**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Music of Marriage |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Song of Solomon 1:1, 5:2 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1492 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Christian Barnard, a famous South African heart surgeon, gained great notoriety because he performed the first successful heart transplant.
		1. He was in the newspapers and on television and was on the cutting edge in that area.
		2. He wrote the book, *One Life*.
			1. In that book, he told how he lost his home and family.
			2. This man, who was successful in the eyes of the world, was a failure in his own eyes because he gained the whole world but lost his family.
			3. His story shows that there was a lack of communication between him and his wife.
	2. Marriage counselors tell us that most marriage problems are caused by poor communication.
	3. Song of Solomon 1:1
		1. This is a love poem between two lovers communicating with each other.
			1. It is the music of marriage.
	4. If you are married or intend to get married, then you will either communicate, or your marriage will disintegrate.
		1. Proverbs 18:21
		2. 1 Peter 3:10
			1. If you are a lover of life and want to see good days, then you must control your speech.
		3. If you cannot communicate, then you cannot stay together.
	5. There are five basic levels of communication:
		1. The frivolous level
			1. We do this all day long.
			2. This deals with clichés, such as, “It’s a beautiful day,” or “It’s hot.”
			3. We talk about the weather, sports, clothes, and so forth.
		2. The factual level
			1. This level is a little deeper.
			2. We report facts, but there is no real personal involvement.
				1. It’s like a news commentator giving out the evening news on television.
		3. The fellowship level
			1. We talk about our ideas, our judgments, and our philosophies.
			2. At this point, we begin to risk a little bit because someone may reject our judgments, ideas, or philosophies, and we may retreat back.
		4. The feeling level
			1. Not only do we talk about our philosophies, judgments, and ideas, but we also open up and tell how we really feel about those facts and judgments.
			2. This level is about as far as most people get in communication.
		5. The freedom level
			1. We are completely open with our mate.
			2. We share our dreams, our fears, and our ideas.
			3. There is no fear of rejection.
	6. The word “intimacy” comes from the Latin word “intimus.”
		1. It means “inmost.”
		2. It deals with the inmost part.
			1. This includes our dreams, our fears, our secrets, our failures, and our aspirations.
				1. Things that we would share with no one else except the person whom we are intimate with.

That is the secret of lasting love.

* 1. In the Bible, when a husband and a wife would come together in the act of marriage, the Bible describes it as, “He knew his wife.”
		1. To be completely known and still be loved is the supreme goal of marriage.
			1. This is to be intimate.
	2. Today, when people talk about intimacy, they are thinking about physical intimacy.
		1. But physical intimacy is not truly intimacy.
			1. It is void and without meaning.
			2. It is without spiritual and psychological intimacy.
	3. God gave us a model for intimacy or communication.
		1. God shows us, in His Word, how husbands and wives can communicate.
		2. This model is found in the book called the Song of Solomon.
	4. In the Song of Solomon, King Solomon and a Shulamite girl, whom he has married, talk to one another with the most intimate speech.
		1. It is here by divine inspiration to give us a model for marriage.
		2. It is an illustration of how husbands and wives are to talk to one another.
		3. They praise one another.
		4. They speak in terms of physical attraction.
		5. They speak in terms of affection and affirmation.
	5. In today’s message, we will listen to their intimate conversation, and we will see what God has given, in His Holy Word, as a model for intimacy between husbands and wives.
		1. We will notice four things about the conversation between King Solomon and his wife.
1. their words are plentiful
	1. They talk, and they talk a lot.
		1. Almost sixty percent of the verses in the Song of Solomon are words that were spoken between these lovers.
		2. It is obvious that they miss the sound of the other’s voice when they are separated.
	2. They praise the other’s speech.
	3. They are free.
		1. One is free to give without embarrassment.
		2. The other is free to receive without resentment.
	4. Husbands and wives need to learn how to talk together.
		1. Many times, it is the wife who craves for the husband to talk to her.
			1. There is sometimes a problem of the silent man and the woman who talks.
		2. Sometimes it seems that when our marriages get older, we get colder.
			1. We stop talking.
		3. Men are goal-oriented.
			1. Women wonder why their husbands don’t talk to them like they did when they were dating.
				1. He would call her on the telephone and call her from the office.

They would talk and talk.

* + - * 1. When they got married, he suddenly stopped talking.
		1. A woman is security-oriented, and she craves conversation.
			1. The man, having achieved marriage, moves to some other goal.
			2. But the woman has an ever-deepening need of being affirmed.
				1. And so, there is a built-in problem.
	1. The first thing a husband and wife should have is communication.
		1. They must talk.
		2. Take time and make time to talk.
1. their words are personal (song of solomon 5:2)
	1. They say very intimate things to one another.
	2. She has a name for him.
		1. She calls him “my beloved.”
	3. He has a pet name for her.
		1. He calls her “my love” and “my dove.”
	4. They have pet names for one another.
		1. Words are personal.
		2. Husband, do you have a pet name for your wife?
			1. A name you do not call anyone else by but her?
		3. Have some pet names and personal names for each other.
			1. They are ways of saying the following to your mate:
				1. You are unique.
				2. You are special.
				3. You are one of a kind.
	5. The Bible says that wives are to submit themselves to their own husbands.
		1. Ephesians 5:22
			1. In the Greek language, the word “own” here is the word that we get the word “idiosyncrasy” from.
				1. It literally means to submit to your very special or unique husband.

Husbands and wives need to know that they are number one and that they are unique.

Husband, if you call your wife “sweetheart,” then don’t call anyone else by that name.

If that is your name for your wife, then it is for her alone.

She is special and unique.

* 1. Song of Solomon 5:10
		1. He is number one in her life.
			1. Everyone needs to know that they are number one.
			2. Everyone needs to feel unique, like no one else, and like nothing else can take your place.
1. their words are positive (song of solomon 5:2)
	1. They speak positively to one another.
	2. There is not one negative word of criticism in the book of the Song of Solomon.
		1. There is nothing critical.
		2. There is nothing negative.
		3. There is no correction.
	3. The words “my undefiled” literally mean “my flawless one.”
		1. Because she was human, she was not flawless.
			1. But that is what he called her.
		2. He was affirming her.
			1. He was not belittling her.
	4. Song of Solomon 1:8-11, 15-16
		1. Notice that these words are very positive.
	5. The Bible says to let our speech be always with grace and seasoned with salt.
		1. Colossians 4:6
		2. Salt adds taste to food, and grace adds flavor to speech.
		3. Salt is a preservative.
		4. Speech that issues out of the nature of grace will preserve a marriage and a relationship between husbands and wives.
		5. Grace is not giving someone what they deserve; grace is giving someone what they need.
			1. Some may say that their husband or wife does not deserve this kind of speech.
				1. Then, that is all the more reason to give it because they need it.
		6. Grace is to speech what color is to art.
		7. We need to learn to let our speech be positive and not negative.
	6. One of the key characteristics of intimacy is acceptance.
		1. There cannot be intimacy without acceptance.
		2. If someone is critical and negative, then it is a sign that they have not accepted the other person.
		3. When someone cannot be intimate, it is because they are afraid to expose themselves.
			1. They are afraid that they will be criticized.
			2. If they expose their inadequacies, then they are afraid that they will not be accepted.
		4. Out of acceptance grows trust.
		5. Out of trust comes intimacy.
		6. Intimacy can only grow where there is a place of safety.
	7. We want our spouse to think that we are wonderful.
		1. So, if we are afraid that he or she is going to criticize, rebuff, or chastise us, then we cannot be intimate with them.
			1. We have to wear a mask or pretend.
		2. But if we know that they love and accept us and that we are number one to them, then for the first time we can be intimate.
	8. There is a potent power to praise.
		1. Praise, like what Solomon and his wife gave one another, will transform your marriage.
		2. Song of Solomon 5:16
			1. “His mouth is most sweet.”
				1. She spoke of his words.
				2. His mouth was sweetness personified.
	9. Learn to let your speech be positive and not negative.
		1. When we begin to be positive and not negative, communication will begin to flow.
		2. When we are negative, then the other person will suffer from trauma of transparency, and they will withdraw.
2. their words are passionate (song of solomon 2:8-14)
	1. This is what God intended for husbands and wives.
	2. Words of love may flow out of feeling but not always.
		1. Most of the time, it is feeling that flows out of words.
	3. Your words will sustain your marriage.
	4. Your words will repair hurt feelings.
	5. Your words will grow love.
3. CONCLUSION
	1. These four simple things are the goal that God has given in His Holy Word for communication between husbands and wives.
		1. In order to do this, you have to adjust.
			1. And sometimes, you will regress.
	2. The husband is the one who probably needs the adjustment the most.
		1. In almost all marriage counseling, it is the husband who will not talk.
	3. The wife has a need for intimacy; she craves communication.
		1. She will sometimes push her husband into a corner just to get him to talk.
			1. There is something in her that would rather have an argument than to be ignored.
		2. She wants communication.
	4. Men do not want to talk, but it is the men who need to talk.
		1. There are many natural barriers that keep men from communication.
			1. There are emotional differences.
			2. There are background differences.
				1. Boys are taught not to show their emotions.

They are taught that it is a sign of weakness if they do.

* + 1. A part of their silence is to show that they are in complete control.
			1. They would rather drive around for hours and not know where they are rather than stop and ask for directions.
				1. There is something in a man that makes him want to impress his mate.
	1. We need to work on intimacy in marriage.
		1. It gives incredible freedom, and it is worth it.
		2. You’ll never arrive at perfection.
			1. But you need to make a start if you want to have a happy home.
	2. The first step to having a happy home is to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
	3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16