

Why Wait? And . . . Why Wait?!?

Song of Songs 2:7-17



Every Courtship, every engagement is like fingerprints and snowflakes: No two are exactly alike. Some engagements are lengthy, some brief. Some court for years, some for a few months. Every story is different; every love song offers a different melody and poetry.

EG's chronologically, starting with the most recent...

- MC and Grant = Twin Lakes
- Aaron & Blair = The Grove / the Circle
- Ellen & Jason = Jackson Square, NO
- Carol and Me (context of 1st date Vs proposal irony) = the sanctuary of FPC

But as with all music and poetry, timing is a significant factor. "Timing is everything". Especially when it comes to intimacy. This lesson, based on a lovely section of poetry in the Song of Songs, deals with the issue of timing and trusting God's timing for marital intimacy.

1. We trust God's timing for intimacy WITHIN marriage.

Here's a rundown of the language and actions of MI (Marital Intimacy) in the poem of 2:8-17:

- **There's an approach of interest, Vv 8-9.** He's not a peeping Tom. Maybe a Curious George, or an eager beaver, or better yet, a yearning young stag, knocking on the door, "Penny . . . Penny . . . Penny . . . Let me in . . . let me in . . . let me in!"

There's an invitation, Vv 10-15. He invites, he doesn't demand! There IS a difference!

- **She accepts the invitation, Vv 16-17.** *We belong together.* 1950's Dean Martin & Patsy Cline, "You belong to me, [See the pyramids along the Nile

// Watch the sunrise from a tropic isle // Just remember darling all the while // You belong to me.]

It's a delightful dance of marital romance, and there's a delicate timing to it, season-wise and otherwise. To Quote that group of very practical theologians from 1966, the Supremes #1 song on the popular charts, "You Can't Hurry Love" [" . . . you can't hurry love, no, you just have to wait ... it's a game of give-and-take . . . "]

Some observations from this passage (and the Bible as a whole):

- **God's Word is NOT PRUDISH about this subject. You and I may be, but this song is not!!** In fact, our PRUDISHNESS about this subject of physical intimacy reflects more on a "Victorian" mindset of what is proper than the realism of Scripture. Perhaps if WE addressed the subject from Scripture, our children would not be getting their orientation to the subject from pop culture and public school sex-ed classes and locker room banter!
- **God's Word is fully aware of the full spectrum of true AND false INTIMACY.** (perversion) God's Word is fully aware of desire, seduction, rape, polygamy, homosexuality, adultery and relations w/one's spouse AFTER 90. And that's just in the book of Genesis. Just because sin affects everything, that doesn't mean you avoid the subject altogether. The Bible is bold, but balanced!
- **In any marriage, there are significant ROADBLOCKS to MI (symbolized poetically by eating fruit), 2:15. What are they? And what is the significance of "us" in Vs 15?** They are the little foxes in the Vineyard that hinder MI. Remember, relations are ALWAYS in CONTEXT; and the entire CONTEXT of the marriage relationship should be considered rather than compartmentalizing out the physical from everything else. Here are some "foxes" that can attack the vineyard of intimacy, and especially of MI: Mistrust, not being honest & open, selfishness & pride, an unforgiving spirit, having unspoken "expectations" and disappointment b/c of that (poor communication) being critical and cynical towards each other. "US"

indicates this creating an atmosphere that encourages romance within marriage MUST be a team effort!

- **Listen to the wisdom of the PREACHER elsewhere in the wisdom literature, cf Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.** There IS a time for embracing, so embrace! There is a time to refrain, so refrain! And remember, BOTH are part of that which God has made beautiful in it's on time, Vs 11...
- **In a healthy marriage, there's a BALANCE of MI and the CONTEXT for MI. Expectations can be foolish!** MI is, or SHOULD be, a journey and not an end in and of itself. Context is important for EVERYTHING, especially in marriage. Men, especially, use a little sanctified common sense and tune in to what's going on w/your wife! Don't be insensitive!

2. We trust God's timing for intimacy BEFORE marriage.

The key verse is 2:7. Here's some questions:

- **What is the target audience?** Young, singles, physically ready for love.
- **What is the counsel?** NOT, "Well, dear, just follow your heart (emotions); you're heart will NEVER lead you astray!" The COUNSEL is, Wait! Wait for the right PERSON (aka, a husband, not some jerk trying to charm & sweet-talk you & even pressure you), and the right time (after you say "I Do!") ["Heck Yes!"]
- **How serious is this counsel?** "Adjure" means to put someone under solemn oath. Purity is serious business!
- **Why gazelles and does?** A poetic play on words for God (*gazelles*, armies, Lord of host; does of the field = *El-Shaddai*), a poetic way of saying "Do you pledge purity, complete purity, so help you God?!?"

**** The basic idea is: PATIENCE now, PASSION ~~now~~ LATER, in the context of MARRIAGE. ****

WHY WAIT?!? Cindy, Rob, and some very good **reasons** to wait...

- **Because SCRIPTURE says so. Cf 1st Thessalonians 4:3-8.** God, speaking through Scripture, makes it clear that the ONLY context for Physical Relations is MARRIAGE. Everything else is “out of bounds”.
- **Because it does NOT bring you closer.** Sharing a “chemical cocktail” creates a physiological bonding, but not intimacy. And it creates guilt, especially on the part of the girl who knows subconsciously that an intense physical relationship with someone SHOULD be reserved ONLY for the person you’re spending your life with. He gets ahold of her physically / psychologically. Physical relations may be a EXPRESSION OF intimacy, but it is not a MEANS TO intimacy. True intimacy has almost nothing to do w/physical relations. A prostitute may expose her body, but her relationships are not expressions of intimacy.
- **It leads to foolish COMPARISONS. Cf 2 Corinthians 10:12.** People who wait till marriage have only one standard of comparison: each other. If one has NOT had multiple partners, they will automatically think their spouse is the best. Do you really want to be comparing (and be compared to) multiple partners? I used to tell the youth, “Do you really think every partner is basically a car for you to test drive?” “We certainly compare how different girlfriends / boyfriends KISS, do we not?” Who wants that kind of potential for distraction and disappointment??

RISK FACTORS FOR PMI -- These issues put people at a higher risk for IM physical relations before marriage. The more factors, the higher the risk (apart from grace operating in a life).

- ◆ **ALCOHOL and DRUG abuse.** Clouds judgment and weakens resistance.

- ◆ **A STEADY boyfriend or girlfriend.** Strong attachments and feelings of “we’re exclusive” invite nature to take its course, especially when displays of affection take place at a younger age. ESPECIALLY when the boy is 2-3 or more years older than the girl. Parents need to be candid and diplomatic about this, and should be handled separately w/the boy and girl.
- ◆ **Little parental MONITORING / SUPERVISION.** Leaving people alone for hours @ a time is a setup for... Well, you know.
- ◆ **Parental ATTITUDES about PMI, especially that it’s APPROPRIATE or INEVITABLE.** If you think it’s OK “ . . . if you really LOOOOOVE that person . . . “ your kids will be more than happy to act on your belief. “I disapprove, but it’s like death & taxes,” or “Well, just be careful” will send a message loud and clear to young people, and the youth will act accordingly.
- ◆ **A history of ABUSE.** Abuse of any kind destroys boundaries, a produces feelings of worthlessness in the person who was abused. They may not feel worthy of having a pure relationship, since they are “damaged goods”. This is a HUGE problem, always has been, but it’s coming out of the shadows.
- ◆ **Frequent family RELOCATIONS.** Loneliness and loss of friendships & social support groups may lead some girls (they ARE relational) to use physical intimacy to gain social acceptance and a sense of being “connected” to SOMEone @ least.
- ◆ **Only one PARENT in a household.** Parenting is meant to be a TEAM effort. Work and other demands on one parent can prevent him/her from being as involved and attentive as they need and want to be. And sometimes, the single parent doesn’t set an example of purity, but @ least gives the appearance of evil.

- ◆ **** A culture that DESENSITIZES us towards PMI. **** And “jams the signals” of purity calling it prudish and oppressive. 3 dates before sex, so culture says. And books and movies encourage not men who protect girls but men who are predators.

WHAT IF THE PMI LINE HAS BEEN CROSSED?

- **1ST John 1:9; Psalm 103:12 -- In 2 words, THE GOSPEL.** God offers FORGIVENESS dia Jesus Christ. B/C of Christ, God WILL forgive you. He will burn the file. Jesus came to earth for sinners, He lived w/sinners, He died w/sinners, He rose for sinners. And Jesus welcomes and washes repenting sinners. There is hope, and a clean slate, for those who by faith come to Christ and ask for forgiveness. There’s no reason why a forgiven sinner cannot wear a white dress on her wedding day!
- **Colossians 1:17** – Christ is the one who created and holds together the world. He brings about a new creation full of new creations. You’re not just turning over a new leaf; you have a new life, you ARE a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come, the winter is past, and the spring is here, and you’re singing a new song. So SING of love as it IS MEANT TO BE and as IT CAN BE for those who are children of God through Faith in Jesus Christ!