

SONG OF SOLOMON

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Song of Solomon chapter 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we finish up this love story or this love song this evening. Let me just fill in a few details before we dig into our study this evening. If you remember from our last study the marriage feast is over and now some time has passed by. And Solomon once again calls for his bride to come with him on a trip. But once again comfort got the better of her, it was late, she was already in bed, and she did not want to get up. We saw this in Song of Solomon 5:3 where she responds to his request to go with him, **“I have taken off my robe; How can I put it on again? I have washed my feet; How can I defile them?”**

But as she thought about her decision, as she was laying there in bed, she decided that she wanted to go with her husband. But, as she got up out of bed and opened the door looking for him, he was already gone. So she hits the streets trying to find him, trying to locate Solomon, and the watchmen of the city beat her up, they abused her. And in all of that, she still is not any closer to finding him.

But she does not give up and the next group of people she encounters is the daughters of Jerusalem, the young virgins. And she tells them to help her find her beloved, she is lovesick without him. And as she pleads with these young virgins, they say to her, **“What is your beloved More than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved More than another beloved, That you so charge us?”** Song of Solomon 5:9.

What they are saying to the Shulamite woman is, “What is so special about Him? Why is he so different than any other man? Why should we go looking for him?” And from verses 10-16 of chapter 5 she tells these young virgins why Solomon is so special and why they should look for him. She witnessed to them of his great love and concludes by saying, “**... Yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, And this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!**”
Song of Solomon 5:16.

That is where we left off last week and now we will pick up our story in Song of Solomon chapter 6 beginning in verse 1 as the daughters of Jerusalem, these young virgins, respond to her witness of her beloved.

SONG OF SOLOMON 6

VERSE 1

1. Remember that she just got done answering their question regarding why they should go searching for Solomon, what made him so special, what made him so great. And as she completed her witness of him, what was their response? They wanted to find him. They desired to have what she had.

2. Now how does this relate to our relationship with the Lord? Hopefully as people see us live out our faith, as people see us gather together as a body of believers that they will desire to have what we have – **JESUS!** Remember what happened on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, 3,000 people got saved that day. What drew these people to Jesus? There were 120 people that were praising and worshiping God that drew them in and then Peter spoke forth the Words of God and they were saved.

Through our witness of him, not only by what we say but what we do, people should be drawn to the Lord. And then as we share the Word of God with them those seeds that were planted can take root and grow.

Jon Courson shared this story as he said that he “. . . Talked with a lady today who, claiming to be an agnostic, said, ‘The interesting thing is, I enjoy coming to the fellowship. I love seeing people who love the Lord. The worship and the genuine fellowship blow by mind.’”

You see, when people worship and praise the Lord with their whole heart, not just going through the motions, people will want to seek Him, they will desire to have what we have, they will want to go with us! That is the way it should be but sadly that is not what people always see in our lives and that is not what they always see in the church. May we truly live what we say we believe so that people will want to go with us to Jesus!

VERSES 2-3

1. Now this is interesting to me because when she thought about where her beloved would be she remembered that he would be doing his work, feeding his flock and not only that but looking for ways to show his love to her, like bringing her flowers.

This is a beautiful picture of what the Lord does with us as we seek Him. Remember what we are told in Jeremiah 29:11-13 **“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”**

We may go through times of laziness in our Christian walk, where we just don't want to take the time to get away with the Lord, but in the end we love Him so much that we seek Him and as we do He will reveal Himself to us! You see, not only is our praise and worship of God a witness to others but as we do God reveals Himself to us. She was looking for Him and as she spoke of him, He revealed himself to her. As we draw close to God He will draw close to us and the blessings He bestows upon us just shows us how much He loves us!

VERSES 4-7

1. Men, this is an important lesson for us to learn with our wives. Notice that as the bridegroom speaks, as Solomon speaks he does not say, “Where in the world were you, I came to get you and you just couldn't be bothered with me!” He did not complain, “If you don't have time for me then I don't have time for you. I am sick and tired of you! Why don't you just go home to your mother!”

These are not words of condemnation or hate towards his wife but he speaks of her beauty, he tells her that she is beautiful to him! Tirzah was a beautiful city in the north and was the capitol of the Northern Kingdom of Israel for a time. (During the reign of Baasha, I Kings 15:21, 33. Elah, I Kings 16:8. Zimri, I Kings 16:15. Omri, I Kings 16:23.).

He also speaks of her being as beautiful as Jerusalem and we see the beauty of Jerusalem spoken of in Lamentations 2:15 where we are told, “**. . . The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth.**” Also, her beauty was displayed for all to see like the banners of a parade.

As you read this you can't miss the point that he is madly in love with his bride and yes, there is a lot of poetic language that is used to speak of the beauty of his beloved, but you clearly get the picture of his love for her. When you speak of your bride is the picture that you are painting of her beautiful or do you complain of how far short she comes up in meeting your needs, your expectations? Solomon does not speak of her weaknesses, her failures, but of her beauty and so should we of our spouse.

VERSES 8-10

1. At this point in their marriage, and we are not sure how far down the road they are, Solomon has 60 wives, 80 concubines that were already his, and many other virgins that would soon become his. Keep in mind that he eventually had 700 wives and 300 concubines according to 1 Kings 11:3. So this is probably early on in his reign, before he had all those wives but his true love was this Shulamite woman, she surpassed the beauty of all the others, she was special to him.

2. Now how in the world can this be a picture of Christ? Here is one possible way to look at it.

We are not the only Church in town that loves the Lord, nor is Calvary Chapel the only true Church. There is a body of believers that love the Lord within Calvary Chapel and the many other churches in Manitowoc and throughout the world. The important factor that links us together is not what church we belong to, but are we one of His, saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ. Some would be shocked to find out that there are no church denominations or non-denominations in heaven, only those that have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb! That is what really matters.

3. In verses 9-10 Solomon is once again expressing his love for her, how he loves her more than anyone else. Now I just got done saying in the previous verses that we, the multitudes of believers are united into one body, and now we can say of this illustration that there is a united body of believers and a signal Bride! As the Church of God, His Bride, we should reflect His glory, pure in His sight and go forth as an awesome army of God proudly displaying our love for Him and the Gospel message. There are millions upon millions that make up the body of Christ, but there is only one Bride!

VERSES 11-12

1. She went down to the garden of nuts to see the fertility of the valley and she is overjoyed in the presence of her shepherd-king. She says that it is like **“the chariots of my noble people”** carrying me away.

I think the picture that is being painted here is that their love continued to grow and it climaxed with her bridegroom coming for her to take her to himself. And as she reflects of this time she can still hear the daughters of Jerusalem say to her . . .

VERSE 13a

1. As she prepares to leave her family to go to her beloved, friends, the daughters of Jerusalem, compel her to dance for them one more time. The phrase “**Return, return**” means to “turn around” or dance and show us your joy so we may remember your love before you go. They wanted the Shulamite to return so that they might continue enjoying her beauty and goodness, now made more beautiful because of the relationship she enjoyed with her beloved.

As people look at our lives, as they watch us may they see the beauty of the Lord flowing through our lives! May they smell the fragrance of Jesus in us! May they be drawn to us because of what Christ has done in our lives!

VERSE 13b

1. Once again she is just speaking of a special dance they would do, weaving between each other, and it was a dance of joy. And we once again see that she is insecure. She is wondering why anyone would want to see her. We will see in chapter 7, the first 5 verses that the daughters of Jerusalem will respond and then Solomon will respond in verses 6-9. I do realize that some or most of your Bibles will attribute these first 9 verses of chapter 7 to Solomon, but I don't think that is right. In the last half of verse 5 we are told, “**The king is held captive by its tresses**” as the beauty of her hair is spoken of. The key is that it does not say that “He” was taken captive but that the “**king is held captive.**”

Thus, I believe these first 5 verses are the daughters of Jerusalem speaking and explaining why they want to see her, that she is beautiful and then Solomon will jump in also and speak of her beauty! I do realize that not everyone agrees with me on this, most tend to see the first 9 verses of this chapter as Solomon speaking to his bride but again, because of what we read in verse 5 I see this as the daughters of Jerusalem speaking. Let's read on and see how this is played out.

SONG OF SOLOMON 7

VERSES 1-5

1. As much as this Shulamite did not see herself as beautiful, the virgin daughters of Jerusalem did and they speak of her beauty with very descriptive words. One thing I would point out, do not say to your spouse or to anyone for that matter, that their “**nose is like the tower of Lebanon.**” It may have been a compliment back then, but today it may not be taken so well.

2. As we move on I believe it is at this point that Solomon is speaking as he starts speaking in the first person. Let's read on and see what Solomon has to say.

VERSES 6-9a

1. He speaks of his love for her and for some, this is embarrassing. Maybe the reason many feel this way, that this is too descriptive for them is that they have gone to the other extreme and think that any kind of sexual relations except for having children is wrong, it should not be encouraged. They may feel that this kind of love is fleshly, that it is not godly, but I disagree.

Think about that for a minute. You mean to tell me we are not to be enraptured, captivated, totally head over heels with our spouse, that there should be no sexual attraction? You know what I call that kind of marriage, and you may disagree with me, but it is a dead marriage! If there is no heat in a marriage it is because there is no fire in that marriage!

Here with Solomon and his wife they have grown, this couple has matured in their sharing of love, sexual and otherwise. And love within a marriage relationship should also grow over time, it should be richer, it should be deeper. And let me also say this, if your love for your spouse is just based upon sexual relations you are going to be in trouble. There is much more to it than that but don't go to the other extreme and negate sexual relations altogether.

Listen to what Paul has to say in I Corinthians 7:3-5, **“Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”**

Satan will look for any way that he can bring us down. He can't steal away our salvation but he can surely destroy our witness and make us ineffective for the work of God. And one of the ways he does this is through the flesh and sexual relations. Thus, Paul says that a husband and a wife are to give themselves over to each other so that Satan will not get in the middle and destroy the relationship.

So hear me out on this, listen to what God is saying here. God is say that sexual relations between a husband and a wife are not wrong, they are not evil but it is good, it is honorable. Paul put it like this in Hebrews 13:4, **“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”** Now Satan comes along and tries to pervert what God has established and I think many times that is where we go wrong and say that sex is wrong except for having children.

Thus, in marriage you need to give yourself to your spouse and if you do you won't let Satan get in and try to drive a wedge between you and your spouse, tempting you to move away from your spouse. Of this Christenson wrote: “In plain language this means that if one partner desires the sexual relationship, the other should respond to that desire. The husband and wife who adopt this down-to-earth approach to sex will find it a wonderfully satisfying aspect of their marriage – for the simple reason that the relationship is rooted in reality, and not in some artificial or impossible ideal.”

So keep the fire burning in your relationship with your spouse and if you do your relationship will not grow cold!

2. For Solomon, he delighted in her, he was attracted to her and she delighted in him, she was attracted to him! He speaks of her being like a palm tree or I think the idea is that she is tall, great stature and probably not just physical but an inward strength, an inward character!

He speaks of her breasts being like clusters and he is consumed with her beauty and wants to partake of this beauty with her. He then speaks of her breath being like apples and her mouth, the roof of her mouth like the best wine. What is that all about? I think the idea here is the satisfaction that he felt in being intimate with her.

Glickman put it like this, “He creates a vivid picture of his kissing her breasts as one would place the clusters of the vine to one’s lips. And her kisses would bring the fragrance of her breath like the sweet scent of apples, and her mouth would be ‘like the best wine’ to be slowly and exquisitely enjoyed with every sip.”

May we have that kind of passion, that kind of love for our wife! I guarantee you that if you tend the garden of your relationship your wife will blossom. Encourage her, speak beautiful words to her, tend to her needs and watch her grow!

We see Solomon speak of this once again in Proverbs 5:19-20, **“As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?”**

What happens many times today is that when people get married, once the vows are said and the papers are signed, the dating is over. Wrong! Men are especially guilty of this because we are so goal oriented. Once that goal is achieved, we move on to something else. Let me ask you this, when was the last time you dated your wife? If you can’t remember, you better plan a date. Send her flowers. Do those things you did when you were dating her, and more. Show her you love her even more today than you did when you were dating her. If you refuse to do that, then just make an appointment for marriage counseling now, you are going to need it!

The problem for many is that they have bought into Hollywood’s idea of love, but that is not love, it is lust. And you can see it in their relationships, for true love is a commitment, lust is the satisfying of a need and once that has been met, they move on. Be satisfied with what God has given to you and cherish that person, love them to the fullest and don’t get hooked by the bait that Satan has placed in front of you! Be enraptured with your spouse and no one else!

3. Now let's look at this in our relationship with God. Interestingly enough when God looks at us He sees us as being beautiful. Paul said of our condition that has made us ugly in Romans 5:12, **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”** When we were lost in our sins we were dead, spiritually speaking and we were ugly.

But when we ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our life it changes everything. We are made alive in Christ, spiritually speaking. And God does not see us as we are, but what we will be. In Christ, on a practical level, we still sin, but on a positional level we are seen as perfect as the blood of Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness. As Solomon said, **“He has made everything beautiful in its time. . .”** Ecclesiastes 3:11.

In Isaiah 62:5 listen to how God loves us, **“... And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.”** Did you hear what God says about you? He rejoices over you! Can you believe that? I don't think we fully comprehend how much God really loves us.

Paul, in Ephesians chapter 3, wanted these believers to understand God's love as fully as they could. He said beginning in verse 17, **“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”** Ephesians 3:17-19.

The richness of God's love I don't think we will fully understand until we see Him face-to-face.

But let's see what we can glean regarding this love, what is the love of Christ? It is seen in the cross – His love for us pointed in four directions.

- **WIDTH:** The width speaks of the world, that God’s love is wide enough to include every person if they would receive Him as their Lord and Savior. In John 3:16-17 Jesus said, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** His arms are outstretched for all!
- **LENGTH:** God’s love is long enough to last through all of eternity, it will never end, it will last forever! It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 13:4-8a, **“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails . . .”**
- **DEPTH:** God’s love is so deep that it can reach down to the worst sinner and rescue him, save him. Remember the thief on the cross next to Jesus, a murderer, many would look at that man today and say that he could never be saved and yet he cried out to Jesus to forgive him and Jesus said to this man, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”** Luke 23:43. Folks, thank God that His love is so deep that it can save sinners; it can save you and me! Paul said in Romans 5:8, **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**
- **HEIGHT:** God’s love is high enough to take us to heaven, we won’t fall short for He will bring us to the very throne of God, not because we are so good, but because He is so good and loves us that much. Again, as Jesus said in Luke 23:43, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”**

We can never fully understand the richness of God’s love for us but every time we look to the cross we do get a glimpse of it. It is as Paul tells us in Romans 5:5, **“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”** Don’t put a cover over your life, but allow His love to be poured out into it for then you can allow that love to flow from your life to touch the lives of others.

Listen to what Meyer wrote regarding God’s love for us, “Dear soul, do you realize the desire of your Beloved towards you? You love Him; but He loves you ever so much more. You desire Him; but his desire towards you is as much greater than yours towards Him, as sunlight is more brilliant than moonlight.” May we not forget that!

VERSES 9b-10

1. There has been tremendous growth in this relationship on her part. In Song of Solomon 2:16 she says, “**My beloved is mine, and I am his. . . .**” Then we see in Song of Solomon 6:3 that she says, “**I am my beloved’s, And my beloved is mine. . . .**” Now, in Song of Solomon 7:10 she says, “**I am my beloved’s. . . .**” *PERIOD!*

She no longer is trying to earn his love, but is freely giving her life to him, the main joy of her life. Of this Morgan tells us, “It is the full, final, ultimate word of love. It expresses complete satisfaction, absolute rest, and uttermost of contentment and peace. There are two elements in it. The first is that of complete abandonment; ‘I am my beloved’s.’ The second is that of the realization that the beloved is satisfied; ‘His desire is toward me.’”

Make no mistake about it, our spouse should know that we love them unconditionally. They should be able to rest in that fact. Anytime you threaten to leave them, go away you are breaking that commitment and she or he is not going to be able to rest anymore. The person will be thinking, “I better be careful because I may do something to make them leave again!” That is not a marriage relationship, threats don’t build up a relationship but they destroy it.

I can honestly say that my wife has never felt threatened that I was going to leave her in the 34 years that we have been married. Now I am not saying that there were times when she wanted me to leave, just kidding, but you understand that unconditional love is just that and it puts the spouse at ease and the relationship can grow!

2. Let me also say this. The most important thing in your life is to know Jesus Christ, to give your life to Him, for He already loves you and His desire is that you love Him!

VERSES 11-13

1. Think about how this relationship has grown over time. When they first met they were in love with each other and that love grew to the point of marriage and consummating the marriage. Now some time has passed and maybe things have cooled off a little. That passion they once had for each other was gone. To re-ignite that fire she wants him to go to the place they first met, they first fell in love, and they will share each other's love there. The mandrakes were similar in size and color to apples and were considered to be an aphrodisiac.

When we were living in Illinois, about 20 years ago, my wife did this with me in that she kidnapped me for some time away with her. I was busy with work, teaching Bible studies, doing this and doing that beside my home life with her and the kids. And I came home from work and she met me at the door with the suit cases by the door. Not a good sign, at least it was bothering me a little, I did not know what she was up to.

And when she explained that she was taking me away I said, "What about the kids?" They were taken care of. "Then what about the dog?" Taken care of. What about all the work I need to do? "It will still be here when we get back!" And off we went and what a great time. She knew we needed to rekindle that fire and I am blessed to have a wife that sees that and then is willing to do something about it! For us it was a weekend getaway just like it was for Solomon and his wife!

2. As Christians we may need to re-ignite that fire that we once had with the Lord. Jesus told the church in Ephesus who had left their first love, Jesus, to "**Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works. . . .**" Revelation 2:5.

Remember the story of Jacob. As he was on the run from his brother Esau he had an encounter with God at Bethel. From there he went to his uncle Laban's house and spent 20 years away from God, until once again he was on the move, heading home.

And after he makes peace with his brother Esau, **“Then God said to Jacob, ‘Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.’”** Genesis 35:1. God was calling Jacob to get back to Bethel, which means *“house of God.”*

Why did he need to do that? To re-establish that relationship that he once had with God. And the first thing he does is he puts away all the foreign gods, he wants to return to his first love, and he recognizes what needs to be done, and does it. May we also return to Bethel, the house of God!

Also, God wants to give us fruit in our lives. We were created for good works. The old fruit is the dried fruit while the new fruit was the fresh, and both are important in our lives. The old love is precious, it has been built up over the years and it is strong and deep. But there also needs to be fresh love, it keeps the relationship alive, romantic. In our walk with the Lord our love has been built upon our cry to be saved and from that point on it grows and becomes stronger. We must also keep our walk fresh with the Lord, not let it become dry or stale. You need to spend time with Him!

SONG OF SOLOMON 8**VERSES 1-2**

1. Now as we read this what she is requesting might seem kind of strange in our culture but please understand that she does not desire for Solomon to be her literal brother. You see, in that culture to kiss anyone in public besides your brother or sister was frowned upon. Kinlaw put it like this, “She would like the liberty in public that the brother and sister in that day had. So she wishes she could freely kiss him in public.” And yet she wanted to display her love, she enjoyed kissing her husband and did not want to be restricted in showing her love toward him.

I think that is important in a marriage relationship. Not only for the couple that are married, but that their children can plainly see how much they love each other and that the foundation for their love is Christ. Our children never had a doubt how much Julie and I loved each other, in fact they would see us kiss and they would be embarrassed. But they knew we loved each other very much and that love was based in Christ because we both loved the Lord!

2. Now how does this relate to our relationship with Christ? Think about that for a minute. We have Christians today who hide their faith; they don't want to show their love for Christ, like they are embarrassed by it. There are no secret agent Christians, at least there shouldn't be! They are either hiding their faith or on the other end they are so obnoxious with their faith that they are repulsive to others. Display your love for God in a way that would bring Him honor, that would bring Him glory and as others see your love for Him they will desire to have what you have!

VERSES 3-4

1. Notice how he embraces her. His left hand is under her head supporting her. His right hand is around her protecting her. May we love our wives that way, that we embrace them with love, supporting her, making her feel that she is the most precious person in the world! May we rap ourselves around our spouse and make them feel secure in us, that we are there to protect them!

2. Now in your relationship with God we need to allow God to hold you close, draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. Allow God to embrace you, comfort you, love you as He desires. If you do, He will lift up your down cast soul, He will give you rest, He will encourage you and direct you.

3. We see in verse 4 that she once again says, **“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not stir up nor awaken love Until it pleases.”** This is the third time in this Song of Solomon that she says this, we read this previously in Song of Solomon 2:7 and 3:5. And the basic idea is not to go looking for love; God will bring it to you just as He brought Eve to Adam. In His time, according to His plan, He will bring the person for you. Don’t go looking for love, don’t go stirring up those emotions until God brings that person to you or you will be in trouble. Don’t go looking but just live out your life and God will bring the one to you otherwise you will be looking in all the wrong places. Fall in love with Jesus and He will give you the desire of your heart because it will be His desire for your life!

VERSE 5

1. There is some dispute regarding who is speaking here but I lean towards the fact that these are the people from her community and as Solomon and his bride return from their mountain getaway, they were in the mountains of Bether or separation, the people notice something different about her. Now she is leaning on her beloved. She learned to trust in him. She was unsure at first, but once she spent time with him she learned to rest in him.

And this apple tree that is spoken of may be the place that they met, under this tree and this is the place where their love for each other began to grow. And it also seems to be the place, under this tree that her mother gave birth to her so it has a very special meaning to her.

2. Now let's make the spiritual application here because I believe that is what the Lord is doing with us. He is getting us to lean more and more upon Him and to trust less and less in ourselves. But you must get alone with Him, to the mountains of Bether or separation. And, as you spend time with the Lord, when people see you, do they see something different in your life? Do they see you leaning upon the Lord?

It is as Spurgeon wrote, "Beloved, there is no part of the pilgrimage of a saint in which he can afford to walk in any other way but in the way of leaning. He cometh up at the first, and he cometh up at the last, still leaning, still leaning upon Christ Jesus; ay, and leaning more and more heavily upon Christ the older he grows." May we learn to lean upon Him!

VERSES 6-7

1. Here we see the Shulamite speak to her beloved and as you can see, their love for each other was strong, their love for each was burning hot! On the other hand, jealousy, which is not true love, is destructive. At least worldly jealousy is destructive. Think of relationships that jealousy has destroyed and which many times is an unfounded jealousy.

Keep in mind that true love is freely given, there are no strings attached. If you can't give love freely, then don't give it at all. The fire of true love will not be put out but will continue to burn no matter who or what tries to throw water upon it and quench it as long as you tend to that fire!

As you look at these verses there are four pictures that are being painted for us in regards to love. They are,

- Love is like a seal on the heart and arm. *Therefore*, love belongs to those who are willing to give up something of themselves to another person who is also willing to give up something of themselves, it is working together and willing to surrender all to the other person.
- Love is like death, in that it is persistent and keeps reaching out; it is total and irreversible. *Therefore*, the bond of love needs to be nourished and regarded as permanent. You starve a love relationship and it will die!
- Love is like a raging fire and cannot be extinguished. *Therefore*, one must take care how, where, and with whom the spark of love is ignited. And once that relationship is established, never let that fire burn out!
- Love cannot be bought or sold; it is not a piece of merchandise. *Therefore*, love must be appreciated for its great value and not be taken for granted. May we never take our relationship with our spouse for granted!

2. Now in regards to the spiritual application, God has given to us the Holy Spirit as His seal of love for us, showing that we are His and that He will return someday to take that which He has purchased with his life - the Church, His bride!

It is as Paul said in Ephesians 1:13-14, **“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

Also, and this is important, God wants us to love Him with no strings attached. Often people say to God, “I will trust in you if you do such and such for me.” That is the wrong attitude; you don’t approach God that way. Jacob did this with the Lord when he said in Genesis 28:20-22, **“... ‘If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.’”** Jacob spent 20 years away from God before he returned to Bethel and this time there were no demands that he made to God before he would follow and serve Him. An important lesson for us to learn!

VERSES 8-9

1. Here we see her brothers and some feel that they are speaking of a sister that they and this Shulamite woman had. And their concern is preparing her for marriage because she is going to grow up. And they are just wondering how she will turn out, what they will do for her when she is older and ready to marry.

That is a possibility, but I tend to see this as looking back when this Shulamite woman was very young, before she was in puberty, and her brothers are concerned about her growing up and how she will turn out, will she be married and how they can prepare her for this day!

And as you get to verse 9 they seem to be saying that if she lives a good life, a life of separation, they will build upon that. But if she is open to all kinds of things, living an immoral lifestyle, they will try to protect her, enclose her so she won't continue down this destructive path.

2. How does that apply to us as Christians? I look at it like this. As Christians we need to be a wall, to live a life that is separated unto God. Too often Christians are open to anything and everything, accepting all that comes their way. God has called us to be holy, set apart for His use, for His glory.

In the church God has placed leaders **“for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head; Christ; from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”** Ephesians 4:12-16. May we come out from among the evil of this world and be holy for our Lord is holy!

VERSE 10

1. Here in verse 10 she is responding to what her brothers said, remembering back and looking back from where she is at now. Glickman made these comments about this verse, “She herself had chosen to be a wall. And finally she grew up. Her breasts were like towers. The towers were the fortresses of the land. They inspired a somber appreciation from the citizens and a healthy respect from their enemies.”

She did not let her walls come tumbling down but kept herself pure, she did not engage in premarital sex and her family helped her to stay strong. We read, **“... We will build upon her A battlement of silver; And if she is a door, We will enclose her With boards of cedar.”**

Song of Solomon 8:9

David Guzik gives us these insightful words that are important in the days we are living in. He wrote, “We dare not miss the connection between the wise and noble defense of her honor and virginity described in these and the previous verses, and the health and peace she now found in married life. Her wall-like character was an important part of the foundation for the blessed married life she now enjoyed. . . .

It was also important that her family encouraged this concern and character development in her from a young age. One reason this is important is that once we experience something – such as premarital sex – the temptation to do it again will be stronger. This is confirmed by not only experience, but also by neurobiology. When we get a chemical/hormonal/biological rush from a physically pleasurable experience, it builds brain circuits that look for a repeat of the same rush. The body also compensates by decreasing the production and contribution of natural and healthy chemical/hormonal/biological agents.”

We need to keep those walls up, we need to keep those doors closed and remain pure. Remember what the Shulamite said to the daughters of Jerusalem, **“I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, Do not stir up now awaken love Until it pleases.”** Song of Solomon 8:4. If we fail to be a wall against certain sins, we will be caught in the cords of those sins, and never know the goodness of becoming **“as one who found peace.”** Solomon said in Proverbs 5:22, **“His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.”** Be wise and don’t let your walls come crumbling down or keep your doors open, remain pure and God will honor your faithfulness to Him!

2. One more point here and that is the Shulamite speaks of her life of separation and now her joy, her satisfaction, her rest in her beloved. Spiritually speaking we know this to be true, that true peace is found only in the Lord as we look to Him.

VERSES 11-12

1. She tells us that Solomon owned a vineyard in the northern part of the country, in Baal Hamon. And Solomon leased his land to others to grow their fruit and he made a profit from it. And the Shulamite builds on that picture by telling Solomon that yes, he has leased his land, but he can have her freely. She desired to give her love to him. Estes builds on that and he said, “Shulamith’s life was her vineyard. Because she was pure, she could give herself entirely to her husband. Her heart was undivided, and her body was not tainted by premarital sex.”

2. I also see a beautiful picture in our relationship to our Lord. God wants us to give our love freely to Him as Paul said, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

Romans 12:1-2. May we freely give our love to Him, not out of the Law or some requirement, but because we love Him so much we freely surrender to Him!

VERSE 13

1. Solomon is once again just expressing his love for his bride and men, this is so important. Our wives should feel that they are the most important, the most cherished person in our lives and thus, we need to let them know it! Dr. Jeff Schloss showed how important it is for a wife to feel that way, in fact both husbands and wives ranked their happiness in correlation to how much they believe they are loved and cherished by their spouse. *Wives who do not have the confidence that they are loved and cherished by their husband in fact dies sooner, and they die sooner than single women.* These findings are true across cultures. Solomon made her feel loved and as much as others wanted to hear her voice, he wanted to hear her voice more!

VERSE 14

1. As the song concludes she calls for her beloved to come and claim her as his own. What a beautiful song of love that Solomon and his bride had for each other and it should be reflected in our own lives towards our spouse and towards our Lord. As we close this book this evening, also understand that this is a love song and it is “the Old Testament’s endorsement of monogamy in the face of the most glaring example of polygamy to be found in the Scriptures. It is a powerful plea to Israel of Solomon’s day to return to the God-given ideal of love and marriage.” (Twyman Williams, *The Song of Solomon*, p. 422) Apply those lessons to your marriage, to your walk with the Lord, and watch both areas of your life grow and blossom!