

Jesus Loves Me

Chapter 15

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #60



Objective: To understand why the Song of Solomon is included in the Bible and what it shows us about God's love for His Church and for us.



I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

—Isaiah 61:10

This is how God showed His love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love; not that we loved God, but He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

—1 John 4:9-11

The Song of Solomon (also known as the Song of Songs) is the last of the poetry books. It is a love song that records the romance of two lovers. Many people wonder why a book about romance and physical intimacy is included in the Bible, but the Song contains important truths. One is that God considers the sexual relationship in marriage to be a very good part of His creation. God created woman to complete man and joined them together in an intimate relationship. God created mankind with the need for intimacy. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Contrary to the beliefs of some, sex within marriage is not unspiritual or unholy. God's Word teaches that it is a pure act designed by God to celebrate love, the joy of oneness, produce children, experience pleasure when protected in committed marriage.

Another important truth in the Song can be found when it is read as an illustration of our relationship with Christ, which is often described in Scripture as a marriage relationship. The two lovers in the Song of Solomon represent the love between God and Israel and the love between Christ and His Church. Not only is this allegory an important picture of God's relationship with His people as a whole, it is also an important illustration of the relationship Jesus has with each one of us individually. It teaches us much about an intimate relationship with the risen, living Christ. This love song speaks the language of the heart about the most important emotion: love.

1. **True** or false? Poetry is the language of the heart.
2. True or **false**? Like the book of Job and some of the psalms, the Song of Solomon is about pain and suffering.



3. True or **false**? The Song of Solomon should not be in the Bible, because God would never inspire a book about intimate sexual love.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Why is the Song of Solomon in the Bible? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. To teach us the sanctity of intimate love in marriage**
 - b. To show us a picture of God's love for His people**
 - c. To teach us the proper way to love
 - d. To illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church**
5. What is the best way to help young people remain pure?
- a. Teach them that sex is dirty.
 - b. Teach them that sex is good and beautiful in the context of marriage.**
 - c. Never talk about sex in their presence.
 - d. Forbid them from talking to members of the opposite sex.
6. In the Song, which person interrupts the communion between the bride and bridegroom?
- a. Only the bride**
 - b. Only the bridegroom
 - c. Both
 - d. Neither
7. How interested is Jesus in having an intimate and personal relationship with us?
- a. Not very interested, but He will allow it
 - b. Somewhat interested
 - c. Interested with some people
 - d. Extremely interested with everyone who will come to Him**

8. What does God want us to pursue above all?

- a. His gifts
- b. Love for His people
- c. Joy
- d. Jesus**

9. Song of Solomon, Jesus, and the apostle Paul teach us that God's love for us is: (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Pure**
- b. Unconditional**
- c. Undeniable**
- d. Incomparable**
- e. Indestructible**
- f. Eternal**
- g. Irresistible**
- h. Sacrificial**

10. How are we to love each other?

- a. The best we can.
- b. Like they love us.
- c. As our parents taught us
- d. As God loves us.**



How intimate is your relationship with Jesus? Would you like for it to be more intimate? Is there someone you have not been showing God's love to? How can you let them see God's love through your life?

*Love is patient,
Love is kind,
It does not envy,
It does not boast,
It is not proud,
It is not rude,
It is not self-seeking,
It is not easily angered,
It keeps no record of wrongs,
Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with truth.
Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.*

—1 Corinthians 13:4-8



Thank God for His deep, passionate love for you. Ask Him to draw you closer and help you grow each day in your relationship with Him. Ask God to show His love to others through you so they could come to know God's love personally too.



Going Deeper

1. Give at least two reasons why Song of Solomon is included in the Bible. _____

2. Why is it so very important to teach our children that an intimate sexual relationship in the context of marriage is a beautiful, holy and sacred relationship in the sight of God? _____

3. What are the negative consequences of teaching children that sex is something dirty? _____

4. How can we accomplish our goal of seeing our children as virgins when they marry, without giving them the impression that sex is dirty? _____

5. Explain how this book is an allegory of the love relationship between the risen, living Christ and His Church in general and you and me in particular. _____

6. Who is the suitor or the one initiating this relationship – the bride or the Bridegroom? _____

7. How do you personally apply the fact that this relationship is never broken by the Bridegroom but only by the bride? _____
