How Love Grows: What the Song of Solomon Teaches Us About Love, Character, and Relationships

The book of Song of Solomon is one of the most unique books in the Bible. It reads like a dramatic love story, full of poetry, longing, and wisdom. But beneath the romance, it carries timeless lessons about how love begins, how it grows, and how it must be protected. Whether you are single, dating, or married, these truths apply to your life right now.

What Is the Song of Solomon Actually About?

The Song of Solomon was written by King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote over 3,000 proverbs and a thousand songs, and this one was considered the greatest of them all. That is why it is called the "Song of Songs."

The book features three main voices: Solomon (called "the beloved"), the Shulamite woman (a country girl from a farming community about 60 miles north of Jerusalem), and the Daughters of Jerusalem (her circle of friends who serve as a kind of chorus throughout the story).

The first three chapters focus on their courtship and growing love. Chapters three through five move into marriage. Chapters six through eight show a maturing love. It is not laid out in strict chronological order but rather as a series of snapshots from their relationship.

On one level, this is a love story between two people. On another level, it is an allegorical picture of Christ as the groom and the church as His bride. Both layers carry deep meaning.

Does God Care About Romance and Love?

Absolutely. God designed love to be enjoyed, cultivated, and protected. The Song of Solomon shows us the purity and holiness of love between a husband and wife. It also shows us how God feels toward us and how we are invited to respond to Him.

Romance is not something God is indifferent to. It is something He created. But as we will see, love that flourishes is love that is guided by wisdom and rooted in character.

Lesson 1: Love Expresses Admiration

The song opens with the Shulamite woman swooning over Solomon. She says, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is better than wine." (Song of Solomon 1:2)

She is drawn not just to his appearance but to his character and reputation. She says, "Your name is ointment poured forth, therefore the virgins love you." (Song of Solomon 1:3) Even the mention of his name causes her heart to flutter. Other women admire him too, not because of his looks alone, but because of who he is.

This is a word especially for single men. Do not just work on your appearance. Work on your character. When someone asks about you, the answer should be, "He is a godly man. He has integrity. He is upstanding." Chemistry might start a relationship, but character is what sustains it over time.

Lesson 2: Love Looks Beyond Appearance

The Shulamite woman is self-conscious about her appearance. She had been working in the fields and was tanned from the sun. She says, "I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem." (Song of Solomon 1:5) She worries about how she looks compared to others.

But Solomon sees her differently. And Scripture reminds us of what truly matters: "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31:30)

Inner character never goes out of style. It does not fade with age or change with culture. True beauty is rooted in who a person is, not just how they look.

Lesson 3: Love Affirms and Builds Up

Throughout the early chapters, Solomon and the Shulamite woman are constantly affirming one another. He calls her "the fairest among women." She calls him handsome and pleasant. He says, "Behold, you are fair, my love. Behold, you are fair. You have dove's eyes." (Song of Solomon 1:15)

Dove's eyes represented softness. And spiritually, when God looks at you, He sees the work of His Spirit in your life. He sees where there was once darkness and now there is light. He rejoices in what Christ has done in you.

For husbands, this is a direct challenge. It is your responsibility to make your wife feel safe and secure. Do not assume she knows you love her. Tell her. Affirm her. Build her up. When a wife feels safe, she is able to rest in her identity and see herself as valued.

For wives, let your husband know that his expressions of love matter to you. Encourage his efforts. For many men, vulnerability does not come naturally. Relationships and emotional expression can feel like unfamiliar territory. Give him grace as he grows in that area.

Lesson 4: Love Must Be Governed by Wisdom

Twice in these early chapters, there is a warning: "Do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases." (Song of Solomon 2:7)

Feelings are real, but they are not always reliable. Passion is powerful, but without wisdom, it leads to pain. People rush into physical relationships based on emotion alone, but feelings are not enough to sustain a relationship. Commitment is what makes love last.

God is not against passion. He created it. But He designed it to flourish within the covenant of marriage. Desire must be directed by wisdom. That is not a restriction on love. It is a protection of it.

Lesson 5: Love Makes Time for One Another

Solomon comes to the Shulamite with excitement and says, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone." (Song of Solomon 2:10-11) He wants to get away with her, to invest in the relationship, to be present with her.

Married couples need to hear this. You do not have to take an elaborate vacation. You just need to step away from the routine and spend intentional time together. Cultivate the relationship. Go somewhere. Do something. Just be together.

And then there is this line in verse 14: "Let me see your face, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your face is lovely." (Song of Solomon 2:14) He does not just want information about her. He wants her presence. Love desires presence, not just knowledge.

Spiritually, this is exactly what God says to you. He is not satisfied with you simply knowing facts about Him. He wants a relationship. He wants to hear your voice. He wants you to come away with Him, to spend time in His presence, to let Him speak into your life.

What Are the "Little Foxes" That Destroy Relationships?

"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes." (Song of Solomon 2:15)

This is one of the most practical warnings in the entire book. Relationships rarely fall apart all at once. It is usually the small things, left unaddressed, that slowly eat away at what was once healthy and thriving.

The little foxes can be bitterness, selfishness, small offenses, a lack of appreciation, or even non-sinful things like hobbies, material focus, or too much time on your phone. None of these seem like a big deal on their own. But over time, they can ruin the vineyard.

The answer is to deal with them early. Ask your spouse if there are any little foxes in your relationship. Have the honest conversation. It is far better to address something small now than to watch the whole vineyard be destroyed because it was never dealt with.

Lesson 6: Love Grows Through Trust and Understanding

The Shulamite says, "My beloved is mine and I am his." (Song of Solomon 2:16) There is a deep sense of security and belonging in their relationship. They understand each other. They give each other space. She knows he has work to do, and she is not threatened by that. There is health and trust in how they relate.

A healthy relationship does not demand all of someone's time. It gives space while still maintaining connection. That kind of trust is built over time through consistent love, honesty, and commitment.

Three Practical Takeaways

- If you are single: Prepare your heart. Focus less on finding the right person and more on becoming the right person. Build godly character. Set boundaries. Trust God's timing.
- If you are married: Invest in your marriage. Date your spouse again. Communicate. Affirm them. Bring romance back. You do not just maintain a marriage. You build it.
- Spiritually: Draw near to God. He loves you deeply and wants to spend time with you. Give Him the first part of your day. Let your relationship with Him be cultivated, not neglected.

Life Application

This week, choose one relationship to intentionally invest in. If you are married, plan something simple with your spouse, even just a meal without phones or distractions, and take time to genuinely affirm them. If you are single, spend time asking God to build your character rather than simply asking Him to bring someone into your life. And in your relationship with God, carve out time this week to simply be with Him. Not just to read or study, but to talk to Him and listen.

Ask yourself these questions as you reflect:

- Am I investing more in my appearance and circumstances than in my character and integrity?
- Are there any "little foxes" in my closest relationships that I have been ignoring or minimizing?
- When did I last set aside time to simply be present with God, not out of obligation, but out of genuine desire to know Him?

Love is a gift from God. Whether in singleness or marriage, it is meant to be cultivated, protected, and enjoyed. Let it grow the way He designed it to.