

## **The Goodness of Love and Sex**

### *Song of Solomon 1:1-14*

As wisdom literature, the Song is designed to show us an idealized picture of married love, in the context of a fallen and broken world. As it does so, it intends to convict each of us of how far short of this perfection we fall, both as humans and as lovers, and thus to drive us repeatedly into the arms of our true heavenly husband, Jesus Christ. He is the only One whose love for his bride is complete and perfect, and whose perfect love is our only hope if life and death.

**Read Song of Solomon 1:1-14** (try dividing up the roles)

1. How does the woman describe her desire for the man in verses 1-4? What stands out to you? In light of Genesis 1 and 2, what do these verses show us about human love and desire?
2. What kind of messages have you gotten about sexuality through the church growing up? Have they been positive or negative? If negative, why do you suppose that majority of the messages are negative? If positive, how have they been helpful?
3. Our society has implied that sex best happens outside of marriage. Do you think this is true? Why would sexual union best happen in the context of marriage?

**Read verses 5-7.**

4. What concerns does the woman have about her relationship? Have you experienced these concerns in your own relationships?
5. Our earthly relationships will always be tainted by frustrations and disappointments. Why is intimacy so hard to achieve? How do the disappointments in our human relationships point us to Jesus? How does our relationship with Jesus help us in dealing with human relationships?

**Read verses 4 and 11.**

6. What are these "Others" saying? Why do you suppose they are there?
7. How has our society made sex both public and private? Why do you think this is the case?
8. Is it appropriate for other Christians to be involved in the process of "dating & marriage"? What would be appropriate and what would not be?
9. In what ways can we be more open and show genuine care to each other in our struggles with sexuality?