

5. Notice the verbal appreciation of her beauty throughout chapter 4. Women: why is verbal affirmation so valuable? Men: why is giving verbal affirmation sometimes so difficult?

6. "All of us have been wounded and hurt in some way. We're all insecure, fearful, and broken. ... Human beings are so complex. When you factor in sin, trauma, insecurity, and anxiety, our brokenness becomes part of that complexity. ... Intimacy is hard for broken people" (Matt Chandler, The Mingling of Souls, pp. 140-41). Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**Let's Pray:**

For our missionaries:

*Julie Denker - Family Life ministries - CRU*

Pray for all at Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) as they mourn the death of Vonette Bright, Co-founder of Cru.

# Sermon Notes

"God's Design for Sexual Intimacy"

Song of Solomon 3:6 – 5:1

February 21, 2016

## Introduction:

### 1. The Wedding Procession (3:6-11)

### 2. The Wedding Night (4:1 – 5:1)

a. It is \_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_.

b. It is \_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_.

c. It is \_\_\_\_\_ as well as \_\_\_\_\_.

d. It is \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. God's Affirmation (5:1b)

#### Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 2-21-16

#### Getting Started:

1. Why is it so difficult to talk positively about sex within the church?
2. What do most premarital couples hope to get out of marriage that they can't get by staying single?

#### Digging Deeper:

3. Song of Solomon 3:6-11 portrays a wedding procession. In that culture, part of the ceremony consisted in the removal of the bride from her father's house to that of the groom or his father. After putting on festive clothing, the groom left his house, accompanied by his groomsmen,

preceded by a band of musicians or singers. Having reached the house of the bride, who with her maidens anxiously expected his arrival, he would conduct the whole party back to his own or his father's house. Along the way, they are joined by a party of maidens, friends of the groom and bride, who are in waiting to catch the procession as it passed. Neighbors and onlookers would press into the streets to watch the procession. At the house, a feast was prepared, and the bride and groom would enter the bridal chamber to consummate their union (Unger's Bible Dictionary, 1975, p. 699).

In 3:6-11, note all of the ways that the groom is portrayed as protecting and providing for his bride. How does this contribute to the sense of value he places upon her?

4. 3:11 gives some sense of the celebratory nature of the wedding day. Maidens try to catch a glimpse of the activity. The groom dons a wedding crown received from his mother earlier that day. Sixty strong mighty men, armed with swords, stand guard.

It is a great joy when parents, family, and friends can celebrate our marriage union without reservation. How important is it that family and friends be in favor of the wedding *without reservations*? Is it *ever* appropriate to proceed with a marriage against the counsel of family or friends? If so, how would you determine if it were appropriate or not?