

# Song of Solomon

## **Possible Interpretations:**

### Allegory:

Many use this form, because they have a problem with the idea that the Bible can speak of the sexual relationship.

To these people, the sexual relationship, even in marriage, is bad

This has been the most common interpretation since the time of Martin Luther

To accept this as an allegory, we must make many interpretations that are against the laws of hermeneutics.

There is nothing in the book that says it is an allegory.

### Typology:

Says that the story of this book speaks of a true relationship

However, also tries to add a “superior” understanding

As with the allegory, this method disagrees with the laws of hermeneutics.

### Drama:

The story should not be taken literally, only as a fictional poem speaking of King Solomon and the daughter of Pharaoh.

Since we have no other examples of dramatic literature written by the Jews in this time period it is very hard to except that this is a correct interpretation.

### Literal

Gives un an understanding of the purity and beauty of sexual love in the marriage relationship.

This is the correct interpretation.

God created sex. Therefore, it is obvious that He has a plan for it.

Scripture has much to say about the “rules” that God has established for all areas of our lives. Why would we find it hard to accept that He would have a plan in His Word for our sexual relationships?

## **Transcendental Values**

Mutual love is the fundamental base of marriage

Mutual admiration

There are many verses in which they are praising each others character

Physical attraction

There are many verses in which they are speaking about each other’s bodies

Enjoy being together

They desired to be in each other's presence

Marital love is absolutely exclusive

Marital love grows when it produces mutual satisfaction

True marital love is profound and permanent

There are parallels between marital love and God

Mutual satisfaction

Christ's love is stronger than death

The "methods" of Christ's love are intense and irresistible

**Notes from Various Reflections:**

First Reflection - The bride preparing herself for the wedding:

SoS 1:2 - Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.

The word "love" in this verse is sexual love.

*Sos 1:4 - Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine:*

The phrase "draw me" refers to the emotional expression of love. This is the reason for sexual love.

SoS 1:5 - *I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon.*

The bride is preoccupied for her physical appearance, thinking she isn't as beautiful as the women of Jerusalem.

A correct, positive attitude towards the sexual relationship.

A negative attitude will always cause tension in the marriage.

The sexual relationship unifies the couple.

The sexual relationship gives pleasure. This isn't "dirty," but is part of God's plan.

Sexual love is one part of the complete love that should exist in a marriage relationship.

A correct attitude towards one's self is important; not overly good (pride), nor overly bad (lacking self-confidence).

She made a decision to take care of herself, keeping herself beautiful for her husband.

Second Reflection - The couple talking in their wedding banquet:

*Sos 1:9 - I have compared thee, O my love, to a company of horses in Pharaoh's chariots.*

*Sos 1:13 - My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi. (in Spanish "between my breasts")*

It is important to verbalize your appreciation of your spouse.

This can be of their physical characteristics, abilities, character, or actions.

It is important to do whatever is necessary to keep yourself attractive to your spouse.

Take care of yourself

Dress well

Use perfume/cologne

Third Reflection - In the bridal chamber:

*Sos 2:5-6 - ...I am sick of love. 6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.*

*Sos 2:7 - ...stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please. (in Spanish "until it is time")*

*The couple's bedroom should always be decorated in a manner to stimulate romantic thoughts*

*It is the "Holy of Holies" of the marriage*

*These verses give emphasis to the need for foreplay, as part of lovemaking.*

*It is important to tell your spouse what gives you pleasure in your lovemaking.*

*It is important to seek the right time to arouse sexual desire.*

Fourth Reflection – Looking back at their engagement:

*Sos 2:15 - Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.*

Take care of problems while they are small.

Seventh Reflection - On the wedding night:

*SoS 4:12 - A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.*

She was a virgin. Only her husband had the right to "open" her garden, and her fountain.

We also see that she recognizes that her "garden" now belongs to her husband.

Eighth Reflection - Refusal of sexual love:

*SoS 5:2-3 - I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my*

*head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night. 3 I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?*  
**EXCUSES!!!**

In the time of the story, it was typical to sleep in the nude; this is a good practice.

Whatever excuse for refusing sexual love is worthless, and is one more coffin nail for destroying the marriage.

Many Christian women complain that their husbands have been unfaithful to them; however, just as the bride in this story refused her husband, they have refused their husbands. The result is equal, he seeks out another lover!

If there is a valid reason for not making love, say so, but throw out the phony excuses.

The husband must take into account the emotions of his wife. He is ready in 2 seconds, but she isn't. If he isn't taking the time, during the day, to be romantic and loving towards his wife, he can't expect her to be ready at night.

Never criticize your spouse in public. If you do so, you can't expect them to have a positive attitude towards you.