

Let's Talk About Song of Songs

"Let's talk about sex!" Are we allowed to talk about this in church?

God created it! God created the context for it! God declared it to be good!
God even devoted an entire book of the Bible to this topic!

If we can't talk about sex in church, where then can we talk about it?
Everywhere else! That's the problem! The Church cannot afford to be silent!

But we often are, because of our own weakness, struggles, mistakes, even questions in this area! Maybe that's why God had Solomon write this book!

Solomon probably isn't the person we would have chosen, knowing what we do about his track record. He really messed up in the area of marriage, intimacy & sex! But God chose him to write a book of wisdom about it!

We don't know exactly when this book was written

- Maybe it was written early on in his life before he threw wisdom to the curb! & this book serves as a picture of the way God intended it to be!
- Maybe it was written later on in his life as a way to protect others from going down the same path he did. A memoir of what was lost!
- Maybe, as some commentators speculate, Solomon didn't even write the book, but someone else put his name to it for the irony of it all!

Either way it's interesting that this man of such wisdom, and yet such failure in this area of marriage, intimacy & sex, is tied so closely to this book!

Can we learn from such a man? Can we accept that God knows better than we do, and that He has His reasons for putting this book in Holy Scripture?

"*Song of Songs*" is the last book in the section of the Bible called "the wisdom books". There is practical wisdom to be found here, just like in...

- Job – Wisdom in facing adversity & trusting in the goodness & glory of God!
- Psalms – Wisdom in our approach to God, even amidst our own humanity!
- Proverbs – Wisdom in the way of life, our pursuit of what's good/right!
- Ecclesiastes – Wisdom for when life seems empty/meaningless!

"Song of Songs" gives wisdom for the most sacred human relationship that God has given to us to enjoy – marriage! And we need Godly wisdom here!

Our world has redefined marriage, intimacy, sex, our sexual identity, etc.

And part of the problem is that the Church has failed to speak up and teach a proper God-given sexual ethic!

- God has not been silent, yet so many of us have never been exposed to the truth. What the Bible says about marriage, intimacy & sex needs to be made known, b/c only the Truth of God will set the captives free!
- Many of us know the truth about sex, yet we apply it so poorly! Sex is a gift, something to be enjoyed (in the right context), but too often we turn it into something else, and that only breeds confusion!
- Many of us know the truth, but we reject it b/c of our own sinful desires! Something good becomes something very bad, when sin reigns in our hearts!

The marriage relationship can be something beautiful! Intimacy without guilt/shame is possible! Sex doesn't have to be seen as something sinful or dirty! But God's voice must have the final say! His way is the only way!

Listen to the poetic imagery in Song of Songs 2:8-17! This is not a Hollywood chick-flick, or a Disney fairytale! This is a Godly love story!

The imagery is that of a restored creation after the winter & rains are gone! In the Garden of Eden, God created marriage & sexual expression and declared it good. But sin entered the picture and destroyed/distorted it!

Just as God restores the beauty of His creation when spring comes, so too can God restore His good intent for marriage & sexual expression if we trust the plan and purpose for which He created it in the first place!

I know we all have questions! I know the world offers different answers! The question is, will we pursue Godly wisdom, or the wisdom of this world?

This book of "Song of Songs" has also been viewed as an allegory of our relationship with God! Though this is not the primary function of this book, the nature of our relationship with God will affect our response to His ways!

Do we love Him? Do we put our relationship with Him above all else? Are there parallels between our response to God & our response to our spouse?

God wants us to not just know Him, but to love Him, & to forsake all else to be w/ Him. He modeled that for us in Christ, how will we respond to His love?

Let's Talk About S _____

"Let's talk about _____" Are we allowed to talk about this in church?

God created it! God created the context for it! God declared it to be good!
God even devoted an entire book of the Bible to this topic!

If we can't talk about sex in church, where then can we talk about it?
Everywhere else! That's the problem! The Church cannot afford _____

But we often are, because of our own weakness, struggles, mistakes, even
questions in this area! Maybe that's why God had Solomon write this book!

Solomon probably isn't the person we would have chosen, knowing what
we do about his track record. He really messed up in the area of marriage,
intimacy & sex! But God chose him to write a book of _____ about it!

We don't know exactly when this book was written

- Maybe it was written early on in his life before he threw wisdom to the curb! & this book serves as a picture of the way God _____ it to be!
- Maybe it was written later on in his life as a way to protect others from going down the same path he did. A _____ of what was lost!
- Maybe, as some commentators speculate, Solomon didn't even write the book, but someone else put his name to it for the irony of it all!

Either way it's interesting that this man of such wisdom, and yet such failure
in this area of marriage, intimacy & sex, is tied so closely to this book!

Can we learn from such _____? Can we accept that God knows better than
we do, and that He has His reasons for putting this book in Holy Scripture?

"*Song of Songs*" is the last book in the section of the Bible called "the
wisdom books". There is practical wisdom to be found here, just like in...

- Job – Wisdom in facing adversity & trusting in the goodness & glory of God!
- Psalms – Wisdom in our approach to God, even amidst our own humanity!
- Proverbs – Wisdom in the way of life, our pursuit of what's good/right!
- Ecclesiastes – Wisdom for when life seems empty/meaningless!

"*Song of Songs*" gives wisdom for the most sacred human _____ that
God has given to us to enjoy – marriage! And we need Godly wisdom here!

Our world has redefined marriage, intimacy, sex, our sexual identity, etc.

And part of the problem is that the Church has failed to speak up and teach
a proper God-given _____

- God has not been silent, yet so many of us have never been exposed to the truth. What the Bible says about marriage, intimacy & sex needs to be made known, b/c only the Truth of God will set the captives free!
- Many of us know the truth about sex, yet we apply it so _____
Sex is a gift, something to be enjoyed (in the right context), but too often we turn it into something else, and that only breeds confusion!
- Many of us know the truth, but we reject it b/c of our own _____
Something good becomes something very bad, when sin reigns in our hearts!

The marriage relationship can be something beautiful! Intimacy without
guilt/shame is possible! Sex doesn't have to be seen as something sinful or
dirty! But God's voice must have the _____! His way is the only way!

Listen to the poetic imagery in **Song of Songs 2:8-17**! This is not a
Hollywood chick-flick, or a Disney fairytale! This is a Godly love story!

The imagery is that of a restored creation after the winter & rains are gone!
In the Garden of Eden, God created marriage & sexual expression and
declared it _____. But sin entered the picture and destroyed/distorted it!

Just as God restores the beauty of His creation when spring comes, so too
can God restore His good intent for marriage & sexual expression if we trust
the plan and purpose for which He created it in the first place!

I know we all have questions! I know the world offers different answers!
The question is, will we pursue Godly wisdom, or the wisdom of this world?

This book of "*Song of Songs*" has also been viewed as an _____ of our
relationship with God! Though this is not the primary function of this book,
the nature of our relationship with God will affect our response to His ways!

Do we love Him? Do we put our relationship with Him above all else? Are
there parallels between our response to God & our response to our spouse?

God wants us to not just know Him, but to _____ Him, & to forsake all else to
be w/ Him. He modeled that for us in Christ, how will we respond to His love?