

## Marital Love God's Way Song of Solomon 1:9-2:7

Marriage is a God ordained institution. For it to be successful, it must be lived out according to God's prescriptions. Some of these actions and prescriptions are observed in Solomon and Shulamite's relationship.

### I. Praising Communication (1:9-17)

- A. Solomon affirms her physical beauty [Job 39:19-25] (v.9-10).
  - "In ancient Egypt...mares were never used to draw chariots. Stallions, hitched in pairs, were the standard motive-power of both war-chariots and other royal vehicles...These factors suggest that the comparison here underscores the girl's attractiveness. A mare loose among the royal stallions would create intense excitement. This is the ultimate in sex appeal!"<sup>1</sup>
  - "Since the royal horses were well ornamented, verses 10–11 continue to describe the ornamental beauty of Shulamite in comparison to the royal steeds."<sup>2</sup>
- B. Solomon affirms his desire to accentuate her beauty. (v.11,15)
- C. Shulamite affirms Solomon's presence by comparing him to spices [John 12:1-5] (v.12-14, 16-17)

### II. Physical Communion (2:1- 6)

- A. Shulamite is made to feel:
  - a. Protected- She rested in the shade of [Solomon's] the apple tree.
  - b. Loved- personal knowledge through physical intimacy with her husband.
  - c. Recognized- Everyone knew she was Solomon's wife in public because of his behavior around her. She was a his lily among thorns (among other women).

### III. Prudent Caution (2:7)

- A. Sexual intimacy has a time and place but not before one is married.
  - The admonition is "do not allow your natural, youthful sexual desires to be quickly inflamed. Do not rush into a sexual encounter like an innocent gazelle is flushed from a thicket. Do not awaken sexual passions before they can be rightly expressed within the marriage relationship."<sup>3</sup>
- B. Any sexual relationship outside the confines of marriage (man and woman) is sin.[Matt. 19:9]
  - a. Sexual immorality – *porneia*
    - 1. Any sexual behavior or act committed outside of a marriage relationship between a husband (male) and wife (female), who are married to each other.
    - 2. Sexual immorality also includes any sexual behavior or act before one is married.

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### **Points to Ponder:**

1. Marriage is made to enjoy. Engage in activities together that enhance your relationship.
2. Be sensitive to your spouse's insecurities. Nothing will make your spouse feel greater than when they know you are their first priority.
3. If single, avoid situations that will excite sexual passions. Marriage is the only arena for lawful sexual engagement.

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<sup>1</sup> G. Lloyd Carr, *Song of Solomon: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 19, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984), 90.

<sup>2</sup> Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Biblical Lovemaking: A Study of the Song of Solomon* (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries Press, 1983), 16.

<sup>3</sup> Tommy Nelson, *The Book of Romance: What Solomon Says About Love, Sex, and Intimacy* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998), 39.

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