



Sexual Purity Course Lesson 19

For centuries, the Song of Solomon has been interpreted as an allegory of the relationship between God and His people. While marriage is designed by God to illustrate that relationship, this method of interpretation is forced. The book should be read as a collection of love poems between a husband and wife. It celebrates love and sex. Look for these kinds of poems as you read:

1. Songs of Description and Admiration. In these poems one partner will describe the beauty and attractiveness of the other in detail.
2. Songs of Yearning. These poems picture the husband and wife as being apart from each other but strongly desiring to be together once again.
3. Game of Love. This poem is much like the songs of yearning, but in a more playful spirit. The longing for the other is intense. Satisfaction is finally found by the two coming together again and enjoying each other. This kind of poem speaks of the partner as the one and only. It is a reminder, in descriptive terms, of the exclusive relationship of a husband and wife.

Scripture: Read the Song of Solomon.

Study:

The perversion of sex comes in two forms. On the one hand, our society makes sex an idol. Sex is a major obsession. It does not matter what kind of sexuality it is: heterosexual, homosexual, adulterous – our society promotes the idea that a life without some type of sexual stimulation is boring at best, perhaps even meaningless. What has happened is that sexuality has been made into an idol. Many have rejected the Creator and have tried to fill the void in their lives with sexual relationships.

On the other hand, the church at times perverts sexuality by making it unclean or taboo. There is still an ongoing bias against the body in many parts of the church that suggests that sexuality is base or wicked even within the context of marriage.

The Song of Songs, however, is a canonical corrective to the perversion of sexuality. It reminds us that sex is good and pleasurable. It is not evil when enjoyed within the parameters of marriage (Dillard and Longman III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, pgs. 264-265).

Application:

1. What does this book teach about *waiting* to find sexual fulfillment?