

FACING OUR INSECURITIES

Sex, Love & God #3 Noah Largent 6/24/18



Song of Songs - Chapter 1 *New International Version*

¹ Solomon's Song of Songs.

She Says: ² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your love is more delightful than wine. ³ Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you. ⁴ Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers.

Friends Say: We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise your love more than wine.

She Says: How right they are to adore you! ⁵ Dark am I, yet lovely, daughters of Jerusalem, dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains of Solomon. ⁶ Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I had to neglect. ⁷ Tell me, you whom I love, where you graze your flock and where you rest your sheep at midday. Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?

“In these verses [verses 5&6] we are brought face to face with the problems of our own self-image. How do we view ourselves? When we look at our own reflection in the mirror, do we like what we see? Can we accept ourselves as we really are, with all our quirks, idiosyncrasies and limitations? Do we like the way we look? Or are we always wishing we were like someone else? Can we accept our own temperaments and personalities, or are we always hemmed in by a crippling inferiority complex?... How do we cope and come to a more balanced sense of self-worth and to a degree of psychological, emotional and social integration and poise? “

-*The Message of the Song of Songs* by Tom Gledhill, Page 105.

1. We live in a culture that idolizes outward appearance. It's nearly impossible not to compare yourself to others outward appearance. We may confess that fixating on outward appearance is shallow, but many people struggle to move beyond it.

2. Freedom comes from confessing your insecurities and affirming God's truth.

3. Refuse to reinforce destructive cultural norms.

*In group settings be thoughtful about who gets your time and attention.

*Married couples, commit to declaring your affection to your spouse regardless of their outward appearance.

*If you are single, commit to cultivating an inward love and commitment to God rather than achieving a particular outward appearance. Be patient, don't settle for someone who isn't committed to seeking God's best for you!

Genesis 1:26 & 31 ²⁶ “Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness” ³¹ “God saw all that he had made—and it was very good!”

1 Samuel 16:7 “God does not view things the way men do. People look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

Psalms 139:13 “Certainly you made my mind and heart; you wove me together in my mother's womb.”

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come!

Notes:
