

Song of Solomon 1:1 – 4

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~ The Spirit of God sets forth principles and ideals for the marriage relationship in this song that, if not strictly followed, will doom a marriage to failure. Now, I realize many ungodly men and women become, and sometimes remain, married their entire lives; but it is rarely a marriage of joy and satisfaction, nor is it a happy home — because, without God, that would literally be impossible. A man and a woman must be one, for each other, and both for God; or — there is no marriage. Outside of that very strict parameter, there is only a tedious, mundane, stale, and monotonous obligation that runs against our best interest. Without Christ at the center, marriage becomes a self-constructed burden we impose on ourselves; but which the Lord does not recognize, use, or bless; not in King Solomon's day, not today — and not ever, my beloved.

Marriage is the one and only institution in this life God has placed His seal of approval on. The union of a man and a woman who become one flesh is that which God has deemed right. This has been downplayed and played up too much — both in the wrong way — and sometimes at the same time, too. Well, I'm sure Adam and Eve had a glorious and sensationally perfect relationship to one another; particularly before the fall. It is usually assumed that Adam told Eve that they were forbidden to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil — but we don't know for sure he told her — because there's no record of him telling her. Paul makes it clear that *".... Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman, being deceived, was in the transgression"* — first Timothy chapter two verse thirteen and fourteen.

So, Adam could have chosen not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; but Eve would still be banished from the Garden of Eden. Evidently, Adam made the choice to go out of the garden with Eve. In marriage, that's the kind of choice we all make, too. Love practiced within the confines and boundaries of a marriage relationship according to the Word of God is the expressed supreme reason for being alive, my friends. Anything else labeled *"marriage"* is merely animalistic

garbage; an energy labeled “love” — as fake and phony as if you painted a picture and called it a Rembrandt. That’s what’s real.

The Song of Solomon contains a rebuke of asceticism and a condemnation of unbridled lust - and also of unfaithfulness in the marriage vow. It contains the answer of judgment to *ANY* perversion of a marriage relationship; and we’re going to get to all of that on safari. Homosexuality is not natural; I don’t care how one theorizes, rationalizes or philosophizes it — it’s as wrong as wrong can be. Homosexual perversion makes a complete mockery of love and marriage. Most of us know the Word of God is severe and strong in this connection. Anyone who says the Bible does not condemn homosexuality just doesn’t happen to know the Word of God; or the Lord Jesus Christ. God completely destroyed two cities explicitly because of this sin. If one wants to teach homosexuality is acceptable, then so is drunkenness, drug-abuse, adultery, lying, stealing, and murder. They have their rights, too; according to liberal thinking. Well, God doesn’t intend for man to be any of those things; and God doesn’t intend for man to be a sinner who dies in his sins, either.

See, God is in the business of saving sinners; but very few — and I do mean *VERY* few — are turning to Him today. Unfortunately, world society has slipped on the banana peel of immorality into a morass of sinful conduct; and most people frighteningly accept it as normal behavior. As a result, marriages crumble, and divorce rates skyrocket; not to mention the myriad other problems in the community that necessarily come along with divorce fallout. The societal yellow light changed to red a *LONG* time ago, but marriage theory and philosophy blew through the intersection of life at a drunken, break-neck speed and, tragically, hit a large group of pedestrians and killed them all. I realize the “*old fashioned marriage*” was never one hundred percent perfect — because man is less than one hundred percent perfect — but the concept, ideal and institution of Biblical marriage is what’s right — period; because God says so — and irrespective of whether *YOU* or *ANYONE* else says otherwise....

1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

2 (Church) - Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.

3 (Church) - Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee.

4 (Church) - Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.

~ This is the song of all times, friends. This was the number one song on Hit Parade in Solomon's day, and it is still that in Heaven! The Song of Solomon is, actually, five brief canticles depicting an account of real-life people in a real-life setting. I outlined all of this in our first two reports; and, if you have not yet read those two introductory reports to this book of the Bible, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. This is not a chronological story being told in sequence – although some believe it is that – and it's not a cheap soap-opera with a neurotic hero and an erotic heroine, either – although some have relegated it to that, too. Either way, we're concerned with the application of the allegory as it pertains to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ – which becomes the bride of Christ in the future – and which is a literary gem of dazzling beauty.

I fully recognize my shortcomings and inadequacies when it comes to teaching the Song of Solomon; and the Bible, in general. If I can just crack the door open and give but a small peek inside, I will consider myself to have done *very* well. A bride and a groom are joined in a relationship that is different from and more special than anything else mankind knows anything about. A kiss was a pledge of peace in the days in which we are studying. A kiss was also a prayer and a token of peace. The name "*Solomon*" means "*peaceable*" – he is the prince of peace. Solomon ruled in Jerusalem, the city of peace. The Shulamite girl is the "*daughter of peace*." So, a very personal and close relationship of peace that exists between like-minded people of God is now illustrated for believers.

The Lord Jesus Christ is able to communicate His message Personally with you and me — His church — today; but that's only done in the Word of

God. Frankly, and urgently, what we need today is a return to the Word of God. We have all manner of Bible classes with methods and mechanical gimmickry – and so much teaching that is utterly wrong – when only the Word of God can bring us into the realm of communication with our Father in Heaven. There is simply no other way, my friends. If Christ is going to kiss you with the kisses of His Mouth, it is going to be in His Word – or it isn't a kiss from Christ. Only God can speak peace to the human heart.

Frankly, this is all a concept totally foreign to the Old Testament saints. Moses spoke of the law. Aaron spoke for the priests. Elijah spoke for the prophets. David spoke for the kings of Israel. Well, Moses said himself that he was slow of speech. Isaiah said his lips were unclean. Jeremiah said he couldn't speak because he was a child, and David needed the joy of his salvation to be restored to him. None of the prophets really communicated to the nation Israel on the same level that the Holy Spirit can speak to our hearts today. How much time do you really spend with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Word of God today, friends? Does the Spirit of God say anything to you? Can you say Christ kisses you with the kisses of His Mouth? That's rather descriptive.

Christ says, *"he who has an ear to hear let him hear."* That speaks of the blood-tipped ear of spiritual discernment. When we have that learning capability, then Christ says He will speak peace unto us through the forgiveness of sins, by His blood which He shed on the cross. Well, this song takes us through the next step of salvation; which is rest at all times in the redemption Jesus wrought for us – every day – all six hundred four thousand eight hundred seconds of each week – of every decade of our lives. That's genuine Sabbath rest. He is our Sabbath. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, if you are only resting in Christ one day per week, in an empty ritualistic and legalistic form of religion, then you are spitting on Christ when He tries to kiss you. That's not good – it's not good at all.

A kiss is that with which God seals the marriage vow. Every wedding I have ever been to concluded with lifting the bride's veil, and the groom kissing her. That kiss terminates the engagement and effectuates a lifelong covenant – which is later consummated privately. A personal relationship

with the Lord Jesus Christ doesn't get any more personal than this Song of Solomon becomes. God wants to share His mercy, grace, peace, and love with us. I don't know about you, but I need those things — very badly — in my life. Anyone who heeds His invitation can have them; but we have to come His way — or we cannot come — and that way is by recognizing we are lost, hell-doomed sinners who desperately need a Savior.

These are marvelous truths of joy set before us in Scripture now. Wine was the highest luxury of all material possessions in Israel in that day — and wine always speaks of joy in the Word of God. The Song of Solomon is the Mimosa gourmet champagne brunch of the Bible. This all speaks of the ecstasy which brings the highest level of joy and happiness mankind can experience. Paul said, *".... be not drunk with wine but be ye filled with the Holy Spirit."* Oh, if I could only bring others closer to the Holy Spirit, then I would feel much better about myself. Unfortunately, we're learning about something you and I really don't know very much about.

We have so much childish stuff going on today; we play at church, we play funeral, we play wedding, we talk about being *"dedicated Christians"* and we believe our good works, in which we are as busy as termites — and having about the same effect — somehow renders us exemplary. Well, those things may or may not be good; but what we really need is a heavy dose of reality. We need to get to the place where we can say, *".... in Whom though now we see Him not, believing we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."* Habakkuk said, *".... although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine, the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; yet will I rejoice in the Lord, and in the joy of the God of my salvation."*

Well, how about it; have you arrived at that place, friends? What does the Name of Jesus mean to you? Anything? His power is available to us and His strength is made perfect in our weaknesses. I understand it's easy to feel like reaching that state is impossible; and, on our own, it *IS* impossible! Why not allow the Spirit of God to come into your life today? This book we call the Bible — and this song, specifically, shows the love of God for us revealed in our hearts by God Himself. Only His Spirit can give us love for each other required to reach higher levels of living. Only God can draw us close to

Christ; and only when we are drawn to Him will we ever run after Him.
These are tremendous truths King Solomon reveals now ~

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