

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Song of Solomon Chapter 1 — The Beauty of Love

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Song of Solomon begins as a celebration of love.

It is poetic.

Tender.

Personal.

Emotional.

Beautiful.

The chapter introduces the voices of the bride and the groom as they express:

Desire.

Admiration.

Affection.

Humility.

Longing.

Joy.

The language is filled with images of:

Perfume.

Wine.

Jewels.

Flowers.

Vineyards.

Doves.

Cedar.

Fresh greenery.

These images communicate the beauty and delight of faithful love.

Song of Solomon does not treat love as cold or merely practical.

Love is presented as:

Personal.

Joyful.

Attractive.

Mutual.

Affectionate.

The bride desires the groom.

The groom praises the bride.

Both delight in one another.

One of the major lessons of the chapter is the importance of mutual admiration.

Healthy love does not constantly tear down.

It notices.

It appreciates.

It speaks.

It praises.

The bride also shows humility.

She is aware of her appearance and of the effects of hard labor under the sun.

Yet the groom sees beauty in her.

This teaches an important principle:

True love sees beyond superficial judgment.

Song of Solomon has also been interpreted by many Christians as containing spiritual pictures of the relationship between Christ and His people.

The primary setting of the book is the love between a man and a woman.

But its language of:

Devotion.

Longing.

Faithfulness.

Delight.

Can also remind believers of the perfect love of Christ.

The central truth of Song of Solomon 1 is:

God-given love is beautiful, joyful, affectionate, and mutual, and it flourishes when two people value, honor, desire, and encourage one another.

I. THE GREATEST OF SOLOMON’S SONGS

Song of Solomon 1:1 — The Song of Songs

“This is Solomon’s song of songs, the most beautiful of all his songs.”

The title introduces the book as something exceptional.

The phrase:

“Song of songs”

is a Hebrew way of describing the greatest or finest song.

Solomon wrote many songs.

But this one receives special distinction.

It is a poetic celebration of love.

Cross References

1 Kings 4:32

Solomon spoke three thousand proverbs and composed one thousand and five songs.

Psalms 45:1

My heart overflows with a beautiful subject as I speak about the king. My tongue is ready to express what is in my heart like the pen of a skilled writer.

Ecclesiastes 1:1

These are the words of the Preacher, the son of David and king in Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

God’s Word is willing to speak about love with beauty, dignity, and honesty.

Key Truth

Biblical love is not something shameful.

When rightly ordered, it is something God created and something Scripture celebrates.

II. LOVE SWEETER THAN WINE

Song of Solomon 1:2 — The Bride's Desire

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is sweeter than wine.”

The bride openly expresses affection for the man she loves.

This is romantic language.

She values his love more than something associated with festivity and pleasure.

Wine could bring temporary gladness.

His love brings deeper delight.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:10

The groom says, “How beautiful your love is, my bride. Your affection is better than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume is better than every pleasant spice.”

Proverbs 5:19

Let your wife be a loving and graceful companion. Let her affection satisfy and delight you continually, and remain deeply devoted to her love.

Psalms 133:2

Unity among God's people is like precious fragrant oil poured upon Aaron's head, flowing down over his beard and onto the collar of his garments.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful affection should be treasured rather than treated casually.

III. A GOOD NAME IS LIKE PLEASANT PERFUME

Song of Solomon 1:3 — Character and Reputation

“Your fragrance is pleasing; your name is like perfume poured out. That is why young women love you.”

The bride admires more than the groom's outward appearance.

She admires:

His fragrance.

His name.

His reputation.

In Scripture, a name often represented character.

His character is compared with costly perfume.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good reputation is more valuable than expensive perfume, and a life completed faithfully can reveal more than the day on which that life began.

John 12:3

Mary took a large amount of expensive perfume, poured it upon Jesus' feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. The fragrance of the perfume filled the entire house.

Psalms 45:8

The king's garments carry the fragrance of myrrh, aloes, and cassia, and music from beautiful palaces brings him joy.

Spiritual Principle

Attraction may notice appearance.

Lasting love must also value character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A beautiful reputation is one of the greatest fragrances a person can carry.

IV. THE BRIDE DESIRES CLOSENESS

Song of Solomon 1:4 — “Take Me with You”

“Take me with you, let us run together! The king has brought me into his rooms. We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you!”

The bride does not want distance.

She desires:

Presence.

Closeness.

Fellowship.

Shared joy.

Love naturally desires nearness to the one loved.

Cross References

John 6:44

Jesus said that no one can truly come to Him unless the Father who sent Him draws that person, and He will raise that believer up at the last day.

Hosea 11:4

God says He drew His people with cords of human kindness and bonds of love. He gently lifted the burden from them and cared for them tenderly.

John 14:2

Jesus said, “My Father’s house has many dwelling places. If that were not true, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.”

Spiritual Principle

Love seeks fellowship rather than unnecessary distance.

V. HUMBLE YET LOVELY

Song of Solomon 1:5 — “Dark but Lovely”

“I am dark but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem—like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.”

The bride acknowledges her darkened skin.

Yet she also knows she is lovely.

She combines:

Humility.

And:

Healthy recognition of worth.

The tents of Kedar may have appeared dark from the outside.

Solomon’s curtains represented beauty and richness.

The contrast is poetic.

Cross References

Ezekiel 16:14

God described Jerusalem's beauty as becoming famous among the nations because of the splendor He had placed upon her.

Psalms 45:11

The king greatly desires your beauty, so honor him because he is your lord.

1 Samuel 16:7

The Lord told Samuel, "Do not judge merely by outward appearance or physical stature. Human beings look at what is visible, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Spiritual Principle

True worth cannot be measured by outward appearance alone.

VI. HARD LABOR HAS LEFT ITS MARK

Song of Solomon 1:6 — Her Own Vineyard Neglected

"Do not stare at me because I am dark, for the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept."

The bride explains why the sun darkened her skin.

She had been forced to work in the vineyards.

Others assigned her responsibility.

But while caring for their vineyards, she was unable to care properly for her own.

The vineyard may also work as a poetic picture of herself.

She had spent so much energy fulfilling other obligations that her own needs suffered.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 8:12

The bride later declares that her own vineyard belongs to her and speaks of responsibility for what has been entrusted to her.

Luke 15:29

The older brother said to his father, "For many years I have worked for you like a servant and never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends."

Matthew 21:33

Jesus told about a landowner who planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a winepress, constructed a tower, leased it to farmers, and went away.

Spiritual Principle

Constantly caring for everyone else while completely neglecting yourself can eventually leave visible effects.

VII. THE BRIDE SEEKS THE ONE SHE LOVES

Song of Solomon 1:7 — “You Whom My Soul Loves”

“Tell me, you whom my soul loves, where do you graze your flock, and where do you rest them at noon? Why should I wander like one veiled, beside the flocks of your companions?”

She wants to know where her beloved is.

She does not want to wander aimlessly.

Love seeks:

Presence.

Direction.

Clarity.

The language of shepherding adds gentleness to the scene.

Cross References

Psalms 23:1

The Lord is my Shepherd, and because He cares for me, I lack nothing that I truly need.

John 10:14

Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd. I know those who belong to Me, and My people know Me.”

Ezekiel 34:14

God promises to feed His flock in good pasture and allow them to rest safely on the mountains of Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Love desires intentional fellowship.

VIII. FOLLOW THE TRACKS

Song of Solomon 1:8 — The Groom's Direction

“If you do not know, most beautiful of women, follow the tracks of the sheep, and feed your young goats near the shepherds' tents.”

The reply gives direction.

She is not told to wander randomly.

She is told to follow an established path.

The shepherd imagery emphasizes:

Guidance.

Care.

Order.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 5:9

The women ask the bride what makes her beloved greater than another man and why her love for him is so special.

Song of Solomon 6:1

The women ask where her beloved has gone so that they may help her search for him.

1 Peter 2:25

You were once wandering like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Spiritual Principle

When the path seems uncertain, follow what is faithful and proven rather than wandering without direction.

IX. BEAUTY LIKE A MARE AMONG PHARAOH'S CHARIOTS

Song of Solomon 1:9 — The Groom Praises His Bride

“I compare you, my darling, to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.”

This comparison sounds unusual to modern ears.

But in its ancient context it communicated:

Beauty.

Grace.

Strength.

Distinction.

A magnificent horse associated with royal chariots would immediately attract attention.

The groom is saying:

“You stand out.”

Cross References

Exodus 14:9

Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, horsemen, and army pursued the Israelites and overtook them near the sea.

1 Kings 10:28

Solomon imported horses through established trading networks and maintained access to valuable royal horses.

Isaiah 31:1

Isaiah warned those who went to Egypt for help, trusting in horses and chariots because they appeared strong, while failing to look to the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Love sees something distinctive and valuable in the beloved.

X. THE GROOM NOTICES HER BEAUTY

Song of Solomon 1:10 — Cheeks and Jewels

“Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels.”

The groom speaks words of admiration.

He notices details.

Love is strengthened when appreciation is expressed.

Cross References

Genesis 41:42

Pharaoh removed his signet ring and placed it on Joseph’s hand. He dressed Joseph in fine linen and placed a gold chain around his neck.

Proverbs 1:9

Wise instruction will be like a graceful wreath upon your head and a beautiful necklace around your neck.

Ezekiel 16:11

God describes adorning Jerusalem with beautiful jewelry, placing bracelets on her arms and a necklace around her neck.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love does not merely feel appreciation.

It expresses appreciation.

XI. BEAUTY HONORED WITH PRECIOUS ORNAMENTS

Song of Solomon 1:11 — Gold and Silver

“We will make for you ornaments of gold, studded with silver.”

The imagery communicates:

Honor.

Value.

Beauty.

The bride is treated as someone precious.

Cross References

Psalms 45:13

The royal bride is pictured in splendor, beautifully clothed and prepared for the king.

Proverbs 25:11

A word spoken at exactly the right time is like golden fruit set in a beautiful silver setting.

Ezekiel 16:13

God describes Jerusalem as being adorned with gold and silver and dressed in fine clothing until her beauty became royal.

Spiritual Principle

Love honors rather than humiliates.

XII. FRAGRANCE FILLS THE ROOM

Song of Solomon 1:12 — The Bride at the King’s Table

“While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance.”

The scene shifts to fellowship.

The king sits at the table.

The bride’s perfume fills the surroundings.

Fragrance becomes another picture of delight and presence.

Cross References

John 12:3

Mary poured costly perfume upon Jesus’ feet, and the fragrance filled the entire house.

Mark 14:3

While Jesus was eating, a woman came with a jar of extremely expensive perfume, broke the container, and poured the perfume upon His head.

Psalms 23:5

You prepare a table for me even in the presence of my enemies. You honor me with oil, and my cup overflows.

Spiritual Principle

Love creates an atmosphere others can often sense.

XIII. HER BELOVED IS PRECIOUS TO HER

Song of Solomon 1:13 — A Sachet of Myrrh

“My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh that lies between my breasts.”

Myrrh was:

Fragrant.

Precious.

Valuable.

The bride compares her beloved with something kept close.

This expresses intimacy and cherished affection.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:6

The groom speaks of going to the mountain of myrrh and the hill of fragrant spices.

Exodus 30:23

The Lord instructed Moses to use costly spices, including pure myrrh, in preparing the sacred anointing oil.

Matthew 2:11

The wise men entered the house, saw the young Jesus with Mary His mother, bowed down in worship, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Spiritual Principle

Love treasures the beloved rather than treating that person as ordinary or disposable.

XIV. LOVE IS LIKE BLOSSOMS IN THE DESERT

Song of Solomon 1:14 — Henna Blossoms of En Gedi

“My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En Gedi.”

En Gedi was known as an oasis.

In the middle of a harsh landscape were:

Water.

Vegetation.

Beauty.

Refreshment.

The bride pictures her beloved as something refreshing and beautiful.

Cross References

1 Samuel 24:1

David went into the wilderness strongholds near En Gedi while Saul continued searching for him.

Song of Solomon 7:12

The lovers speak of going early to the vineyards to see whether the vines have budded, the blossoms have opened, and the fruit has begun to appear.

Numbers 13:23

The Israelite spies cut down a branch containing an enormous cluster of grapes and carried it between two men, along with other fruit from the land.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love should bring refreshment rather than constant exhaustion.

XV. THE GROOM DELIGHTS IN HIS BRIDE

Song of Solomon 1:15 — “You Are Beautiful”

“Behold, you are beautiful, my darling; behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.”

The groom does not leave his admiration unspoken.

He says it plainly:

“You are beautiful.”

Twice.

Love affirms.

Love communicates.

The comparison with doves suggests:

Gentleness.

Purity.

Softness.

Beauty.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 4:1

The groom again praises his bride’s beauty and compares her eyes with doves.

Song of Solomon 1:16

The bride responds by calling her beloved handsome and pleasing, showing that admiration is mutual.

Matthew 3:16

After Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and rested upon Him.

Spiritual Principle

Affection should not merely be assumed.

It should be spoken.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never make the person you love guess whether you still appreciate them.

XVI. THE BRIDE PRAISES HER BELOVED

Song of Solomon 1:16 — Mutual Admiration

“Behold, you are handsome, my beloved, yes, pleasing! Our bed is verdant and fresh.”

The bride answers the groom’s praise with praise of her own.

This relationship is not one-sided.

He admires her.

She admires him.

Their love is mutual.

The fresh greenery suggests:

Life.

Comfort.

Refreshment.

Beauty.

Cross References

Song of Solomon 1:15

The groom declares that his bride is beautiful and praises the gentleness and attractiveness of her eyes.

Song of Solomon 2:16

The bride declares, “My beloved is mine, and I am his,” expressing mutual commitment and belonging.

Psalms 23:2

The Lord allows me to rest in green pastures and leads me beside quiet, refreshing waters.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy love gives as well as receives affection.

XVII. A HOUSE BUILT WITH STRENGTH

Song of Solomon 1:17 — Cedar Beams and Fir Rafters

“The beams of our house are cedar, and our rafters are fir.”

The chapter closes with the imagery of a strong and beautiful dwelling.

Cedar was valued for:

Strength.

Beauty.

Durability.

Fragrance.

The picture suggests a relationship with a place of:

Security.

Rest.

Belonging.

Cross References

1 Kings 6:9

Solomon completed the temple structure and covered it with beams and boards made from cedar.

Psalms 104:16

The trees of the Lord are well supplied with water, especially the great cedars of Lebanon that He planted.

1 Kings 7:2

Solomon built the House of the Forest of Lebanon using great rows of cedar pillars and cedar beams.

Spiritual Principle

Love should help create a place of security rather than instability.

XVIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM SONG OF SOLOMON 1

1. Love Is Worth Celebrating

The chapter does not apologize for love.

It celebrates it.

Principle:

Faithful love is one of God's beautiful gifts.

2. Character Matters in Attraction

The bride values his:

Name.

Reputation.

Presence.

Principle:

Appearance may attract attention, but character gives love something solid to honor.

3. Humility and Worth Can Exist Together

The bride acknowledges her imperfections.

Yet she also knows:

“I am lovely.”

Principle:

Humility does not require despising yourself.

4. Love Seeks Closeness

The bride wants to be where her beloved is.

Principle:

Love naturally seeks fellowship and presence.

5. Appreciation Should Be Spoken

The groom tells the bride:

“You are beautiful.”

The bride answers:

“You are handsome.”

Principle:

Unspoken appreciation helps less than expressed appreciation.

6. Love Should Be Mutual

Both people:

Admire.

Desire.

Value.

Praise.

Principle:

Healthy love is not one person constantly giving while the other merely receives.

7. Love Should Create Refreshment and Security

The chapter ends with imagery of:

Greenery.

Cedar.

A shared dwelling.

Principle:

Healthy love should help create a safe place for the heart.

XIX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT LOVE

Love is presented as:

Delightful.

Personal.

Tender.

Mutual.

Expressive.

Love is more than a legal arrangement.

It involves the heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Commitment gives love stability.

Affection gives commitment warmth.

Healthy marriage needs both.

XX. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT ATTRACTION

The bride and groom are attracted to each other.

Scripture does not condemn appropriate romantic attraction.

Instead, it places that attraction within a relationship of:

Honor.

Admiration.

Commitment.

Spiritual Principle

Physical attraction is a gift, but it should never become the only foundation of love.

XXI. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT BEAUTY

The bride worries about her outward appearance.

Yet the groom calls her:

Beautiful.

This reveals a contrast between:

How we sometimes see ourselves.

And:

How someone who truly loves us may see us.

Key Truth

Human beings often notice their flaws more quickly than those who love them do.

XXII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT WORDS

Words matter in relationships.

The groom says:

“You are beautiful.”

The bride says:

“You are handsome.”

Those words strengthen affection.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not allow criticism to become more common in your relationship than appreciation.

XXIII. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT MUTUALITY

The bride desires the groom.

The groom values the bride.

The relationship contains reciprocity.

Healthy love does not say:

“What can I get?”

It also says:

“What can I give?”

Spiritual Principle

Love grows strongest when honor moves in both directions.

XXIV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT HUMILITY

The bride is honest about herself.

She does not pretend to be flawless.

Yet she does not say:

“I have no value.”

Healthy humility avoids two extremes.

Pride says:

“I am better than everyone.”

Self-contempt says:

“I have no worth.”

Biblical humility says:

“I know who I am, and I receive my worth without pretending to be perfect.”

XXV. WHAT SONG OF SOLOMON 1 TEACHES ABOUT MARRIAGE

Although the Song celebrates courtship and romantic love, its principles contribute to strong marriage.

Marriage needs more than:

Bills.

Schedules.

Responsibilities.

Children.

Work.

It also needs:

Affection.

Praise.

Time together.

Admiration.

Delight.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A marriage should never become so practical that it forgets to remain personal.

XXVI. CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

Throughout Christian history, many believers have also seen spiritual echoes in Song of Solomon.

The loving bridegroom can remind us of Christ.

The longing bride can remind us of His people.

Scripture elsewhere explicitly describes Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as His bride.

We should not erase the book's natural meaning as a celebration of human love.

But its language can legitimately remind Christians of:

Christ's faithfulness.

His delight in His people.

The believer's desire for closeness with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Human love at its best can point beyond itself toward the perfect faithfulness of God.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why is the book called the "Song of Songs"?

It identifies the song as exceptional—the finest or greatest among songs.

Question 2

What does the bride mean when she says his love is better than wine?

She means his affection brings greater delight and value to her than temporary pleasures.

Question 3

Why is the groom's name compared with perfume?

His name represents his reputation and character.

His character is pleasant and desirable.

Question 4

What does "dark but lovely" teach?

The bride recognizes the effects of outdoor labor on her appearance but does not conclude that she has no beauty or value.

Question 5

What happened to the bride in verse 6?

Her brothers made her work in the vineyards, and while fulfilling those responsibilities she neglected her own vineyard.

Question 6

Why does the bride search for her beloved?

Because love desires presence and fellowship.

She wants to know where he can be found.

Question 7

What does the comparison with Pharaoh's mare mean?

In its ancient setting, it communicated beauty, distinction, strength, and attractiveness.

Question 8

Why are jewels mentioned?

They symbolize beauty, value, and honor.

Question 9

Why are fragrances used repeatedly?

Fragrance communicates:

Pleasure.

Attraction.

Presence.

Delight.

Question 10

Why does the groom tell the bride she is beautiful?

Expressed admiration strengthens love and reassures the beloved.

Question 11

Is the admiration one-sided?

No.

The bride also calls the groom handsome and pleasing.

Their admiration is mutual.

Question 12

What should Song of Solomon 1 teach us about relationships?

It should teach us to value:

Faithful love.

Character.

Mutual admiration.

Closeness.

Encouragement.

Expressed affection.

Security.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon 1 asks several searching questions.

Do I Express Appreciation?

Do the people I love actually hear what I value about them?

Do I Value Character?

Am I looking beyond outward appearance?

Am I Neglecting My Own “Vineyard”?

Have responsibilities for everyone else caused me to ignore areas of my own life that need care?

Am I Building Closeness?

Or have busyness and distraction created unnecessary distance?

Are My Words Building the Relationship?

Is appreciation spoken more often than criticism?

Do I Make the Person I Love Feel Valued?

Or merely assume they already know?

Is My Love Mutual?

Am I receiving constantly without giving honor, affection, and encouragement in return?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Never Let Appreciation Become Silent”

Many relationships do not lack love.

They lack:

Expressed love.

A husband may think:

“She knows I love her.”

A wife may think:

“He knows I appreciate him.”

But Song of Solomon shows something important.

The bride and groom speak.

They say:

“You are beautiful.”

“You are handsome.”

“You are pleasing.”

Principle:

Love should not merely be felt internally; it should be expressed faithfully.

XXX. THE VINEYARD YOU MUST NOT NEGLECT

The bride says:

“My own vineyard I have not kept.”

That statement deserves reflection.

People can spend their lives caring for:

Work.

Family.

Ministry.

Responsibilities.

Everyone else’s problems.

And neglect:

Their own spiritual life.

Their marriage.

Their emotional health.

Their relationship with God.

Their own responsibilities.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Serving others is good.

Neglecting everything God entrusted directly to you is not.

XXXI. THE POWER OF A GOOD NAME

The bride says:

“Your name is like perfume poured out.”

A person’s name eventually becomes associated with:

Character.

Integrity.

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Or the lack of those things.

A good reputation takes time to build.

Spiritual Principle

Build the kind of name that brings a pleasant memory when people hear it.

XXXII. LOVE THAT REFRESHES

The imagery throughout the chapter is refreshing.

Perfume.

Wine.

Myrrh.

Flowers.

Green places.

Cedar.

The language communicates that healthy love should bring:

Encouragement.

Rest.

Delight.

Security.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Love should not continually make the beloved feel smaller, weaker, and more afraid.

Healthy love strengthens.

XXXIII. LOVE AND THE SHEPHERD IMAGE

The bride searches for the one she loves among the flocks.

The language of shepherding naturally brings to mind biblical themes of:

Guidance.

Protection.

Care.

Faithfulness.

Jesus later declares:

“I am the Good Shepherd.”

Human love is imperfect.

Christ’s shepherding love is perfect.

Spiritual Principle

The safest love is always love shaped by the character of God.

XXXIV. FINAL APPLICATION

Song of Solomon Chapter 1 introduces us to love that is:

Joyful.

Affectionate.

Expressive.

Mutual.

The bride desires her beloved.

The groom sees beauty in his bride.

They speak words of admiration.

They do not hide every emotion behind silence.

This chapter challenges relationships that have become:

Cold.

Mechanical.

Critical.

Distant.

Love needs more than commitment.

Commitment is essential.

But healthy commitment should produce:

Attention.

Affection.

Encouragement.

Admiration.

Do not stop noticing the person you love.

Do not allow familiarity to erase gratitude.

Do not let years together turn:

“You are beautiful”

into silence.

Do not let:

“You are handsome”

disappear beneath daily responsibilities.

Remember the bride’s words:

“My own vineyard I have not kept.”

Do not become so occupied with everyone else that you neglect what God has entrusted personally to you.

Care for:

Your spiritual life.

Your marriage.

Your family.

Your character.

Your own vineyard.

And remember:

Beauty is deeper than appearance.

The bride sees her sun-darkened skin.

The groom sees:

Beauty.

Value.

Distinction.

Love sees differently.

Therefore:

Speak appreciation.

Build character.

Create closeness.

Guard affection.

Honor commitment.

See the person, not merely the responsibilities attached to the person.

Love is a gift from God.

Treat it like one.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of love.

Thank You for creating human beings with the ability to:

Love.

Cherish.

Admire.

Encourage.

Delight in one another.

Teach us to love in ways that honor You.

Help husbands and wives never become careless with their affection.

Help them speak words that strengthen rather than destroy.

Give us eyes to notice what is good in the people we love.

Give us mouths willing to express appreciation.

Keep criticism from becoming louder than encouragement.

Father, help us value character more than outward appearance.

Give us good names.

Build in us:

Integrity.

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Purity.

Truth.

Make our character like a pleasant fragrance to the people around us.

Help those who struggle with insecurity.

Remind them that human worth is deeper than outward appearance.

Protect us from judging people only by what the eye sees.

Father, show us where we have neglected our own vineyards.

If we have become so busy serving everyone else that we have neglected:

Our walk with You.

Our marriages.

Our families.

Our character.

Our responsibilities.

Give us wisdom to restore proper care.

Teach us to seek healthy closeness.

Protect relationships from unnecessary distance.

Help us make time for those we love.

Help us listen.

Help us speak.

Help us encourage.

Help us cherish.

Father, thank You for the example of mutual admiration in this chapter.

Teach us not merely to demand love.

Teach us to give it.

Not merely to seek praise.

Teach us to praise what is good.

Not merely to desire attention.

Teach us to give attention.

And above all, remind us of the perfect love You have shown us.

May every good human relationship become a reflection, however imperfect, of Your:

Faithfulness.

Kindness.

Purity.

Commitment.

Grace.

Let our love honor You.

Let our words build.

Let our relationships refresh.

And let our homes become places of security, affection, and faithfulness.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Behold, you are beautiful, my darling; behold, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.” — Song of Solomon 1:15

Central Truth

God-given love is beautiful, affectionate, joyful, and mutual, and it grows stronger when two people value character, seek closeness, speak appreciation, honor one another, and create a relationship marked by refreshment and security.

Song of Solomon 1 in One Sentence

The opening chapter celebrates the beauty of faithful romantic love as the bride and groom express desire, humility, admiration, delight, and mutual affection, showing that healthy love values both character and beauty and strengthens intimacy through spoken appreciation.