# THE SONG OF SOLOMON

ATTRACTION (1:1-8)

## INTRODUCTION

The title for this book, “Solomon’s Song of Songs” is taken from the literal translation of the first two words of the Hebrew text (1:1) meaning “the greatest of all songs” which is 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. My presentation of this study will be based on its literal intent as a love song between a man and a woman illustrating God’s intended pattern for honorable and fruitful marriage. Some scholars believe this was written by Solomon prior to his coronation as King; in his late teens or early 20’s and was in reference to the “wife of his youth”, Naamah, the mother of Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 12:13).

I do not believe this book is strictly an allegory although typological parallels can be quoted whenever appropriate, to show also the love between Christ and His church.

The reasons for not accepting the allegorical approach is that there is nothing in the text to indicate that the author's intent was to allegorize. Second, the people, places, and experiences recorded seem to be real, not literary devices. Third, this little book does not have the narrative character that we usually expect in allegories but has a progressive story line.

**ANNOTATION OF VERSES:** Song of Songs 1:1-8 (ATTRACTION)

(v1) “*The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s.”* Solomon wrote over one thousand songs (1 Kings 4:32) as well as a number of Psalms and Proverbs.

(v2) the Shulamite girl speaks - *“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth – for his love is better than wine.”* The book begins with the girl expressing her deep desire for physical expressions of love. It’s significant that the girl speaks first and considers herself of equal stature with the male.

(v3) “*Because of the* ***fragrance of your good ointments****,* (he is physically delightful – men generally did not bath regularly, instead they would rub fragrant oil over their body to keep their skin from drying out due to the climate) *your* ***name*** *is ointment poured forth* (his character is pure or holy – he has a good relationship with God)*; therefore the virgins love you* (he is popular).”

(v4a) “*Draw me away!* (She would consider herself privileged to be his wife).

(v4b) *“We will run after you. The King has brought me into his chambers.”*(Speaks of the intimacy of his home – the reference to King infers a royal romance.)

(v4c) *“We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you?”* (The speakers here are the daughters of Jerusalem, i.e., the friends of the maiden – they declare Solomon worthy.)

(v5) *“I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.”* After the man’s character is highlighted, now the woman – she is physically attractive but character surpasses looks. Remember looks will deceive and they will decline)

(v6) “*Do not look upon me, because I am dark, because the sun has tanned me*. (She is hardworking…a servant) *My mother’s sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards* (she is responsible and obedient to authority), *but my own vineyard I have not kept*.” (Speaks of her physical appearance)

(v7) “*Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon*. (She is morally upright and committed to purity) *For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions*? She longs to be with him but will only meet him during the day in public and not as a veiled prostitute (Gen 38:13-15).

(v8) “*If you do not know, O fairest among women, follow in the footsteps of the flock, and feed your little goats beside the shepherds’ tents*.” She is encouraged to seek such a man by the daughters of Jerusalem, i.e. her friends and attendants.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT ATTRACTION

Attraction is both permissible and desirable. This is generally where relationships begin – mutual attraction.

***TWO-TIERS OF ATTRACTION:***

## The physical (Outward) – this is automatic!

The first level of attraction that most people experience is the physical; it encompasses all the senses.

The first three verses of the Song of Solomon we find the woman physically attracted to Solomon – she wants to kiss him and is intoxicated by him.

## Character and Spirituality (Inward) – requires spiritual discernment and objectivity on our part.

She was attracted to his reputation and character – your name is like purified oil which was a direct reference to Solomon’s character, virtue and integrity – all of which flowed from his relationship with God.

***HOW TO DISCERN GOOD CHARACTER:***

## Behavior in stressful conditions

The woman was attracted to Solomon’s name which was like purified oil – oil comes from olives that are pressed.

How does the person respond to stress or reacts when things don’t go their way? When money is tight? When someone rejects or criticizes them?

## Reputation with others

The woman declared, “The virgins love you” – he had a good reputation. Does the person you are attracted to have a reputation for obeying God? How do they treat the opposite sex? Would I love to bring this person home to mom and dad? Grandparents? Church?

## Obedient to Authority

God has a chain of command in effect, and we are required to be obedient to those in authority as unto the Lord. The woman explained her darkened skin was a result of obeying her brothers to work in the fields. Women in those days prized fair skin because it meant they were “indoor girls” that were pampered and sheltered.

### GUIDELINES TO KNOWING WHEN YOU ARE READY TO DATE:

A person is ready to date when they are ready to begin the process of choosing someone to marry or when they have convictions they will not compromise. Until you are ready to begin the process of choosing a mate, you’ll find it better not to date one person e xclusively. (See Henry Cloud’s book, “How to Find a Date Worth Keeping”)

* 1. You are ready to date and marry when you have a silhouette in your mind of the kind of guy or girl you will choose to marry, and when you have resolved in your heart that you will not settle for less. (*Don’t restrict yourself to the physical only – godly character is essential).*
	2. You are ready to date and marry when you do not have to compromise any aspect of your relationship with God in order to be with the person to whom you are attracted.
	3. You are ready to date and marry when you are willing to be single rather than make a bad choice of a marriage partner.
	4. You are ready to date and marry when you are becoming the person that your ideal mate is praying about meeting. (This is assuming that you are both children of God.) *Make sure that you are becoming an answer to prayer for a seeking Christian person.*

SONG OF SOLOMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ATTRACTION

1. If you are engaged or married, what attracted you to your future spouse? If you are single, what do you consider “attractive”?
2. According to these first eight verses, what attracts this man to this woman and this woman to this man?
3. How does our society determine preparedness for marriage? From what you learned in this session, when is someone ready to get married?
4. We discover the woman working in the vineyards (v.5-6). Why is this significant, what traits are revealed about her character?
5. Why is mutual “respect” such a vital key to attraction?