

INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

- WIVES -

INTRODUCTION

- Grace to the Humble
- There Are No Experts
- Illustrations – Uniquely Yours
- Where Are You on the Journey?

“O my soul, is not this enough? Dost thou need more strength than the omnipotence of the United Trinity? Dost thou want more wisdom than exists in the Father, more love than displays itself in the Son, or more power than is manifest in the influences of the Spirit? Bring hither thine empty pitcher! Surely this well will fill it. Haste, gather up thy wants, and bring them there-thine emptiness, thy woes, thy needs. Behold, this river of God is full for thy supply; what canst thou desire beside? Go forth, my soul, in this thy might. The Eternal God is thine helper!” ¹

I. GOD’S DESIGN (Genesis 2:21-24)

“So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.”

¹ Morning and Evening, January 16, C. H. Spurgeon

II. THE SONG OF SONGS

A. The Song

“The Song of Songs, which is Solomon’s” Song of Solomon 1:1

“The Song of Songs, as its title suggests (1:1), claims to be the best song on married love ever written. It is superior to all other love poetry, and so we must give full heed to it....there is no love song like it in the world. It is important, then, that we love it, treasure it, and live by it.”²

“...a love-song of haunting beauty; it was meant to be sung as a celebration of love, beauty and intimacy.”³

B. The Lovers

“...the two lovers are Everyman and Everywoman.”⁴

C. The Invitation

“Our imaginations are stimulated and we begin to identify with the lovers on their journey of love, of ...discovery and of fulfillment.”⁵

“...we are invited to participate. In listening to the song, we find that it is speaking not only to us, but about us.”⁶

III. ENJOY THE JOURNEY

A. Communication:

1. Speak

*“Let him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth!
For your love is better than wine... your name is oil poured out...” Song
of Solomon 1:1-3a*

² New Bible Commentary, IVP, pg.619,620

³ The Message of the Song of Songs, Tom Gledhill, pg. 19

⁴ Gledhill, pg 94

⁵ Gledhill, pg 20

⁶ Gledhill, pg 19

2. Admiration to Delight to Passion

*“As an apple tree among the trees of the forest,
So is my beloved among the young men.
With great delight I sat in his shadow,
And his fruit was sweet to my taste.” Song of Solomon 2:3*

3. Make Progress on the Journey

a. Remind Yourself

b. Verbal Appreciation

“When you find a spark of grace in the heart, kneel down and blow it into a flame.”⁷

“Many homes would be happier if men and women spoke of their love for each other more often.”⁸

c. Express Passion

4. Take One Step

B. Cultivate Desire

1. Our Thoughts

“It has been said that the sexiest organ of the human body lies between our ears. Our brains have a tremendous effect on our sexual experience. How we think influences our sexual desire.”⁹

2. Then Our Feelings

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

3. One Hindrance to Desire

4. Help is Only a Conversation Away

⁷ Morning and Evening, Sept. 17, C.H. Spurgeon

⁸ C.J. Mahaney’s series: The Song of Joy

⁹ Feminine Appeal, Carolyn Mahaney, pg. 95

C. Cultivate Creativity

1. Be Available

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." Song of Solomon 6:3

2. Take Initiative

"Come, my beloved, Let us go out into the fields And lodge in the villages; Let us go out early to the vineyards And see whether the vines have budded, whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom .There I will give you my love. The mandrakes give forth fragrance, and beside our doors are all choice fruits, new as well as old, which I have laid up for you, O my beloved." Song of Solomon 7:11-13

3. Pursue Variety

When it comes to what is permissible, the Bible, quite frankly is more liberated on the matter of sex between a husband and wife than what many people might imagine. The Song of Songs actually encourages the pursuit of creativity and allows for tremendous sexual freedom as long as both husband and wife are in agreement, there is complete privacy, and the Bible is not used to selfishly demand what your spouse is not in faith to pursue. – CJ Mahaney

4. Ask Him!

"She wants to be touched and to be held, not just as an object of his desire, but because she wants to be stirred to give herself to the one whom she loves. She is not interested in her own self-fulfillment apart from her lover. Her self-fulfillment is achieved by her self-abandonment."¹⁰

5. Have Flexible Expectations

"For the newly wed couple, this act of intercourse represents the joyful climax of their physical and tactile relationship. Hitherto, the lovers have talked, walked and had fun together. They have dined and prayed together. And now at last, what they have looked forward to for so long, with such keen anticipation, has become a delightful reality, the consummation of their one-flesh union. It is an act that will be repeated again and again, affirming and consolidating their growing relationship. The continuing expression of their sexual union is both a cause and a result of their growing intimacy and adjustment in other areas of their life together...The lovers, having tasted the honeypot, having experienced

¹⁰ Gledhill, pg. 94

the golden showers, and the shuddering volcanic eruptions, may be tempted to think that these ecstatic heights are attainable every time. But Eros is a mischievous elf, whimsical and capricious, and the sooner we recognize this, the better...We may lay the wood, but on occasion the bonfire fails to ignite. We may be afflicted with a desperately urgent desire at those very times when there is absolutely no possibility of fulfillment, and have to be content with frustrated glances at a distance. But if only we could indulge in a hearty laugh over all this, the tensions and irritations would be dissolved readily. The solemnization of sex with its desperate swoony awe is a consequence of our society's quest for instant total gratification. But we should learn not to treat it with such reverential gravity, as C.S. Lewis put it. Laughter should be an integral part of the marriage bed. For to laugh with each other is to be involved personally, it is an expression of a relationship which is far more than a performance.”¹¹

¹¹ Gledhill, pg.169