



## THE GIVING AND TEST OF LOVE (SOS 7:11-8:7)

***Psalm 25:10 “All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.”***

When given to God, worship involves an acknowledgment of divine perfections. It may express itself in the form of direct address, as in adoration or thanksgiving, or in service to God; it may be private, or it may be public.

Moses established the basis of the public worship of Israel and gave it its focal point in the tabernacle (1 Sam 1:1). The temple ritual, which had its origin in the tabernacle, was led by priests assisted by the Levites. In the synagogues, the emphasis was more on instruction than on worship. Jewish Christians continued, as long as they were permitted, to worship in the temple and in the synagogue, though for them the whole ceremonial and sacrificial system ended with the death and resurrection of Jesus. Public Christian worship developed along the lines of the synagogue. Christian public worship consisted of preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 14:9), reading of Scripture (Col 4:16; James 1:22), prayer (1 Cor 14:14-16), singing (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16), baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41; 1 Cor 11:18-34), and almsgiving.

Worship for a Christian was never supposed to stop at the church doors; it was to be an integral part of every aspect of their lives. For a believer, worship is everything that they do, as everything is to be done in a way that honors God.

In churches and marriages today, there is a battle in the human heart waged between two positions:

- **Consumer** – A consumer believes the world is here to meet their needs.

A consumer sees God and church as a place where they get their needs met without effort on their part.

- **Worshipper** – A worshipper and says “Where can I give so that the most people are benefited?”, “It is not about me it is about Jesus.”

Marriage must become about being a worshiper, not of the other person, but of Jesus.

There are two ways to get your spouse to spend time with you:

- 1) **Nag them.** Nagging is not a good form of getting anyone to do anything.
- 2) **Invite them.** She says “There I will give you my love.”

***SOS 8:4 “I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.”***

This warning has been issued three times with slightly different wording.

- **First warning:** (2:7) - If you want to have maximum fulfillment in marriage, do not be involved sexually with anyone but the one God intends for you.
- **Second warning:** (3:5): If you want to be free to evaluate (objectively) and to consider “the cost of marriage” to this particular person, do not allow yourself to become sexually involved, or your objectivity will be lost.
- **Third warning:** Stresses the importance of premarital chastity in view of the sexual adjustments to be made “after you’ve said ‘I do.’” To involve yourself sexually before marriage can hinder your ability to resolve sex problems after marriage.

What do you do if you have screwed up? Repent. Pray, allow Jesus to search you. In *Psalm 139:23 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.”* The psalmist asked God to do a fearless searching inventory of his heart, for only God can give enough grace, strength, and truth to overcome our distorted vision.

Repenting of our sin is never despairing of our sin; it is always done in hope. Repenting is a gift God gives us for our own sake, not His.