**God’s Love Reflected in Marital Union**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 18: Song of Solomon

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

June 14, 2020

**SERMON NOTES**

1. ***Not* Allegorical for God & Israel or Christ & the Church**

* Allegorical interpretation leaves the text open to the reader’s interpretive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* “Love poetry” was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this era.

*This book should be read as what it appears to be: God’s depiction of pure marital intimacy.*

1. **Depicts the Sexual Love that God Created and Sanctioned**

Characteristics of Intimate Love

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:15)

*This love exists in healthy Christian marriages!*

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:16)
2. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (8:6-7)
3. It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:2-7)
4. **Reflects Its Creator**
5. God designed us to enjoy pleasure
6. Sexual love reflects God’s love for us
   1. It is pure

* You don’t have to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in loving God!
  1. It is committed
* He will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ loving you!
  1. It is passionate
* God lavishes His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on us!
  1. It is reckless
* It led Him to send Jesus to die for you!

**Answers:** Imagination, **common,** pure, **committed,** passionate, **reckless,** cautious, **stop,** grace

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Review 4:1-4, as if this book were an allegory. Use your imagination and guess what Christ could be saying about the church in these descriptions. After you’re done, answer this: Does this seem like a legitimate approach to reading the Bible?
2. Review the characteristics of intimate love, reading the verses that correspond to each characteristic. Discuss what each of these characteristics means.
3. Discuss the idea that God created our bodies and minds, and knows how to satisfy our desire for joy and pleasure. How does that inform our enthusiasm about the Christian life and the promise of future reward?

*Bonus: Would God have created desires in us that could only be fulfilled outside of His will?*

1. Discuss how marital intimacy reflects God’s love for us, focusing on the four characteristics of intimate love.

**Prayer:** “Because your love for me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I know that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”