



18 Sep 2022

## Song of Songs 1:1-2:7 – Desire’s Design

### Small Group Questions

Pray for God’s help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you’ll see.

Read through the passage and then discuss these questions together.

1. What is your favourite song or a song you’ve been enjoying listening to recently?
2. Much of human art throughout history – whether songs, films, poems or paintings – has focussed on love and romance. We see a divinely-inspired expression of that in the Song of Songs. What different explanations might Christians and others give for such a deep-seated desire being so universally present in humanity?

Ephesians 5:25-32 describes human marriage as an illustration of Jesus’ relationship to his people. Throughout the Bible the relationship of God to his people (or, in the New Testament, Christ to the church) is often described in romantic or sexual terms. For example, sin is described as spiritual adultery (Ezekiel 16), salvation is described as entering a covenant relationship with Him (Hebrews 8:10), our future is described as a wedding day in which Christ is our bridegroom (Revelation 21:1-4). God has designed our desires to point us beyond human romance to his love and his desire for an intimate relationship with us.

3. What reaction do you have to the idea of seeing Christ as your spiritual lover/bridegroom/husband?
4. Looking at 1:15, how easy do you find it to ‘hear’ these words as words spoken to you by Jesus?
5. Read 2:3 – How does the idea of Jesus as a shady canopy or a sweet fruit affect you?
6. Do you think God wants us to find satisfaction in our human relationships, romantic and otherwise? Why or why not?
7. How might this help us to understand and respond to unfulfilled desires?

**Respond to God’s word in prayer**

**Take some time to pray for each other**

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*Our desire for small groups is that they would help us be a “people who are in the process of having their lives turned inside out and upside down by the progressive work of transforming grace.”*

*(Taken from Lead by Paul Tripp, p42)*