

Song of Solomon – the Warnings 2.26.17

The most important decision you will make in your life is whom you will serve, Jesus or yourself. The second most important decision you make is who to MARRY.

· *In Hebrews 13:4, Scripture says that marriage should be honored by all, but is it today?* Today, traditional marriage is on a steep DECLINE. More people would rather cohabit with each other than to pledge themselves to each other. And same sex marriages are at an all-time high.

· **These thoughts and practices go against everything that God has designed.**

Even in the book of Song of Solomon, God shows the proper order to his design: the engagement (1:1-3:5), the wedding (3:6-5:1) and the marriage (5:2-8:14).

· Each one of these three are tremendous opportunities to CELEBRATE.
· God's design for you is to meet someone, court them, marry them and live happily ever after. But, when you don't honor marriage, you don't get to **CELEBRATE** like God intended.

So much of society have grown up in divorce, they've been fed the lie that cohabitation is the best way to avoid divorce. Three DOWNFALLS to cohabitation:

#1 Cohabiting doesn't HONOR marriage.

· Your wedding day and wedding night is not just some day, it is your one day to celebrate! Yet, today, people would rather have sex, see if they are compatible before they have a wedding. **That's not honoring marriage**, and sadly, I will say that God will judge them according to that. (see **Hebrews 13:4**)

· I'm a firm believer that there are **consequences** for all our decisions and that **God HONOR obedience!**

#2 Cohabitation brings no promise of PROVISION.

· One main reason I love a wedding is because the husband PROMISES to provide for his wife. Since there is no commitment of a man in cohabitation to protect the woman he is living with, she is vulnerable.

#3 Cohabiting doesn't provide a chance for public parental APPROVAL.

THREE WAYS Song of Solomon emphasizes TRUE LOVE:

#1 Song of Solomon emphasizes that true love WAITS. (see **Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4**)

· If you don't celebrate the wedding as important, it subtly makes a statement that the MARRIAGE isn't that important either. **Happily ever after is OBTAINABLE**, but it will take work, service and a lot of faithfulness.

When the honeymoon is over, the thrill of romance can fade if it is not NURTURED. Song of Solomon makes it clear that even though sex inside of marriage is to be designed to be amazing, it's the other things of life that can take the **JOY** out of a marriage.

#2 Song of Solomon emphasizes that true love WITHSTANDS problems. (see **Song of Solomon 2:15**)

· In Middle East farming, foxes, even though they were tiny, they were very destructive in the vineyards because they dug up vines and ate the grapes in bloom. This analogy was Solomon's way of telling us that there are little problems that can creep in and can add up to **ruin** a beautiful relationship. In the same way, we need to "catch" or solve the little problems in our relationships before they damage it.
· Be warned because little ANNOYANCES can turn into a **BIG PROBLEM** over time.

What little things are destructive in our relationships?

#1 IMPROPER THOUGHTS

· Be careful because what we role play in our mind, we will real play in our life.
· Be warned because **FANTASY** is only one step removed from reality.
· Guard your thought life. (see **Philippians 4:8**)

#2 Lack of effective COMMUNICATION

· When you are not clear in your expectations or your intentions, you frustrate the other party. You can choose to whine about the problem or work on a solution by talking it out. (see **Ephesians 4:26-27**)

#3 BUSYNESS. (Song of Solomon 5:2)

· **Be at home at least 3 nights a week.** Schedule your family like it is an appointment with the most important business client.

#4 SELFISHNESS. (Song of Solomon 5:2-6)

· **When you stop MAKING quality time for each other, you stop MEETING each other's needs.** When your spouse disappoints you, it is **sinful** to respond in selfishness. (see **Hebrews 12:15**)

· Instead of allowing the enemy room to plant relational weeds between us, chose forgiveness and extend grace to prevent a bitter root from taking hold. (see **Ephesians 4:32** and **1 Corinthians 7:3-5**)

· **SEX** is supposed to be an indicator of a healthy marriage.

#3 Song of Solomon emphasizes that true love WILLINGLY CHASES your spouse. (see **Song of Solomon 3:1-4**)

· Face your marriage problems and don't ignore them.
· If you need help in your marriage, CHASE it.

APPLICATION

· If you are single, look for ways to SERVE so that you can start to root out selfishness from your life. (see **Psalms 119:9** and **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**)
· If you are cohabiting, please **STOP**.
· If you are married, you have to root out selfishness and replace it with SERVANTHOOD. Fight for your marriage and chase each other. (see **Matthew 7:12**)