebrews describes God as a consuming fire, but He is not a fire we should run away from! For earlier in his sermon, the author of Hebrews declares that since Jesus is our great high priest, we can boldly approach the throne of God (Heb. 4:14-16). Christ's perfect love has enabled us experience the passionate, wild love of God in perfect security.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Thank You for Your love that burns like fire. Thank You for how You teach us to share that love with others. Guide us to love in such a way that we bring forth rich blessings in our most vital relationships, just as You have done for us. Amen.



**The Gospel is not an old, old story,
freshly told. It is a fire in the Spirit,
fed by the flame of Immortal Love;
and woe unto us, if, through our
negligence to stir up the Gift of God
which is within us, that fire burns low.**

– Leonard Ravenhill

SEX IS LIFE-GIVING

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 8:1-7; John 13:34-35

Dwelling Point:

Would you bring up your parents while trying to be romantic with your spouse? Song of Songs 8:1-7 comes across as strange to us today because it does precisely that. In our culture, the thought of family is often repulsive during feelings of romance and intimacy. However, our culture did not write the Bible. The Scriptures originated from a culture that prioritized family. The individuality and separation that we see as normal today would come across as quite confusing to those in these family-centric cultures. While God designed sexual intimacy to be kept solely between a husband and wife, He also designed sexual intimacy to have a wide-reaching impact.

A husband's and wife's sexual intimacy, or lack thereof, will affect the lives of their family members.

Most obviously, sexual intimacy allows for the creation and addition of more people into the family. This is such a wonderful mystery! It is through the union of a husband and wife that a child comes to be. But even as a child grows, their parents' sexual intimacy will continue to affect them. If sexual intimacy plays a role in making a husband and wife one flesh, then that unity will carry over into how those spouses work together to raise their children. Children can perceive, either consciously or subconsciously, if their parents are unified or not. Sexual intimacy has the power to create life, and it has the power to bring life into our family relationships day after day through cultivating unity between spouses.

The individuality and separation that we see as normal today would come across as quite confusing to those in these family-centric cultures.



Look to Christ:

The more we love Christ, the more we will love one another. The Bible is abundantly clear that our relationship with Jesus will also drastically affect the relationship that we have with others. Likewise, the relationship you have with your spouse will affect the relationship you have with your children and other family members. As you seek to love Christ more, seek to love your spouse more. And as you seek to love your spouse more, seek to love your family more.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – What a great mystery You have made that love always has a community impact. The more we love You, the more that shapes our love toward others. When we receive love, it gives us life, and we share that life with others by our love expressed toward them. Give us a greater awe and understanding of Your love and give us a greater urgency to share that love out with others. For You are our life and we seek to share Your life out in this world, especially in our homes. Amen.



**Love one another. We don't
need more instructions;
we need more examples.**

– Bob Goff

A SEAL OF LOVE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 2:3-9, 8:4-6

Dwelling Point:

“Put my like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm.”

There is a consistent refrain through the Song of Songs warning to not awaken love until the time is right. While the Song celebrates love, passion, and romance as good gifts created for us by God, the Song also cautions us to be careful. When love is sought in improper ways or at improper times or with improper people, that love can become bitter and disastrous.

However, it is after this final caution to not awaken love that the bride says, “Now is the time!” In 8:5 the bride awakens her groom under the apple tree, a symbolic picture of embracing the passionate desires of love. The bride recognizes that it was these same passionate desires of love felt by the groom’s parents which brought about his existence. The bride sees how the love she and her groom now share is only possible because of the love of those who came before.

Just as the bride looks to the past, she also looks to the future. She demands of her husband that she become sealed to him. If this fully embraced and awakened love is to not end up in flames of disaster, it must be a love that is locked into a commitment. Now that the bride has awakened love and given herself to her groom, she must trust him to never betray that love.

Look to Christ:

Many, if not all of us, know the pain of being hurt by someone we thought would love us well. Sin at its core is a painful distortion of love, and all of humanity is plagued by its curse. It can be hard to trust another when our trust has been betrayed in the past, but Jesus promises us that He will never fail us.

Christ is a groom who will never betray His bride. Jesus will not turn against us or forget us. Some of us may struggle to follow Christ due to our difficulty to trust. For some, it may be difficult to trust His Word as true. For others, they may be hesitant to receive the sacrament of baptism. For still others, they may refuse to pursue a calling that the Lord is leading them to.

While we may experience fear or anxiety due to the painful experiences we have had with others, we must boldly trust Jesus with our entire lives. Jesus has promised us that He is sealed to us. He has made His covenant with us. We in turn, must seal our hearts to Him.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Remind us that you have sealed us to your heart. We thank you for the gifts of baptism and communion which serve as signs of your faithfulness. We thank you for these signs which remind us that we belong to you. When we are at our lowest – when we feel so alone or insecure – remind us that you are with us. May we never forget that we belong to the one who is love incarnate. Amen.



**We are secure, not because
we hold tightly to Jesus, but
because he holds tightly to us.**

– R. C. Sproul

Hurry My Beloved!



The Song of Songs ends much like it begins. At first, the bride longs for the groom to summon her, dependent on his invitation to draw near. But as the Song closes, now married, she freely calls for him to come to her. What once required his summons is now answered by the freedom of covenant love. So it is with us. Because of sin, we could not approach God and needed Him to purify us and draw us near. But through Christ our Savior and High Priest, the way has been opened. Now we can boldly enter God's presence. Because He came to us, we can come to Him—and like the bride, we call for Christ Himself to return.



LONGING AND DESIRE

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Song of Songs 1:1-4, 8:14, John 3:16

Dwelling Point:

“Hurry, my beloved”

At the core of the Song of Songs is the theme of longing and desire. The bride longs to be with her groom. The groom desires to be with his bride. This focus on longing and desire is precisely what has perplexed Christians for thousands of years.

Throughout Christian history, there has been an intentional focus on training people to control their emotions. The Scriptures themselves caution against blindly following passion, such as when Paul says to the Romans, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions,” or when he says to the Colossians, “Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.” But when we encounter the Song of Songs, we find the bride and groom wrapped up in passion for one another! And this passion is celebrated, not only by the groom and bride, but by the community around the married couple. So, what’s going on? Do the Scriptures contradict themselves?

Surely no!

It is important to understand the Scriptures when they caution against passion and desire. The passions and desires Paul speaks of are directly related to sin and evil. That is the key. Not all emotions and desires are wrong. God was the one who designed our emotions in the first place! Sin corrupts everything it touches, including our longing and desires. The longing and desire that the bride and groom have for one another are not born from sin, but they are the fulfillment of God’s blessing for human beings found in Genesis 1!

As Christians, we must put to death all sinful desires, and we must celebrate and rejoice in the desires born from God’s blessing.

Look to Christ:

"Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love."

Jesus loves you.

Some people have a picture of Jesus that is stoic, unemotional, and potentially even cold or indifferent. This is not the Jesus we find in the Scriptures. When we read the gospels, we find that Jesus does have emotions. He feels joy, sadness, and anger. Just as Jesus is fully God (who also expresses emotions throughout the Bible), He is also fully human.

Jesus did not save us because He was forced to. Jesus did not lay down His life because it was simply "the right thing to do." Jesus lived, and died, and rose again because of the great and incomprehensible love He has for you.

This is not a wishy-washy love. The love Jesus has for you is a strong, stable, unyielding, and determined love. This love brought heaven to earth, and Christ refused to ascend until He had won the ones He came for.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

Know that you are loved by the God of the universe. Remain in the love of Christ, embody it, and never doubt it.

You are loved by Christ.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – You were the one who created our emotions of longing and desire. You designed desire to teach us that we were made to be in union with you. It was the sense of longing which you gave us that shows us the truth that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Jesus, purify our desires that we would have proper and right longing, and satisfy the desire that we have for you. Amen.

Not all emotions and desires are wrong. God was the one who designed our emotions in the first place!



THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Revelation 19:7-10

Dwelling Point:

“The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself”

The story of the Bible ends with a wedding. Christ’s victory over the enemy, and over sin and death, is presented in conjunction with a wedding between the Savior and the Church. Christ’s atoning work on the cross was not solely done to remove our sin. The sacrifice which Jesus offered on the cross was a payment made to purify His bride and claim us as His own.

In being forgiven of our sin we are unified with Christ. Unfortunately, there are those who like the idea of being forgiven but have no desire to be unified with Jesus and live in accordance with His ways. Such a desire reveals that these people are still dead in their sin. For it is impossible to be purified from sin and not be unified with the one doing the purification!

Jesus did not die on the cross and rise from the dead so that you could have a “get out of jail free” card. Jesus gave up his life to win His bride. He died and rose again so that we would be one with Him.

It is precisely because of our purification and union with Christ why we are called to live rightly and do good. Our righteous acts are not done to earn salvation; our righteous acts are preparation to unify with Jesus and enter into a creation which has been made right. As we follow Jesus and live as He lived, we become more like Him. We train in righteousness as a preparation for the wedding between Christ and His Church.

Look to Christ:

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;"

As we look to Christ and see His incredible love for us, we should respond in turn by being filled with love for one another. Christ's sacrificial love is a model which we imitate and grow in. While we strive to work hard in loving others well, we cannot grow in Christlike love without experiencing it first ourselves. Christ's love is not something that we watch and then imitate; Christ's love is something we receive and then demonstrate.

Imagine a gardener who plants seeds in order to cultivate a beautiful garden. The seeds will not stay seeds; they will eventually turn into wonderful flowers which will in turn bear more seeds. Now imagine that the gardener gathered many of those seeds from his own beautiful garden and gave them to a neighbor who had no garden of their own. The neighbor, upon receiving the seeds, can cultivate a new garden on their own land. And once the neighbor's garden develops, the neighbor could gather seeds and give to another neighbor, thus multiplying gardens throughout the neighborhood.

Had the gardener not offered the neighbor his seeds, the neighbor would have no way of imitating the gardener (let's imagine in this hypothetical scenario that there are no local stores in which one could go purchase seeds). The neighbor can only imitate the gardener after first receiving the results of the gardener's hard work. But upon receiving the seeds from the gardener, not only can the neighbor cultivate their own garden, but they can share with another neighbor as well.

**As we look to Christ and see His incredible
love for us, we should respond in turn by
being filled with love for one another.**



When we experience the love of Christ, we not only are transformed by it, but we have the opportunity to love others with the love which we received.

Closing Prayer

Jesus – Our destiny is for you. As we walk through this life, may we live in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom. May we be confident in your victory over the enemy. May we be filled with joy at the coming union between yourself and your bride, a union that will last for all eternity. Amen.



To gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair; for feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are at their hearts acts of war. In celebrating this feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word...

May this feast be an echo of that great Supper of the Lamb, a foreshadowing of the great celebration that awaits the bride of Christ.

Now you who are loved by the Savior, the Groom, the King, you who are loved by Christ Jesus, prepare your hearts and give yourselves wholly to this celebration of joy.

**– A modified version of A Liturgy for Feasting with Friends
from Every Moment Holy Vol. 1**

MARANATHA: COME, LORD JESUS!

Opening Prayer

Jesus – We thank You for the beauty of Your word and that You have preserved these words of wisdom for us today. Please open our ears to hear You, our eyes to see Your beauty, our hearts to receive Your love, and our hands to be of service to You. Amen.

Texts to read:

Revelation 21:10-21, Song of Songs 8:13-14

Dwelling Point:

“Amen. Come Lord, Jesus.”

The Song of Songs ends just as the Bible itself ends: the bride calls for her groom to come to her! While many throughout history have struggled to understand how the Song connects to the rest of the biblical canon, this point remains crystal clear: we live today in anticipation of our Groom, our Lord Jesus.

The ending to the Song is not the end of the story for the bride and groom. In ending with this call, the hearer is invited to imagine the bride and groom in loving pursuit of one another forever. The Song is not only the greatest song over all other songs, but the Song is also a song which will go on for all of eternity.

This is why the Song of Songs has been given to us. Regardless of your marital state in this life, whether you have been celibate, married, or divorced, if you belong to the Church, you will experience the Song of Songs in its most ultimate meaning. Your destiny as one who belongs to Christ is to bathe in His love for all eternity. The love of Jesus is sweeter than anything this life has to offer, the security in His faithfulness will bring a peace unlike any other, and our union with Christ and one another will bring a fellowship which kills all loneliness forevermore.

**We live today in
anticipation of our
Groom, our Lord Jesus.**



Look to Christ:

What more is there to say but,...

Come Lord Jesus!



Closing Prayer

Come Lord Jesus! Amen.



I AM MY BELOVED'S &
MY BELOVED IS MINE

Song of Songs 6:3