

# SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 1  
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

## INTRODUCTION

At Element, we believe the purpose of the book of the Song of Solomon is to show that the Bible does not see marriage as an inferior state or a concession to human weakness. Scripture does not see the normal physical love within a marriage relationship as impure. Marriage was instituted before the Fall, by God, with the command that the first couple become one flesh.

## DISCUSSION

Why do you think sexuality causes such a great disparity in reactions among people?

## EXPLANATION

What are some of the negative ways our culture has responded to sexuality?

What are some of the positive ways our culture responds to sexuality?

What are some ways around the world that are negative responses to sexuality?

Can you think of any place in the world that responds to it appropriately?

## APPLICATION

Read Proverbs 5:15-19; now read it again with the mindset of a father giving advice to his son about marriage.

How can “drinking water from your own cistern (or well)” prove to be a safeguard for marriage?

Why do you think the father is so intent on his son not having his springs overflow in public...and to never be shared with strangers?

How could these words help the majority of our culture?

## MISSION

Read 1 Corinthians 7:3:

How should Christians be about redeeming sexuality in our culture?

What do you think a people living in proper sexuality would look like in the midst of our current cultural climate?



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## HISTORY

### Week 1 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES

Genesis 2:24  
Ephesians 5:5  
Philippians 3:19

2 Timothy 3:1-4  
Romans 12:2  
Jeremiah 2:13

Genesis 1:28  
Genesis 2:24  
2 Samuel 12:24



## SERIES INTRODUCTION

The Song of Solomon is an amazing book that has caused so much controversy that many have questioned whether it belongs in the Bible. Song of Songs is patently a collection of ancient Hebrew love poems celebrating the experiences of a lover and his beloved as they taste the beauty, power, agony, and joys of human sexual love.

No book in Scripture has had such varied treatment. Saadia, a medieval Jewish commentator, said that it is like “a lock for which the key has been lost.” Old Testament commentator, Pope, counters this by saying “there is no key because the door is open to all who are willing to enter.” Delitzsch, one of the best Old Testament commentators I have ever read, called it “the most obscure book in the Old Testament.”

People have approached this book in various ways:

1) *Allegorical* - An allegory is an extended metaphor. An allegory normally is not rooted in history or the real world but is drawn from the mind and imagination of the author. Its purpose is not to present real events related to identifiable places and persons, but rather to communicate spiritual truth of an abstract nature.

The oldest documented interpretation of the Song of Songs sees it as an allegory. This position was well established by the first century of the Christian era and has had a long and illustrious history in both Judaism and Christianity. The Jews saw in the Song of Songs a depiction of the relationship of Yahweh to his chosen people, Israel.

But nothing in the text indicates that the intention of the author was to allegorize. The result is that the meanings in the text, if it is taken as allegory, are left to the imagination of every interpreter.

2) *Natural* - In the first century, some Jewish readers understood the Song of Songs literally. In the 5-6 century, Jovinian, a Roman monk, proposed that the book be used to demonstrate that “virginity and celibacy were not more virtuous than a holy marriage.” Robert Lowth, an eighteenth-century Anglican bishop, suggested that the book actually tells us about the marriage feast of Solomon.

3) *Dramatic* - The Song was a drama. A number of writers have picked this up and elaborated it. There has been no consistency, though, in the development of this view.

## Part 01 - HISTORY

**Genesis 2:24** “*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*”

Why is this seemingly erotic little book included in the sacred canon? What is its message? At Element, we believe the purpose of the book is to show that the Bible does not see marriage as an inferior state, or a concession to human weakness. Scripture does not see the normal physical love within a marriage relationship as impure. Marriage was instituted before the Fall, by God, with the command that the first couple become one flesh. Therefore physical love within that conjugal union is good, is God’s will, and should be a delight to both partners (*Prov 5:15-19; 1 Cor 7:3*).

Throughout history sex and sexuality has been seen in 3 different ways (inside and outside of the church): As a God, and worshipped as such, as something dirty, AND then there is the entirely NEW way of looking at it - BIBLICALLY.

- **Sex As God** - This is when you give your money to it, your time to it, you study it through pictures in magazines, your identity comes out of it - your whole life is given over to it.
- **Sex is Dirty** - This is the classic, fundamental church youth group view: Sex is dirty, sex is nasty, sex is vile, sex is wrong...so save it for the one you love. This is a bad overreaction to Sex is God.
- **Sex is a gift** - It is given by God to steward, to enjoy, to protect AND IN THE CONTEXT OF MARRIAGE, to share. It is to be treasured and saved and given and cultivated in marriage.

Sex is not worshipped above God; Sex is not treasured or valued APART FROM GOD.

In scripture, you see sex was given for multiple reasons:

- Pleasure** - In Marriage - made for pleasure.
- Children** - These are part of the blessing that can come out of marital intimacy.
- Oneness** - One flesh, live in one house, sleep in one bed, worship one God
- Comfort** - 2 Sam 12:24 says, “*Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him*”
- Protection** - We have desires; they are to be met in marriage.

Martin Luther wrote, “*The ultimate purpose [of marriage] is to obey God, to find aid and counsel against sin; to call upon God; to seek, love, and educate children for the glory of God; to live with one’s wife in the fear of God and to bear the cross; but if there are no children, nevertheless to live with one’s wife in contentment; and to avoid all lewdness with others.*”

Sex is not God. It is not Gross. It is a gift.