

- E) Solomon speaks directly to his future bride calling her a dove. Solomon shows **GENTLENESS** and **UNDERSTANDING** for his future bride (2:14). He is promising to **PROTECT** and **SACRIFICE** for her well being!
  
- F) Engagement is a time of **VULNERABILITY** and **TRUST BUILDING**. There is no place for secrets or hidden past history between a couple who is engaged to be married. Secrets are a cancer to relationships, they will eventually kill.
  
- G) There are "little foxes" (conflicts -- 2:15) during a time of courtship and engagement which must be handled. Engagement is a time to develop **GREAT CONFLICT RESOLUTION** skills. Learn to **FIGHT CLEAN!**

#### 4) Passion & Purity For The Engaged Couple

- A) The Shulammitte girl says **YES!** (2:16) and affirms the exclusivity of love which is reserved for the two of them alone. She day-dreams of a time when love between her and Solomon will be freely expressed (2:16-17).
  
- B) The Shulammitte girl lives in **GREAT ANTICIPATION OF HER WEDDING DAY** (3:1). She dreams of her fiancé, and desires the **SECURITY OF MARRIAGE** which it will bring (3:1-4). She desires to give herself to her husband (3:4).
  
- C) Even in her dreams, **PURITY** and **RESTRAINT** are in the forefront of her heart and mind (3:5). Like the scene she has already experienced in 2:7, she dreams of Solomon **PROTECTING HER PURITY AND GUARDING HER HEART** with the wedding day and marriage in mind (3:5)!

# Purity In Engagement

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**I ADJURE YOU,  
O DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM,  
BY THE GAZELLES OR BY  
THE HINDS OF THE FIELD,  
THAT YOU WILL NOT AROUSE OR  
AWAKEN MY LOVE  
UNTIL SHE PLEASES.  
~SONG OF SONGS 3:5 (NASB)**

#### 1) Solomon & His Shulammitte Bride's Relationship

- A) After attraction to Solomon, the Shulammitte girl sought **GODLY CHARACTER, CHRISTLIKE REPUTATION, SERVANTHOOD,** and **OPEN/HONEST** characteristics (Song of Songs 1:1-7)
  
- B) As courtship ensues, Solomon cultivates **RESPECT** by showing **HIGH REGARD** and **PRIDE** in his future bride. Solomon shows **VERBAL KINDNESS** and is courting her **EXCLUSIVELY** (1:8-11, 15, 2:2).
  
- C) The Shulammitte girl experiences a courtship filled with an **ENVIRONMENT OF ROMANCE** in the midst of **PUBLIC PRIDE AND LOVE**. She experiences **SECURITY & PROTECTION**, all of which raises her **SELF-WORTH & VALUE** (1:12-14, 16-17, 2:1, 3-4).

- D) As their courtship develops, desire is heightened and, as God has designed, the desire for sexual intimacy increases (2:5-6). Note that Solomon **PROTECTS PURITY AND GUARDS THE HEART** of his bride and himself (2:7)!

## 2) The Goal Of Courtship -- When Are You Ready?

- A) As a final "stage" of courtship which leads toward the goal of marriage, is a period of engagement. An "engagement" is a short period of time (no more than 6 months) where the couple officially announce their intent to be married, and plan for their wedding ceremony & honeymoon.
- B) Who should become engaged? A couple who are prepared to reflect Ephesians 5:15-6:4. The kind of couple...
- i. Who show **SUCCESS IN CHRISTLIKE COURTSHIP** through **PATIENT DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP**.
  - ii. Who are prepared for a **HEALTHY DEPARTURE FROM PARENTAL AUTHORITY**. While still called to honor parents, the new family **LEAVES AND CLEAVES**.
  - iii. Who can successfully become **FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT**.
  - iv. Led by a man who **ENTHUSIASTICALLY LOVES HIS FUTURE BRIDE AS CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH (SACRIFICIALLY)**. A man who **INITIATES SPIRITUALLY** with his future bride.
  - v. Where the woman **RESPECTS AND JOYFULLY SUBMITS TO HER FUTURE HUSBAND AS UNTO THE LORD (RESPONSIVELY)**. A woman who **WILLINGLY PARTICIPATES IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS** with her future husband.
  - vi. Who can provide a **CHRIST-CENTERED HOME FOR CHILDREN** if God so blesses.

- C) Parental blessing before engagement (cf. Song of Songs 3:11) is critical! As is symbolic of the authority of a father over his family, a man should ask the father of the girl for her hand in marriage as a recognition of God's plan for "leaving and cleaving" (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31).

- D) Remember at each point in the process of any relationship, the goal is to develop habits and practices which last a lifetime. Behaving one way to "win the girl/guy" and a whole different way "once married" is a recipe for disaster!

## 3) A Memorable Engagement For The Couple

- A) The Shulammitte girl is living in **GREAT ANTICIPATION** of Solomon coming to her to receive her for marriage (ask for her hand in marriage). She knows it is coming, but she doesn't know when (Song of Songs 2:8-9).
- B) The Shulammitte girl experienced **INCREASING DESIRE**, even imagining Solomon peering through her windows wanting to see her, "standing behind our wall..." "looking through the windows..." peering through the lattice..." (2:9).
- C) Solomon does arrive to **ROMANTICALLY** and **RESPECTFULLY** ask the Shulammitte girl to be his bride (2:10-13). **THOUGHT** and **ELOQUENCE** have gone into his invitation!
- D) We hear Solomon's words through the ears of the Shulammitte girl, "...the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers..." "pruning the vines..." "the turtledove..." "ripened figs..." (2:11-13). Their courtship is compared to the wintertime, as Solomon invites her to a relationship full of **LIFE, LOVE**, and **ABUNDANCE**, a life like the springtime!