



LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: Song of Solomon 7–8

MAIN IDEA: Love is so much more, and more powerful, than we think.

LEADERS:

- The word from Servant’s Heart is that all dates have been filled for this round of meals. However, they are always looking for help with food, so if your group missed the train, please reach out to Pastor Doug and we will see what the needs are.
- Baptism is available both in-person and online. See the digital bulletin for details.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week’s Community Extras Video.
 - **Icebreaker:** What did you do with the crazy nice weather on Saturday?
 - **Opener:** What is something that stood out to you from the sermon?
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Ryan stated that, by this time in the Song of Solomon, the two lovers are older and have been married for some time.



Think about some couples you know who have been married for many years. Of these, think of some who are flourishing and some who are not. What are some of the big differences between the two different kinds of couples? Specifically, what are the habits and practices that have led them to where they are today, either flourishing or not?

Read Song of Solomon 7:11–13.

Here we see that the woman has grown in her willingness to take the initiative in their romantic life together. This is in stark contrast to the shy woman we encountered back in 1:5–6 (reread this if you need to jog your memory).



What are some relational dangers for both the man and the wife if they do not learn to take the initiative to communicate their needs and desires?



What can one partner do to encourage the other to take the initiative?



The woman speaks here of “fruits new as well as old,” which she has laid up for her beloved. In the sermon, Ryan noted that this speaks of her creativity, the effort she puts into keeping her relationship fresh and exciting (the new), while not losing sight of what they have come to enjoy from the past (the old). In this passage, this seems to have sexual connotations. What are some other areas of a relationship to which this relevant? For those of you who have been in a



relationship for a long time, what are some “new” things you have discovered that you and your spouse have come to enjoy?

Read Song of Solomon 8:2–5.

💡 The emphasis here on the mother teaching speaks to the need for Christian parents to teach God’s design for relational flourishing to their children. What are some key aspects of a biblical sexual ethic, both the do’s and the don’ts?

💡 What are some overt and some subtle ways our culture “preaches to us” (and especially our children) its own broken views of sexuality?

Read Song of Solomon 8:6–7.

💡 What is meant by saying that “love is as strong as death”?

💡 How have you experienced a love as strong as death in your own life?

💡 Consider “jealousy is as fierce as the grave” [literally, “fierce as Sheol”]. When is jealousy a good thing and when is it evil?

💡 In Ephesians 5:22–33, Paul says that human marriage is a picture of “Christ and the church.” What are some aspects of Song of Solomon 8:6–7 that reflect God’s love for us?

💡 Can you think of a time when you have seen a godly marriage served as an example to counter secular ideas about romance and relationships?

PRAYER TIME

Praise God for the way he uses marriage to shape us and to form us into people who joyfully celebrate the gifts he has given to us.

Pray for couples you know who are having a hard time flourishing in the ways you saw described in this week’s Scripture.