



# **Song of Solomon**



Conflict

<sup>1</sup> I have come into my garden, my sister, my  
bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my  
spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my  
honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk.

Friends

Eat, friends, and drink;  
drink your fill of love.

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

She

<sup>2</sup> I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: “Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” <sup>3</sup> I have taken off my robe—must I put it on again? I have washed my feet—must I soil them again?

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

4 My beloved thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. 5 I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. 6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure.

## **Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

I looked for him but did not find him. I called him but he did not answer. <sup>7</sup> The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they bruised me; they took away my cloak, those watchmen of the walls! <sup>8</sup> Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you —if you find my beloved, what will you tell him?

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

Tell him I am faint with love.

Friends

<sup>9</sup> How is your beloved better than others,  
most beautiful of women? How is your  
beloved better than others, that you so  
charge us?

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

She

<sup>10</sup> My beloved is radiant and

ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.

<sup>11</sup> His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. <sup>13</sup> His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume.

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh.  
<sup>14</sup> His arms are rods of gold set with topaz. His  
body is like polished ivory decorated with  
lapis lazuli. <sup>15</sup> His legs are pillars of marble set  
on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like  
Lebanon, choice as  
its cedars.

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

<sup>16</sup> His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, this is my friend, daughters of Jerusalem.

**Song of Solomon 5:1-16**

The fact that you are a sinner and  
that you married a sinner means  
that conflict is inevitable

# **1) The Context for Conflict**

(vs. 1)

Two is certainly better than one,  
but what we will find is that two is  
harder than one

<sup>32</sup> I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—  
<sup>34</sup> and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs:

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35**

Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. <sup>35</sup> I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35**

Singleness does not mean  
asexuality. A single person has  
longings, hormones, temptations;  
that's what it means to be human.

It is naïve to imagine a life or  
marriage without conflict

Conflict is not the issue, it is  
how we deal with conflict that  
is the issue

We are reminded that we are sinners when we sow conflict and we are reminded that we are saints when we are quick to resolve conflict. Conflict is a sanctifying work of God.

# **2) The Cause of Conflict**

(vs. 2-8)

<sup>2</sup> I slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: “Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” <sup>3</sup> I have taken off my robe—must I put it on again? I have washed my feet—must I soil them again?

**Song of Solomon 5:2-8**

4 My beloved thrust his hand through the latch-opening; my heart began to pound for him. 5 I arose to open for my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with flowing myrrh, on the handles of the bolt. 6 I opened for my beloved, but my beloved had left; he was gone. My heart sank at his departure.

**Song of Solomon 5:2-8**

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**Song of Solomon 5:2-8**

Avoid the transactional nature of  
sexual intimacy

What happens before and after sex is just as important as what happens during sex; otherwise expect conflict.

Unresolved conflict hinders sexual intimacy. Hindered sexual intimacy leads to a search for other avenues of sexual intimacy.

<sup>20</sup> Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. <sup>21</sup> As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

**Proverbs 26:20-21**

Marital conflict leaves each other  
unprotected

We need to protect one another  
so that we never live with regret

# **3) The Cure for Conflict**

(vs. 9-16)

<sup>9</sup> How is your beloved better than others,  
most beautiful of women? How is your  
beloved better than others, that you so  
charge us? <sup>10</sup> My beloved is radiant and  
ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand.  
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## **Song of Solomon 5:9-16**

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**Song of Solomon 5:9-16**

Let nothing, even conflict, change  
the way you feel and speak about  
your spouse

Can you see the person you are  
in conflict with in the same way  
Christ sees them?

<sup>3</sup> When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

**James 3:3-6**

<sup>5</sup> Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

**James 3:3-6**

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**Proverbs 15:1**

“As much as others may need to change, or we may want them to change, the only person we can continually inspire, prod, and shape—with any degree of success—is the person in the mirror.”

- Joseph Grenny –  
(Crucial Conversation)

9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

How do I view myself?

How do people view me?

How does God view me?



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