
QT Questions—for Song of Songs

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Song of Songs from my Study Bibles.)

- Song of Songs is a group of poems celebrating romantic love between a man and woman. With extended metaphors—many of which seem odd today but were fitting in the ancient Near East—the book upholds the goodness of all God's creation, including sexuality. Marriage is celebrated as a full and rich expression of God's love, meant to be pursued with longing and held onto tightly.
- The fallen societies we live in are filled with distorted portrayals of romance and sexuality, reflecting passions that are selfish and exploitative. The love poetry of the Song challenges this broken mindset and celebrates our Creator's beautiful design: human love as it was meant to be.

SS 1 (7/24/24)

(*If some of the questions are confusing, then it's ok to skip it. The intention of the questions is to stir you to think a bit more about the chapter, with the hope to help you to learn more who our God is and how He delights for us to think and live.)

1. What are some of the descriptions you understand here and how could they be applied to you; in vv. 15-16, how does the man/husband and woman/wife see each other and how can you better live this in your life; what is your prayer?
 - The book opens with the expression, "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine." The love of her husband is more intoxicating than wine. How great and happy is the wife who receives an intoxicating love from her husband. We live in a world starved of love, and the wife receives it, not among strangers over the internet, or even among her friends and her family, but she receives it greatly from her husband. Just as the true Bridegroom will love His bride perfectly and eternally, so we see a small glimpse of that here. PTL! Similarly, how amazing and happy is the husband who is able to pour his love to his wife, in this intoxicating way. To be able to pour his love to his wife, and not misuse it somewhere else or into something else, is a true blessing. The true eternal Husband knows where and to whom He will pour His love, and that will always be to His bride. Oh Lord, we need Your blessing to be able to love and receive love from our spouses in this intoxicating way. And if we should not have an earthly spouse, then may we look forward in faith to our eternal marriage to our eternal Bridegroom, Christ Jesus is His name. Yes, some of us may be solo here, but in His kingdom, we will all wed and receive His love, for He delights to pour unto His bride, unto each of us. What love awaits us at home. Thank You, Lord Jesus.

SS 2 (7/25/24)

1. How do you read v. 2 and how could this apply to you as a Christian; in vv. 3-13, what does she want; how is your love with your loved ones and how is your love for Christ and His love for you?
 - In v. 16, she says, "My beloved is mine and I am his." They are exclusive for each other and no one else's. This love is not meant to be shared with others. Adultery breaks this exclusiveness. We must not have two lovers. Solomon must have started with this heart, but somewhere along the way, he must have flirted. Seeing the beauty in others, he must have reached out, just as his father did with Bathsheba and his many wives. Like father, like son.

The children learn most by what they catch, rather than what they are taught. David might have taught that God created Eve for Adam and no more. He might have taught, do as I say, and not as I do. But, Solomon saw his father had many wives, we know of eight. And more than what his father taught on God's word on fidelity, he caught what he saw. And usually, the son goes further than the father, so Solomon married 700 wives and since that did not seem enough, he had another 300 concubines. Solomon's life of exclusiveness with one wife, was no longer true. He committed over a thousand adulteries. How beautiful the beginning in v. 16, but how sad when God's word no longer reigns in our hearts. If the wisest man on earth can fall this badly, how much more are we capable of? Let's pray for humility and His faithfulness to hold us and bless us, because we too are prone to wandering from His word. Oh Lord, please hold us tight, please don't loosen your grip on us, because too often we see ourselves trying to wiggle ourselves free from Your truth.

SS 3 (7/26/24)

1. What is she desiring; how does she describe love and why; what do you also learn?

- Here's a short explanation of 3:2, 4 from my Bible notes.
- Why did she pursue him so aggressively? In a culture in which parents typically arranged marriage contracts, romantic feelings seldom entered into the negotiations. Those emotions usually came later, after the marriage was consummated. Prior to that, neither the woman nor the man pursued the other. These verses may describe the desires of two people already married and deeply in love. Or they could recall a dream in which the woman longs for her marriage to be consummated; if so, the poetry reveals her private desires.

SS 4 (7/27/24)

1. How was she altogether lovely to him and why; how does she respond to his love and why; how can this apply to your life; how is this applicable to heaven?

- I am pleasantly shocked at how many different ways he is enthralled with her beauty, pointing out all the many features that captivate him. To be in love with the person is beautiful. But, to notice all the many different beauties he notices and enjoys is awesome. Many times, we may notice a few features of our spouses we appreciate and like, but I know, I wouldn't know how to spell out each and every one of them. A terrible thing I noticed about people living and growing older together is, that we know far better what we don't like about the other person, then spend time noticing what's beautiful. And that is why, I was captured by this chapter. Seeing the man notice all the beautiful features of his wife, and delighting in them is marvelous. I pray that our God would open my eyes more to see more of my wife's beautiful features, not just external, but also internal, and delight in them more. And I also pray that our God would bless me to pass over some of the things I like less. For my job is not to criticize what I don't like, but for our God to use me to bless her to cultivate more of Jesus' beautiful likeness in her. And if she grows more like our Lord Jesus, then what's there not to like? And may I also grow more like Jesus, so there won't be much to dislike about me. Oh Lord, we pray and desire more than anything to grow more like You, for You are altogether lovely!

SS 5 (7/29/24)

1. Here, the bride describes how lovely her man is—what are the many features you read, and which ones do you appreciate and what do you learn?

- The conclusion of her description of her man is that “he is altogether lovely.” What a beautiful conclusion, he is altogether lovely. Of course, this conclusion and description is apt most for our Lord Jesus. Do we truly see Him altogether lovely, not only at the end, but because of everything and every situation we go through? Would He be altogether lovely even when we go through hardships, difficulties, troubles, and unpleasantness? I believe we can come to this conclusion only when we, also like the bride here, see every feature of His and can describe many, many of His goodness because we know Him well. I pray that I would also know many of His features and can describe His goodness in detail as she does here, so that I can confess and proclaim that my Lord and Savior and Groom is truly altogether lovely. And seeing His loveliness, I pray that our God would bless me to be built more like He through every situation I face, and use me to bless my bride to grow more like He, and to use us both to bless many people around us to build each of them to grow more like Jesus, who alone is truly altogether lovely. What beauty and joy in all of us, when we can truly behold and describe Jesus as altogether lovely, and see all of us grow a little more like He, altogether lovely.

SS 6 (7/30/24)

1. Once again, he takes the time to describe how beautiful his bride is, and which description catches your eye and why; how can you continue to see the beauty of your spouse or love ones; what more do you learn from this chapter?
- In v. 1, the friends ask the woman where her beloved has gone. There are times in our lives, we may describe what’s most beautiful to us, and others do not care. But, then, there are times, when our description is so captivating and irresistible, that it creates a hunger in others to also want to see for themselves. After hearing her description of him in the previous chapter, the friends are eager to see it for themselves how altogether lovely he truly is. When we describe the beauty of our love ones, are others captivated? When we describe the beauty of our Lord, do people get hungry and eager to truly see Him? In some ways, that is what I am trying to do in my sermons, but I fail to get our members excited and hungry for the beauty of our Lord. Please pray for me, that I would taste God’s goodness in such abundance, and learn to describe Him as beautifully and worthy as He truly is, so that all of us in our church, will see, will behold, will be captured, and be so hungry to see Him, that we can’t wait for the sermon to be preached, that we can’t wait to read God’s word for ourselves and behold Him ourselves. Oh, to taste how good our Lord truly is, is what we want most. And having tasted His goodness, oh Lord, please bless us that we would learn how to describe You in the most wonderful way, that gets the people who are listening to us excited and hungry to meet our Lord, because of what they heard from us, is truly amazing. You truly are altogether lovely.

SS 7 (7/31/24)

1. Once again, the groom describes his bride in details, what are some things you notice; how does she respond to him; what do we learn about love?
- Here’s a short commentary on these verses.
 - What was so appealing about these comparisons (7:2-9)? Such comparisons may sound odd to us, but they were full of meaning to the ancient writer and readers of this book. If we were more familiar with the physical environment referred to in this song, we might more readily appreciate the imagery. Was there an elegance to the tower of Lebanon (v. 4)? Were newborn fawns of a gazelle especially soft and warm (v. 3)? Did the pools of Heshbon reflect a dark, mysterious beauty (v. 4)? Such questions may help us appreciate why the writer selected these specific images.

SS 8 (8/1/24)

1. How is love described (vv. 6-7); where and when have you seen love that strong; how can you strengthen your love with your spouse; how can your love grow stronger with your Lord; are there any lessons that captured you in this book and desire to apply into your life?
- In v. 1, it reads, “If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother’s breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me.” The woman is not wishing that she and her beloved were siblings. God’s law taught that sexual relations between siblings were prohibited (Lev 20:17). Rather, what she is wishing is that they could express physical love more openly, as siblings could hug and no one would think the worse. This is not to say that love should be open, to be seen by all. Most of love intimate behavior should be private, away from the eyes of the people. However, I do appreciate greatly her desire to express her love for her beloved wherever she is, even in the public places. This means, she is not ashamed of her love. And thinking of our love for our Lord, too often, many of God’s people keep our love for our Lord in our privacy, and rarely in the public’s eyes. May our love for our Lord truly be our greatest joy, and may we never be ashamed of it, to display, to express in the public places, so that everyone around us can see, what a beautiful love we share, and most of all, how altogether lovely He truly is, so that others around us, can also taste His love and fall in love with Him. May His love be the most unquenchable love we will ever taste and delight to share, for others to also fall in love with Him, as we have. May our Lord truly be the most beautiful and lovely to us and may we display His beauty in such a beautiful way, that everyone around us can also whiff His fragrance and also fall in love with Him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, our King, our coming Bridegroom.