



## Part 5: Fighting For Love

November 5 & 6, 2016

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### Song of Songs 5:2-6

<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?

<sup>4</sup>My beloved thrust his hand  
through the latch-opening;  
my heart began to pound for him.  
<sup>5</sup>I arose to open for my beloved,  
and my hands dripped with myrrh,  
my fingers with flowing myrrh,  
on the handles of the bolt.  
<sup>6</sup>I opened for my beloved,  
but my beloved had left; he was gone.  
My heart sank at his departure.  
I looked for him but did not find him.  
I called him but he did not answer.

### What's going on here?

They are experiencing conflict — after the honeymoon!

- She can't sleep (5:2a)
- He wants in (5:2b)
- She says no (5:3)
- He makes a repair attempt (5:4)
- They get stuck (5:5)
- He backs off (5:6)
- She remembers who she fell in love with (5:10-16)

### Song of Songs 6:2-5a

*She:*

My beloved has gone down to his garden,  
to the beds of spices,  
to browse in the gardens  
and to gather lilies.  
I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;  
he browses among the lilies.

*He:*

You are as beautiful as Tirzah,  
my darling, as lovely as Jerusalem,  
as majestic as troops with banners.  
Turn your eyes from me;  
they overwhelm me.

She makes the first move of reconciliation (6:1)

She remains committed (6:2-3)

He opens his heart again (6:4-5)

## Song of Songs 6:10-13

**Friends:**

<sup>10</sup> Who is this that appears like the dawn,  
fair as the moon, bright as the sun,  
majestic as the stars in procession?

**He:**

<sup>11</sup> I went down to the grove of nut trees,  
to look at the new growth in the valley,  
to see if the vines had budded  
or the pomegranates were in bloom.

They are reconciled (6:10-12)

They finish the conflict privately (6:13)

<sup>12</sup> Before I realized it, my desire set me  
among the royal chariots of my people.

**Friends:**

<sup>13</sup> Come back, come back, O Shulammitte;  
come back, come back,  
that we may gaze on you!

**He:**

Why would you gaze on the Shulammitte  
as on the dance of Mahanaim?

## When you're fighting for love...

1. Respond, don't react
2. Pursue oneness
3. Don't get hysterical or historical
4. Initiate reconciliation early and often

## Next Steps

### Imago Dei Class

4 Thursday Evenings, Nov. 10 – Dec. 8 • 6:30 – 8:00 PM (No class on Thanksgiving)

Find out everything you've always wanted to know about sex, sexuality, gender and being the person God created you to be. This 4-session co-ed class is for anyone curious about the God-given differences between men and women, anyone questioning whether or not they are good enough, or any person who wants to honor God in his or her sexuality. Taught by Karolyn Merriman. **Register and find out more at the Connection Point today.**

### The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

Friday, Nov. 18, 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturday, Nov. 19, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This 2 half-day workshop is based on 40 years of research with thousands of couples by Drs. John and Julie Gottman. The principles are proven to help couples improve their friendship, enhance romance and intimacy, manage conflict constructively and gain skills to solve problems. The experience is equally useful for long-time married couples, those considering marriage, and everyone in between. \$80/couple. **Register and find out more at the Connection Point today.**

## Small Group Questions

- 1) Do you usually remember your dreams? How about your nightmares?
- 2) What do you learn about conflict from this lover's quarrel?
- 3) What's the hardest part of conflict for you: the fight, getting stuck, admitting you are wrong, reconciling?
- 4) In conflict, can you tell when you're reacting versus responding? How?
- 5) How do you know when a conflict is completely resolved?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?