# SONG OF SOLOMON

ROMANCE IN MARRIAGE – (7:1-8:4)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What can hinder romance in marriage?
2. Romance needs “emotional nourishment.” What you feed your spouse is likely to be what you are fed in return. What are ways you can help your spouse understand your emotional cravings?
3. One way to deepen romance is to acknowledge the best in your spouse. Look at your spouse and say a few things that you deeply appreciate about him or her.
4. What are some practical ways to keep the “chores” of daily life from infringing upon the spontaneity of romance?
5. How would you describe an ideal date with your spouse? In what ways do you keep date nights from becoming routine?

We see from the last chapter that after the conflict was resolved, Solomon and his wife (Naamah) leave for some alone time. She is admonished to dance before Solomon the intimate dance of their culture. Chapter 7:1-9 seems to pick up at that point. Naamah appears to be naked per Solomon’s description other than wearing sandals; speculation is that she is performing the intimate dance. Solomon describes his bride accordingly: (vv1-4) he correlates her physical beauty with character; (vv5-6) describes her beauty and in (vv7-9) he describes her desirability.

We will discuss some factors that destroy romance and provide some guidelines to what makes for great romance in this study. Remember, what came instinctively during dating must become a discipline after marriage.

**ANNOTATIONS OF VERSES:** Song of Songs 7:1-8:4 (ROMANCE IN MARRIAGE)

(7:1) “*How beautiful are your feet in sandals, O prince’s daughter! The curves of your thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a skillful workman*.” The romance continues from her feet to the top of her head. He praises her as a noble. His praises are more sensuous and intimate. In the Bible, the upper legs are used as a symbol for steadfast loyalty and strength. The woman was strong in character.

(7:2) *“Your navel is a rounded goblet; it lacks no blended beverage* (mixed wine)*. Your waist is a heap of wheat set about the lilies.”* Wine and grain were blessings. The belly was thought of as the seat of emotion – Solomon calls her the blessing of God.

(7:3) *“Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle.”* Solomon is still tender with her as on their honeymoon. He conveys two messages to his wife: he admires her ongoing youthfulness and he admires her responsiveness to him.

(7:4) “*Your neck is like an ivory tower, your eyes like the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus*.” Her neck is described as a white tower – great in strength and in value and also a symbol of purity. Her eyes were like deep pools of water – Solomon saw holiness in her eyes, the pools he makes reference

to were used by priests for purification. Pools were also a source of refreshment. Solomon referred to her nose as a tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus (a major enemy of Israel) – Solomon regarded his wife as always being on the alert to the things that might bring trouble to him.

(7:5-6) *“Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel, and the hair of your head is like purple; a king is held captive by your tresses. How fair and how pleasant you are, O love, with your delights*!” Solomon notes that her hair was like a crown and that her beauty holds him captive as a slave.

(7:7-9) *“This stature of yours is like a palm tree, and your breasts like its clusters. I said I will go up to the palm tree; I will take hold of its branches. Let now your breasts be like clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, and the roof of your mouth like the best wine. The wine goes down smoothly for my beloved, moving gently the lips of sleepers*.” Solomon can no longer contain himself – he desires to have his wife – he wants to pollinate and consume her. (Climbing palm trees and seizing the flowers is one of the ways they are pollinated). The woman interrupts him in mid sentence (the wine goes down smoothly for my beloved…) and is responsive to her husband and they have drunk until they are full. This is very sexually explicit.

(7:10) *“I am my beloved’s and his* ***desire*** *is toward me.”* The Hebrew for the word desire means to consume something. She delights in the fact that her husband wants to consume her.

(7:11) *“Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field; let us lodge in the villages.”* She is aggressive and wants to entice him away from work so she can have him to herself.

(7:12) *“Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom, there I will give you my love.”* Once again the sexual intimacy is referred to as a vineyard – a delight that nourishes. She is saying; let’s see if this vineyard is still sweet and delightful.

(7:13) *“The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved*.” Mandrakes were considered as that which excited and aided in childbearing; it is a strong “come on”. She has delights he is accustomed to but she has some surprises. She is creative. (Women men are very vulnerable during sex – all senses delight him – what he hears during sex, what he sees, what he feels, what he smells and what he tastes.)

(8:1-2) *“Oh, that you were like my brother, who nursed at my mother’s breasts! If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised. I would lead you and bring you into the house of my mother, she who used to instruct me. I would cause you to drink of spiced wine, or the juice of my pomegranate*.” She is spontaneous – she wants to kiss him in public with the same passion she has in private. In Bible times, the only men that a woman could touch in public

were her father and her brothers because to touch her spouse was considered sexual in nature. She desired that Solomon be constantly intoxicated by the thought of her sexuality.

(8:3-4) *“His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me. I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases*.” She has a longing for her husband but such love must be nurtured and awakened in time. It cannot be forced or demeaned.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROMANCE

FACTORS THAT KILL ROMANCE:

### SIN

Romance dies when one or both persons become so wounded and disillusioned with a spouse that they become calloused. Sin and harsh actions are unrepented of until the wounds of sin have removed all feelings.

### AGE

Romance dies when a person focuses on the outer beauty rather than on the inner beauty of his or her spouse.

### FORGETFULNESS

Romance dies when couples forget the preciousness of their mates.

Romance requires that each person keep in active memory what gave birth to the marriage. It requires that each person continue to remember the special traits in the spouse that fueled attraction at the initial stages of their relationship.

### LAZINESS

We recite vows to love, honor and cherish and proceed without any effort to keep them. Love must be shown; Honor must be expressed; and Cherish is an attitude that must be displayed. ROMANCE IS A DISCIPLINE!

### WHAT MAKES FOR GREAT ROMANCE?

* 1. Learn to be Courteous
  2. Be Together (projects around the house, hobbies, walks, etc.)
  3. Be Expressive (say how you feel without attacking as well as compliment)
  4. Be Affectionate (non-sexual)
  5. Be Creative in your Love-making (spontaneity is always perceived as care)
  6. Be Thoughtful
  7. Be Energetic
  8. Be Insightful (Develop love languages)