Song of Solomon*

Song of Solomon 2:1-10 (1) I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.
(2) As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.
(3) As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
(4) He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.
(5) Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love.
(6) His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.
(7) I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
(8) The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills.
(9) My beloved is like a roe or a young hart: behold, he standeth behind our wall, he looketh forth at the windows, shewing himself through the lattice.
(10) My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
The Song of Solomon is a beautiful ballad about the joys and pleasures of romantic love between a man and a woman, so what is something like this doing in the Bible? Our God, who made us male and female provides us with specific instructions on how we can respond to each other as men and women throughout courtship and then as husband and wife. But is this something we should be reading during Church services? Or should we leave this topic in the bedroom under the cloak of darkness? The Song of Solomon has made many people nervous! I debated within myself, should I or should I not

bring forth a lesson out of this book?
Like the book of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, is both fascinating and enigmatic, providing striking testimonials, to the unique, wide-ranging, wisdom of Solomon. He was said to have written over a thousand songs (I Kings 4:32), but this book was his "Song of songs which is Solomon's" (chapter 1:1). *The book was evidently written early in Solomon's reign, long before his many wives turned his life away from devotion to his first love. Although there have been a number of interpretations of this book, the most obvious interpretation is no interpretation at all. That is, it is simply what it purports to be—a romantic love poem describing the love of young Solomon and a Shulamite maiden who became his first bride. There is nothing unseemly, of course, about a book of the Bible depicting the beauties of pure courtship and marital love. The union of male and female in holy matrimony is intrinsic to the creation itself. It is indispensable; essential, necessary to the existence and continuance of mankind. It is God's will that a man and a woman may live in a God ordained marriage and the Song of Solomon is a handbook into its many joys. Marriage is a topic that is depicted throughout the Bible, even from the beginning, turn to;*
Genesis 2:18-24 (18) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
(19) And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.
(20) And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.
(21) And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

(22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
(23) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
(24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.
The narrative of the Song of Solomon can be considered as a poetic picture of courtship and marriage ordained by God. Wise Solomon extended his poetic picture of marriage into other books as well. He wrote metaphors about the relationship a married couple should have toward each other. A relationship of love and faithfulness, turn with me to;
Proverbs 5:15-18 (15) Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.
(16) Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.
(17) Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.
(18) Let thy fountain be blessed: and **rejoice with the wife of thy youth.**
I remember my wife of my youth. I remember her as the pretty young girl who stole my heart, who became my lover, my best friend, my helper, the mother of my children, the one above all others I could confide in. And all these things are only the tip of the iceberg of what she was and still means to me. Yes she to, lost her youthful appearance, but more than ever, she was everything to me in this life and I rejoice that God had given her to me to be my wife. And if one should wonder just how important a man's wife is to him, consider this, of all that is under the sun, living joyfully with her is his portion in this life, turn to;
Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 (7) Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.
(8) Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no

ointment.
(9) **Live joyfully with the wife** whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for **that is thy portion in this life**, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.
If I understand Solomon's words correctly, a man's wife is more important than gold or silver, more important than any mansion that could be built, more important than any prestigious honors that could be achieved. She is a man's portion in this life. I should think a man's portion in this life should be loved, honored, protected and given more attention than anything else in this world except God, and do it with thy might.
I want to side-step the normal relationship God intended for a man and a woman, so that another relationship may be considered. That of same-sex couples. I will not, nor do I encourage hatred toward gay and lesbian people. But this lifestyle is a sin and like any other sin; The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2Pet 3:9). *This is what a Christian should teach and encourage. I have heard it said that Heb 13:4 is biblical authority to live a same-sex lifestyle. However, God did not ordain a same-sex lifestyle;* And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him (Gen 2:18). *A true student of the Bible will have no problem understanding;* Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh (Gen 2:24). *But one may say, Gen 2:24 is in the old testament and Heb 13:4 is in the new testament and it is our authority in these latter days. Well, that is a true statement, but there is no authority in the new testament for a same-sex lifestyle, in fact it teaches against that immoral lifestyle. Turn to;*
Romans 1:26-28 (26) For this cause God gave them up unto

vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:
(27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.
(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
The description "without natural affection" really stands out as an obstruction to a same-sex lifestyle notwithstanding the other reasons we have read. In our world there is a phrase people use in an attempt to legalize that which is wrong, they say it is politically correct; Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (Isa 5:20)! *It is our duty to pray and teach, turn to;*
1Timothy 2:1-4 (1) I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
(2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
(3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
(4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
In the truest sense of language by definition, it is impossible for a same-sex couple to consummate a so-called marriage. Two people of the same sex cannot become one flesh. Cannot have children. In nature a same-sex lifestyle is disgusting, repulsive, despicable, offensive and morally debased, and condemned spiritually. "Vile affections" in Romans 1:26 means--very evil or wicked, very unpleasant or disgusting, so you can see for yourself how morally wrong a same-sex couple lifestyle is.

But the Song of Solomon is about the courtship and then the joys and pleasures of love and marriage between a man and a woman as husband and wife. So when the new testament says "marriage is honorable in all", it is speaking of the only marriage within holy writ that is designed by God and has His approval, a marriage between a man and a woman. The first three chapters of Song of Solomon describe the courtship stage before marriage. We are allowed to listen in to the day-dreams of the bride-to-be as she thinks about the night she will finally be married to the man she loves. The first words out of Solomon's mouth are compliment and praise, and she responds with gentle words of love back to him, turn to;
Song of Solomon 1:9-16 (9) I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.
(10) Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold.
(11) We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.
(12) While the king sitteth at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.
(13) A bundle of myrrh is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts.
(14) My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.
(15) Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes.
(16) Behold, thou art fair, my beloved, yea, pleasant: also our bed is green.
But what's the deal with these metaphors in Song of Solomon? Here is a sweet thought to try out on your girlfriend or your wife; thy hair is as a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead, *that's in chapter* 4:1. *If you have ever had a close encounter with a goat, it's actually not a romantic experience! They do not exhibit good behaviour and they do not smell good. Or how about this one;* thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon, *that's in chapter* 7:4. *Your significant other may have*

some words to describe you and "Romeo" will not be one of them. But here's the deal, all through the book, Solomon and his bride praise each other with metaphors designed to evoke certain emotions, fond feelings for each other. We do the same thing. On a cold winter night we may say, I'm snug as a bug in a rug. Now I do not know of anyone who is fond of bugs in their rug, but the metaphor communicates how we feel, warm and secure. So when Solomon compares his beloveds hair to a flock of goats descending down Mount Gilead, we should imagine a herd of black palestinian goats cascading down a sandy-colored hill side in the golden sunset. It's captivating, almost hypnotic, and that's the point. Solomon was captivated, playfully entangled, by his lover's dark flowing hair. Solomon's love song is meant to be experienced more than analyzed. We can see the pattern unfolding in courtship. The first three chapters describe the courtship stage, romance before marriage. The couple is learning about each others likes and dislikes. The words of compliments, praise and loving admiration seem to flow easier during the courtship stage but should not end once married. Finally the big day arrives. And when the ceremony is over and friends and relatives are gone, the newlyweds are alone for the first time as husband and wife. In her nervousness, the bride said very little. However Solomon spoke tender words of love and appreciation as he took her into his arms. Perhaps God was speaking in a metaphor when blessing their union? Turn to;
Song of Solomon 5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice: I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.
Those who think God takes a prudish view of human sexuality need to read Song of Solomon with a fresh look. The greatest fulfillment is within the safe, God ordained boundaries of marriage. After the honeymoon, likely the couple may day-dream about the kind of house they want for their own.

A white house with a picket fence may be the fancy of some. But it's not the house that makes the home, it's the God-honoring love between husband and wife, and bringing up their children in the ways of the Lord that make a home. The rest of the book describes the growth of this couple's love after the wedding. One key to their ongoing pleasure in their marriage was the tenderness and honor they displayed toward each other. Solomon and his bride cultivated their love by spending time together. On one occasion we find the bride suggesting an outing together. We may learn something, let's listen in;

Song of Solomon 7:11-12 (7) Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.
(12) Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

Do you really think she cared if the pomegranates had blossomed? Probably not. That was an excuse for time alone, time away from the responsibilities of home, a time away from business or the job. You may think God is not concerned about something so ordinary. But He is concerned, He is concerned about your marriage. We have time for our careers and even overtime at work. We have time for sports, hobbies and yard work. What priority do we put on the most significant human relationship of this life? The life we share with our mate. Why not take the time to drive out into the country. Pack a picnic lunch and afterwards, stroll around the lake shore hand in hand with your beloved. Work on cultivating habits of honor and tenderness in your relationship. If you are the male in the relationship, read or paraphrase ***Song of Solomon 4:9-12*** *to your beloved. Plan a romantic evening with your spouse, tell her these words and really mean it;*

(9) Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain

of thy neck.
(10) How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!
(11) Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.
(12) A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
If you are the female in the relationship, read or paraphrase ***Song of Solomon 5:10-16*** *to your spouse, while on a romantic evening tell him and really mean the words you speak;*
(10) My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.
(11) His head is as the most fine gold, his locks are bushy, and black as a raven.
(12) His eyes are as the eyes of doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.
(13) His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.
(14) His hands are as gold rings set with the beryl: his belly is as bright ivory overlaid with sapphires.
(15) His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
(16) His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.
One key to ongoing pleasure in a marriage is the tenderness and honor displayed toward each other. I think a lot of couples lose that sense of honor. In God's ideal marriage however, we hear both husband and wife speaking to each other in soft and enduring words. Even when there is a misunderstanding, try to work it out with compassion and forgiveness. Why do people stop being romantic when kids and diapers and monday night football come along? Work on cultivating habits of honor and tenderness in your relationship.

Do something this week out of the ordinary to show the person you love how much he or she really means to you. We have many liberties, we are free to chose whom we marry. I wonder, if perhaps, we may take that liberty to the extreme in some cases. Turn with me to;

2Corinthians 6:14-16 (14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

(15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

(16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

If a Christian would base a lifelong relationship with a mate on this concept, the chance of being led astray unto another gospel would be nonexistent.

To become a Christian, do so by faith in Christ that is the effect of belief. Let me explain; only those who first believe the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, and by faith confess, 'I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God,' and by faith are baptized for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel and how one has part in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It's invitation is always open, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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Revised; 10282019
Song of Solomon presented to; BaronOk-Jan2013/

1Corinthians 7:1-5 (1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.
(2) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
(3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.
(4) The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.
(5) Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.