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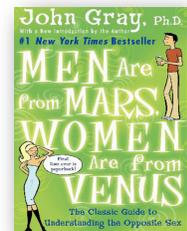
Solomon on Sex - Great Sex God's Way Sign Title: Solomon on Sex - Great Sex God's Way

March 4, 2012

Good morning Faith family. We are in the eighth week of the *Solomon on Sex* series. Today, we come to the mid-point of the book. We passed through the dating and waiting stage for Solomon and his bride. Today, the lights dim. The romance candle is lit. It is their wedding night. Our couple will be intimate for the first time. Since this window into their wedding night is inspired by God, it has a lot to teach us about what God-honoring marital sex looks like. I want to warn you. I am not going to explain most of the details from the original Hebrew. It is much more graphic than our English translation. There is no way to avoid it. This is a message that will have details because the text is littered with details. This morning is for the mature.

Pastors tend to gravitate away from texts like this, because they think it is dirty to talk about sex. We are not skipping this chapter. The only reason we think marital sex is dirty is because we have sinful minds. As we will learn this morning, marital sex is not dirty, it is godly. God is literally smiles upon passionate marital intimacy. We will learn more about that at the end of the message.

If you haven't noticed, men and women are wired differently. In 1992, John Gray made a ton of money off a book called *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*. The book's title struck a chord in our culture. We struggle to understand the opposite sex because the opposite thinks so differently.



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Nowhere are gender differences more apparent than in a marriage. When it comes to the wedding night, men and women are not just plumbed differently, their experience of intimacy is different. If you don't understand this, it will result in many frustrating marital moments.

I know this sounds obvious, but we need to start with this. It doesn't take much for a man to be aroused sexually. Guys, your wife is not like that. God made her different. Men, if your wife was sexually wired just like you, trust me, you wouldn't like it. God made her different for a reason. God made men and women to complement one another.

As we get into the text, we will see that when it comes to intimacy, God made women verbal creatures. A woman's primary trigger for arousal is verbal. That doesn't mean women are not visually aroused, it just means the dominant way they experience intimacy is verbal. Men, our primary trigger for arousal is visual. What we see of a woman captivates our mind. As we look at this wedding night, we see the Shulamite is enticing her husband visually and Solomon is enticing his new wife verbally.

Wives, entice your husband visually.

Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Song of Solomon 4:1 (ESV)

Solomon starts at the top. He is blessed by her beauty. He describes her eyes like doves. Her eyes are beautiful, gentle and playful. In this culture, you wore a veil on your wedding night. The Shulamite's veil was not like a burlap sack. It was either paper thin or lace because he had no problem seeing her face through it. While the veil was originally intended to be concealing, she used

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it as a sheer piece of clothing to make herself more enticing. Her veil was an ancient version of lingerie. It hid her face just enough to make her even more alluring to Solomon.

Application: Wives, it is biblical to wear lingerie.

Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. Song of Solomon 4:1 (ESV)

This week, I tried telling Cindy her hair was like a flock of goats. It didn't go well. That compliment backfired for me, but it didn't backfire for Solomon. What is he saying? In this part of the world, goats are usually black. They have wavy hair. The slopes of Gilead are a steep mountain range that shepherds occasionally took their flocks toward to top to find pasture. He pictures her hair like goats running down mountainside as seen from a distance.

He is describing what it looks like when she lets down her long black hair. Her hair has waves in it and a lot of bounce as it cascades over her shoulders. In short, she looks like she just modeled for a shampoo commercial.

Application: Wives, ask your husband how he loves your hair. Act accordingly to entice him.

Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing, all of which bear twins, and not one among them has lost its young. Song of Solomon 4:2 (ESV)

Now we move from goats to sheep. While goats were usually black, sheep were usually white. These are sheep that just had their outer coats shorn off. They were washed. The sheep are white and wet. Each one has a twin. Not one has lost their young means she has all her teeth. In short, she had a great dental plan, and her parents took her to the orthodontist. While she has a

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great set of teeth, what is she doing with her mouth that he sees them? She is smiling at him! She has a beautiful and attractive smile.

Application: Wives, smile for your husband. I guarantee you he will love it!

Your lips are like a scarlet thread, and your mouth is lovely. Song of Solomon 4:3 (ESV)

Mary Kay cosmetics are not a modern invention. Most scholars believe the Shulamite is wearing red lipstick. Red lipstick was considered sexy in that day just like it is today. She has a killer smile and a great set of lips. Here we see biblical precedence for cosmetics. This lady doesn't look like Tammy Fay Baker, but she wants to look her best for her husband. She is even wearing make-up to bed! She wants to be as visually enticing as possible to her husband.

Application: Wives, cosmetics are not sinful. The Shulamite even wore Mary Kay to bed.

...halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. Song of Solomon 4:3 (ESV)

She is blushing. This is new territory for her. She is decked out with lipstick and a smile, but she is still blushing because this is her first time with a man.

Your neck is like the tower of David, built in rows of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. Song of Solomon 4:4 (ESV)

She has a long, straight neck. Remember, she is a farm girl. She has muscles in her neck. She is strong but feminine. Her neck is adorned. She is wearing jewelry. The necklace she wears looks like shields hanging on the side

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of a tower. Like the lipstick, she is wearing jewelry to bed. She is intent on visually arousing her husband.

Application: Wives, it is biblical to wear jewelry, even to wear it to bed!

Why is she wearing jewelry, lipstick and a lingerie veil but not much else? She is intent on enticing her husband. As the text tells us, he really appreciates it. Bedtime is not the time to look your worst, it is the time to look your best.

Application Question: Wives, go home and ask your husband what he would feel like if you approached him in the bedroom like the Shulamite approached Solomon. Act according to his answer.

Now things begin to heat up.

Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, that graze among the lilies. Song of Solomon 4:5 (ESV)

As he works his way down her body, he describes her breasts like two fawns. They are identical. They are playful. What do you want to do when you see a baby animal, like a puppy or kitten? You want to hold them, cuddle with them and play with them. That is what he wants to do with the two fawns he sees before him. He is pretty excited about his wife's breasts! He should be. It is their wedding night!

Until the day breathes and the shadows flee, I will go away to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of frankincense. Song of Solomon 4:6 (ESV)

Given he is working his eyes in a southerly direction, I am sure you have no problems imagining what part of her anatomy he is describing. Once again, if you want the exciting details, go to seminary and take Hebrew. All you need to know is that by the time he is looking at this part of her body, he comes

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completely unglued. She has enticed him. Looking at his bride he tells her he wants to make love to her all night long. Guys, I hope you have said that to your wife. When you told your wife she was so attractive that you wanted to make love to her all night long, you just didn't realize it was biblical. I know some of you guys like this study so much you want to make Song of Solomon 4:6 your life verse.

You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you. Song of Solomon 4:7 (ESV)

It sounds like she is the perfect woman. Unfortunately, she is not perfect. Just like everyone, she has flaws. If you remember from earlier in our study, she is dark-skinned when a fair skin tone is considered beautiful in that day. What we need to understand is that while she sees her flaws and imperfections, in Solomon's eyes, she is beautiful to him. He doesn't tell her she would be beautiful if she lost 5 pounds. He doesn't tell her she needs to lose the farmer tan, become soft like the women of the court and wear frilly dresses. He tells her that, as far as he is concerned, she is perfect to him. This is important.

Husbands, your wife needs you to tell her she is beautiful because most of the time she doesn't feel it. You see beauty when you gaze at her; she sees flaws.

Application: Husbands, your wife sees her flaws. Look at her and honestly tell her she is beautiful to you.

Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the peak of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards. Song of Solomon 4:8 (ESV)

Earlier in the series, we learned she grew up in the area of Lebanon. Most likely, her family farm was in a hilly region. Earlier we learned when

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Solomon came to visit in their dating years, he bounded from rock to rock as he worked his way down the mountainside to her home.

What is the purpose of this little section? After spreading on compliments thicker than chunky peanut butter, he poetically invites her to leave her home and to embrace life as his wife. He invites her to be intimate with him and complete the marriage. We find she is quite happy to take him up on his offer.

Men, before you touch your wife's body, touch her heart.

While we looked at practical applications for wives, before we leave this section, I want to give one practical application for husbands. Solomon, the wise lover, knows that before he touches his wife's body, he has to touch her heart. Guys, this is one way your wife is different. She needs time and attention before intimacy. She is a verbal creature. She needs to hear from you how she makes you feel and the specifics of what you love about her. If you skip verbally enticing her, you will regret it. Before you touch your wife's body, touch her heart.

Husbands, compliment your wife verbally.

In this next section, Solomon and his bride begin to touch. A few things we should notice. She is not a passive lover. She does not act like a corpse in bed. Why do you think she is such an active lover for Solomon? Sexual intimacy was not a last-minute plan for this couple. He has creatively touched her heart with kind, loving and sexy language. He has prepared the bridal chamber in her favorite color, green. He has continually told her how much he loves her. She can't help but have passions for him. He has done a great job of verbally enticing her for a long time.

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You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; you have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace. Song of Solomon 4:9 (ESV)

He tells her that she makes him melt. He is weak in the knees just looking at her. She has so captured his heart that he is like putty in her hands. Not only does he call her his bride, but he calls her his sister. That sounds weird. In that day, you were allowed to have your sister as one of your best friends, but not another woman, unless you were married to her. Solomon says that she is not only a wife who melts him sexually, but she is his best friend. It is a great combination to have a wife who melts her husband sexually but is also his best friend. His heart is not just captivated by her beauty, it is also captivated her friendship.

Application: Husbands, tell your wife her beauty makes you melt. Tell her she is not just your lover, she is your best friend.

How beautiful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much better is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your oils than any spice! Song of Solomon 4:10 (ESV)

I will bring one interesting piece out from the Hebrew. The word used for love in this verse is different from the word used for love earlier in the chapter. The earlier word for love talks about the impression she made on him visually; this word talks about the impression she made on him physically. In other words, he says she is a great lover. She went from capturing his heart visually to touching his body physically as a lover. Solomon says that even though she is a virgin, she is amazing. That is the kind of compliment that hits home.

In fact, her love is more intoxicating than wine!

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Application: Husbands, tell your wife she is a great lover and her love is intoxicating.

Your lips drip nectar, my bride; honey and milk are under your tongue; Song of Solomon 4:11 (ESV)

Before this, he described the redness of her lips. Now he tells her she is one great kisser. This is not a dainty kissing. This is French kissing. French kissing wasn't invented by the French, here it is in your Bible. God is good with French kissing. We don't need any Hebrew here. Just read the English text. This week, you can go home and tell your friends that in church you learned French kissing is biblical.

Application: Husbands, tell your wife she is a great kisser and French kiss her.

the fragrance of your garments is like the fragrance of Lebanon. Song of Solomon 4:11 (ESV)

Not only is she a great kisser but he loves the way she smells. As we know, Solomon loves perfumes and scents. He had a great nose. He loves the way she smells. Maybe it was pheromones, I don't know. He loved being close enough to her that he could smell her.

I know some ladies, when their husbands are out of town, they sleep with his shirt, because they love the way he smells. This is a man who sleeps with his wife's shirt when she is out of town. He just loves the way she smells. He is really into her.

Application: Husbands, tell your wife you love the way she smells. You want to sleep with her shirt when she is gone.

A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed. Song of Solomon 4:12 (ESV)

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He thanks her for her virginity. Young men and women, your virginity is one of the best gifts you can give your spouse on your wedding night. Studies tells us that a when a couple marries as virgins, their level of sexual satisfaction in marriage is higher than those who cohabit before marriage or sleep with someone else before their wedding night.¹

Young people, trust me on this. If you are a virgin, on your wedding night, your spouse will thank you from the bottom of his or her heart for being a locked garden and a sealed fountain. Giving away your virginity on your wedding night is one of the great blessings you bring to your marriage.

How does this apply to those of us who are married? Solomon is thanking her for saving herself for him. She is totally dedicated to him. She is not trying to get the attention of other men. She is a one-man woman. He loves that about her.

Solomon thanks her that he doesn't have any reason to be jealous of another man. She keeps her affection for him alone. Ladies, one thing your husband will find incredibly appealing about you is the exclusivity of your affections for him. You keep them for him and him alone.

Application: Husbands, tell your wife you are thankful for the exclusivity of her love. Newlyweds, thank your spouse for his or her virginity!

Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates with all choicest fruits, henna with nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all choice spices— a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon. Song of Solomon 4:13–15 (ESV)

¹ Robert T. Michael, John H. Gagnon, and Edward O. Lauman, *Sex in America: A Definitive Survey* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1994), 124.

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Solomon describes his wife like a garden with choice fruits, choice trees and choice spices. If you describe your wife like a garden, it might not go over well. I tried it; it didn't work for me. What is Solomon getting at? If you study the different fruits and trees in this garden, you will find they are refreshing. They are exotic. They come from as far away as India. Solomon says that intimacy with his wife is like visiting an exotic garden that contains the finest fruits and spices from around the world gathered in one place. She is like an exotic garden. She is an exotic garden that is exclusively for him.

Sexual intimacy with her is like a well of living water and a flowing mountain stream. Remember that the Middle East is very dry. He says intimacy with her is like a refreshing oasis in the desert of his life.

Application: Tell your wife that sexual intimacy with her is more refreshing than other earthly pleasures. Thank her for keeping the garden of her pleasures reserved for you alone. Tell her that her love refreshes you more than any other hobby or any pleasure.

Husbands, focus on serving your wife instead of yourself.

Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind! Blow upon my garden, let its spices flow. Song of Solomon 4:16 (ESV)

In this climate, it was the alternating north and south winds that produced the greatest harvest. West and east winds were known for storms that wilted the plants. He is trying to cultivate the garden of his wife to produce the best possible crop. Let your imagination do the work; it should be vivid enough. In these intimate moments, Solomon is focused on serving his wife, not serving himself. He finds it more delightful to serve her rather than serve himself. This is

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just biblical. It is just looking to the interests of others rather than yourself. In this case, it is the sexual interests of his spouse.

Application: Men, tell your wife serving her needs is more fulfilling than serving your own needs.

Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits. Song of Solomon 4:16 (ESV)

After all of these verbal compliments, kissing, touching, patient loving, and waiting; she is ready. After all this time, of enticing him visually and pursuing him sexually, she is finally ready.

Application: Great sex God's way involves time, tender words, visual enticing, touch and talk. Men, I said it earlier: You must touch your wife's heart before you touch her body.

Ladies, men are visual. The Shulamite dressed for marital success on her wedding night. She had lingerie, lipstick, jewelry and perfume. She wasn't a sexual spectator, she was sexually interested. She was a great kisser who saved herself for her husband, then she gave all of her love to him.

I came to my garden, my sister, my bride, I gathered my myrrh with my spice, I ate my honeycomb with my honey, I drank my wine with my milk. Song of Solomon 5:1 (ESV)

Interestingly, this verse is dead center in the book. There are 111 verses before it and 111 verses after it. Before this verse was all the preparation for marriage. After this verse comes all the struggles in marriage. From this point forward we learn how they sailed through their marital storms.

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God is honored by passionate marital intimacy.

Before we leave this couple cuddled together on their wedding night, there is one small piece of this middle verse that is puzzling.

Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers. Song of Solomon 5:1 (NIV)

Who says this? Who was with them in the bridal chamber? Who would be blessing this kind of hot and passionate marital intimacy? Who would be encouraging them to enjoy more of it? Who do you think shows up in the center of a book? I think you've guessed it. Here, at the center, we hear the voice of God. God pronounces his blessing upon the passionate sex life between this husband and wife on their wedding night. God pronounces that same blessing upon their passionate, selfless sexual intimacy every night they enjoy it thereafter. God encourages them to drink deeply from the cup of sexual passion.

If you are married, God encourages you and even blesses you when you serve your spouse and partake of the rich, patient and passionate sex life we see depicted here.

If you are single and searching, save your virginity for your wedding night. In prayer, trust God to bring the right person into your life at the right time. When you marry, with thankfulness in your heart to God, enjoy this kind of intimacy. When you do, know God wants you to enjoy it. God blesses you when you partake of it.

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