

*Sacred Sex: Passionate Intimacy in the Song of Solomon*  
*Week One: Overview and Background*



This class addresses the Song of Solomon and adult sexuality in a very frank and open manner from a biblical perspective. This class will also consider, by ways of contrast, prevailing views of sexuality as offered by society. As such, some of the content, while not overly explicit, may very well be offensive. This class is not appropriate for children. Teenagers may attend at the discretion of their parents, with written permission to me.

At the same time, this is a safe place. You will not be called upon, asked to reveal any personal information, or be embarrassed in any way. You may very well feel uncomfortable—but rest assured, this is a safe place. We will discuss tough topics—but we will do it in a way that both honors God and preserves our dignity.

### *Why Song of Solomon?*

1. The problem of culture
2. The problem of silence
3. The problem of distance

### *Background to the Song of Solomon*

Who was Solomon? The wisest weakest man who ever lived

Father: David—a man after God's own heart, but he had a flaw (2 Samuel 11)

His request

His downfall: 1 Kings 11:1-8

### *What are Some Lessons Learned?*

### *Overview of the Song of Solomon*

1. Very complex book
2. Very divergent history of interpretation
3. Very difficult subject
4. Very ignored subject

## *A Summary of the book*

A love poem where in the stanzas each lover starts out apart, and then ends up together. The strongest theme is the mutuality and reciprocity of their love. They are equally in love, equally adore one another, equally ready to initiate, respond, and invite the other. It is a remarkable vision of what marriage should be.<sup>1</sup>

## *Next Meeting*

March 17, 2004 (No meeting March 10 Spring Break)

## *Homework*

By Friday, we will have a website where I will post notes from class, helpful links, etc.... The web site will be linked off [www.mattblackmon.com](http://www.mattblackmon.com).

*Scripture Homework:* Read Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7. Be aware that your Bible (especially if it is a NIV Study Bible) may break up the passage differently than I do. Answer the following questions

How many main characters are there in this passage?

In verses 1:1-2:7, what words are repeated? Why?

What theme is expressed in 1:12-14?

Verse 1:15 is the most important verse in this passage. Why?

*Relationship Homework:* Just as Solomon did not suddenly find himself in his situation, none of us awoke this morning surprised to our situation. Please consider the following:

How did your home life contribute to your understanding of relationships?

Was there a significant influence (either good or bad) on your present relationship? If you are not in a relationship, what significant influences do you have for your foundation of relationships?

If you are married, what are some ways you could express love and desire in your relationship? If you are not married, what ideals can you take away from this lesson?

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<sup>1</sup> David Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, 213.