

That Thing Called Love #5
Passions

Word

Scripture Reference

Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define passionate love?
2. Read Song of Solomon 4:1-5:1. From the previous chapters we see King Solomon and his bride go through the phases of attraction, dating, and courtship in purity. After the grand wedding ceremony and wedding feast, it was the couple's wedding night, when they could finally express all the passions they have kept in check the whole time they were together before they got married. In today's culture, many unmarried couples no longer wait until they get married before they become physically involved with each other. Discuss how you think couples can keep themselves pure despite living in a culture where pre-marital sex is considered acceptable.
3. Passion is frequently described as intense sexual love or a strong, barely controllable emotion. However, the Bible gives us five characteristics that describe true passionate love. First, passionate love is selfless (v. 1-7). What can you note about the way Solomon describe his bride? Describe how the bride must have felt after hearing all these compliments from her groom. What is agape love? How did God demonstrate passionate love?
4. Secondly, passionate love is reassuring (v. 8). King Solomon was telling his bride that she could let go of her fears and insecurities because she is safe with him. Is it enough to assure your spouse/betrothed/intended with just words of love? Why do you think are actions very important in reassuring the person you love of your feelings and intentions? What actions have you observed among couples that demonstrate their reassuring love for each other? Share and discuss.
5. Thirdly, passionate love is sensual (v. 9-11). God has made and wired men and women to be sensual beings, but when is it wrong to be sensual? What does it mean that passionate love "must not be awakened" until the time is

right? What is the boundary of a God honoring sensual relationship?

6. Fourth, passionate love is exclusive (v. 12-15). Solomon praised his bride for her virginity. Purity and virginity are the best gift you can give to your spouse on your wedding day. Does purity before marriage refer only to the bride? Discuss why being exclusive with your spouse in passionate love is a key to romance. How does being the only one for your partner give you assurance in your relationship?
7. Lastly, passionate love is enjoyable (v. 16-5:1) Sex expressed in the God-honored confines of marriage is something that is enjoyable. God in His love for His people created sex for married couples to enjoy. Why do you think can't sexual intimacy be enjoyed to its maximum pleasure with someone else other than your spouse? If sexual intimacy were a wonderful gift of God to be shared in the sacred institution of marriage, why do you think would anyone who is married want to share this gift with anyone other than his/her spouse? Discuss the consequences of unfaithfulness in a marital relationship.

Walk

The world has a superficial view of love and sex, but the Word of God defines passionate love as selfless, reassuring, sensual, exclusive and enjoyable. Do these characteristics rule in your relationship? If you are not yet married, would you ask the Lord to instill in you the biblical values that will help you honor Him in your present or future relationship?

Worship & Prayer

Pray for...

- Wisdom and courage for God's people to redeem the beauty and purity of the gift of intimacy and sex from today's culture.
- Wisdom and guidance for the college camp speakers to prepare relevant biblical and life skills messages.
- For a good high school basketball league.
- Healing and salvation for FSC, Ed Lao, ST, Rose Recreo, MJA, Rosa Gan, Mr. Chan, KYC, IB, Edna Tan, Victor, SET.
- Spiritual and emotional healing of D.A.Y.
- †Comfort and peace for bereaved family of Cecilio Lim (*Min. Joyce Lim's father*).