What Does the Bible Say About Marriage, Love, and Christ's Relationship With the Church?

The Song of Solomon is one of the most unique books in the Bible. It is poetic, intimate, and deeply personal. But it is also profoundly spiritual. Chapters three through five walk us through a wedding, a honeymoon, and the early challenges of married life, and along the way, they reveal something beautiful about how God views love, commitment, and His relationship with us.

Every Wedding Is a Spiritual Picture

Whether people realize it or not, every wedding carries a spiritual illustration. Marriage is not just a cultural tradition or a legal arrangement. It is a reflection of Christ and the Church. That means every time you attend a wedding, you are witnessing something that points to something greater.

If you are married, your wedding day is meant to be cherished. It is a moment worth celebrating and remembering. But it is also a reminder of what your marriage is meant to represent.

The Wedding Scene in Song of Solomon Chapter 3

In chapter three, the Shulamite woman sees her groom approaching. She notices his scent from a distance, the large procession of warriors surrounding him, and the elaborate carriage he arrives in. He is a king, and he comes with all the joy and grandeur that reflects his love for her.

Verse 11 captures the moment well: "Go forth, O daughters of Zion, and see King Solomon with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day of the gladness of his heart." His heart is glad. He is excited. His face is lit up.

This is a picture of Christ coming for His Church. One day there will be a trumpet sound, and believers will be caught up to be with Him. That day will be glorious, and He is looking forward to it.

Don't Spend So Much Time Planning the Wedding That You Forget the Marriage

Weddings take enormous amounts of planning. But the wedding is a single day. Marriage is a lifetime. The preparation and excitement that go into a wedding should carry over into the daily work of building a strong marriage.

Plan for the marriage, not just the moment.

How Solomon Described His Bride: What Husbands Can Learn

Chapter four gives us a look at Solomon speaking words of love and admiration over his new wife. His descriptions are poetic and culturally specific, but the heart behind them is timeless. He tells her she is beautiful. He is specific. He is enthusiastic. He holds nothing back.

Verse 7 stands out: "You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you." He sees her as pure and spotless. And spiritually, that is exactly how Jesus sees those who belong to Him. Washed clean, without condemnation, presented faultless before His throne. As Jude 1:24 reminds us, He is able to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

Husbands, the application here is simple. Go home and tell your wife what she means to you. Be specific. Be creative. God designed a husband to be enraptured with his wife all the days of His life. Her beauty, her character, her presence. Tell her.

The Secret Garden: What Intimacy in Marriage Is Meant to Look Like

In verses 12 through 16 of chapter four, Solomon describes their love as a private garden. Not a public park, but a secret, enclosed space that belongs only to the two of them. Full of beauty, fragrance, and life.

Your marriage has moments like that too. Private memories, inside jokes, shared experiences that only the two of you know. Those moments are worth protecting and revisiting. Talking about them, laughing about them, and reflecting on them together is healthy. It cultivates closeness.

God looks at a married couple and says you are better together than apart.

What Happens When Comfort Replaces Closeness

Chapter five introduces a challenge. The Shulamite is asleep when her beloved comes knocking. He calls out to her gently, but she hesitates. She has already washed up and gotten comfortable. By the time she gets to the door, he is gone.

She then runs out into the night searching for him, desperate to find him.

The lesson here is not complicated. Sometimes in a marriage, love has not disappeared. You have simply gotten too comfortable to respond to it. He stops noticing her efforts. She stops responding to his. Slowly, the distance grows.

Do not let comfort become more important than closeness. When love comes knocking, answer the door.

How to Describe Your Spouse When Things Get Hard

When the Shulamite is searching for Solomon and her friends ask her to describe him, she does not hesitate. She launches into a full and passionate description of everything she loves about him. His appearance, his character, his words, his strength. She ends with this in verse 16: "He is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend."

Notice that last word. Friend. Your spouse is not just your partner or the parent of your children. They are meant to be your closest friend. And friendship involves listening, sharing, understanding, and growing stronger over time.

Is Jesus Altogether Lovely to You?

The same question applies spiritually. Could you say about Jesus what the Shulamite said about Solomon? Could you say He is altogether lovely? That He is your beloved and your friend?

Jesus did not come only to die for sin. He came to win your heart. He is not only the friend of sinners. He is the best friend of saints. He loves you deeply, and He looks at you not with condemnation but with joy and anticipation.

Two Practical Challenges for Married Couples

Two clear exhortations come out of these chapters for husbands and wives:

- Tell your spouse what they mean to you. Take time this week to express it. Romance goes both ways, and words of affirmation matter deeply.
- Never speak negatively about your spouse to others. Keep your struggles between the two of you and a trusted counselor if needed. When you undermine your spouse, you undermine yourself. You are one.

The world already sees marriage as a burden or a loss of freedom. You have an opportunity to show something different. Elevate your spouse. Give people a reason to believe that marriage is a blessing, not a ball and chain.

And think about it this way. You would never speak negatively about Jesus to someone and then turn around and invite them to know Him. The same logic applies to your marriage. If it is a reflection of Christ and the Church, treat it like one.

Life Application

This week, choose one intentional act to elevate your spouse or, if you are single, to reflect on how you view your relationship with Jesus. If you are married, write down three specific things you love about your spouse and share them out loud. Put the phone down, turn off the game, and respond when love comes knocking. If you are single, ask yourself whether you can honestly say that Jesus is altogether lovely to you, and spend time in prayer drawing closer to Him.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Have I let comfort replace closeness in my most important relationships?
- When did I last tell my spouse specifically what I love and admire about them?
- Am I speaking about my spouse in a way that elevates them or tears them down?
- Can I honestly say that Jesus is my beloved and my friend, not just my Savior?

Marriage is a gift from God and a living picture of His love for the Church. Treat it that way, and watch what He does with it.