

Getting To Know You Exclusivity, Physical Touch and Anticipation November 5, 2023

Read Song of Songs 2:1-13

The Song of Songs is a romantic poem in God's Word. Is it surprising to you that it would be included as a part of scripture? What does that tell us about God's heart for relationships and marriage?

Given cultural issues regarding relationships, how can this text provide a model for couples amid the cultural confusion of today?

Desire says, "I want you." Exclusivity says, "I want <u>only</u> you." Why is exclusivity so important in a marriage? How does current dating culture undermine this important foundation?

Reread Song of Songs 2:4.

- Why is it important for couples to compliment each other in front of family and friends?
- Do you know younger couple who honors each other well? An older couple? How can both be an encouragement to marriages around them?

Pastor Ted said of the first 8 of 12 steps of physical touch, as defined by Dr. James Dobson, "voice to voice" should be where the most time is spent. Why is this phase most significant in determining character and defining the relationship? Does it remain important later in the relationship?

Read Song of Songs 2:7 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

- How does sexualizing the relationship before marriage impact exclusivity?
- How is 1 Thessalonians 4:3 even more meaningful than friends and family encouraging sexual purity?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1-2, and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Discuss the hope for individuals and relationships that have been impacted by sexual sin.

In Song of Songs 2:8-13, the bride anticipates marriage.

- Which has a greater impact on communities, thriving, joyful marriages or successful businesses?
- Whether single or married, how can you help marriages and dating relationships thrive?

In closing, pray that God will be glorified in the relationships represented by the group and in other relationships outside the group.