



Week 5 | Song of Songs | October 30

Key Focus: “Marital intimacy is beautiful in its place.”

Opening Up:

- How important are affirming words to you on scale of 1 to 10? Explain.
- What is the last affirming thing you heard about yourself? Tell the story.
- Complete: “When I receive affirmation about my... I feel awesome.” Explain.
- How good are you at giving affirmation? Explain.
- Who needs to hear an affirming word from you? How do you know that?

Reference: Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1

Discuss:

1. What did intimacy look like in your home growing up?
2. How have your childhood experiences affected your adult relationships?
3. Growing up did you ever receive “the talk?” How did you learn about dating, relationships, and sexuality growing up?
4. What would you say if you could go back to your adolescence and speak to your younger self about dating, relationships, and sex?
5. In 3:7-11 Solomon is portrayed as the anti-type. He is drawing all of the attention to himself. In Genesis 2:24 we are told that marriage is a leaving, cleaving, and weaving. The hardest thing to leave behind yourself in a relationship. How does the gospel prepare you for a self-giving marriage? How can you tell if someone is self-focused in a relationship?
 1. About how long does it take to get to know who someone really is? Explain.
 2. How can you know that you know someone?
 3. If you discover that you are or someone you are in a relationship with is really self-focused, what is the remedy for that?
6. Why should the Bible include instructions on dating, marriage, and sexuality?
7. In 4:9 he says that he has gone crazy in love for this girl. When you have dated well and have had the time for proper discernment you are free to be recklessly in love with your spouse. What does discernment in dating look like?
8. We should not devalue the gift of sex, but we should also not inflate its value and fail to see what it is pointing to. Mark 12:25 says that sex is not apart our eternity with God in heaven. However, marriage between Jesus and his church is the metaphor God uses for our eternity with him. What about our eternity with God might sex be pointing to?
9. God may be the voice in 5:1 cheering on this young couple in love. Certainly God gave sex as a gift to be enjoyed by his people. What do the following points teach us about why God gave sex?
 1. God gave sex:
 1. So that you can know and be known (Gen 4:1)
 2. So that you can experience oneness (Gen 2:24)
 3. So that you can be comforted (Gen 24:67)
 4. So that you can create life (Gen 1:28)
 5. So that you can play and have pleasure (Proverbs 5:19)
 6. So that you can avoid temptation (1 Cor 7:2-5).
10. Pray.