

God's Design for Sex and Relationships

We don't have to look far to find examples of broken relationships. Many of us have our own stories, and almost all of us know someone with a story of brokenness, betrayal, or abuse. The Song of Songs offers us a vision of relationships in stark contrast to the self-serving models we see around us in culture. The celebration of intimacy in Song of Songs shows us that God's design for love and sex is deeply rooted in his own character and filled with self-sacrifice, mutuality, commitment, delight, and respect.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What were you taught about sex? What feelings do you have when the subject of sex comes up?
- How do you think the culture around you informs your understanding of love?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God's Design for Sex and Relationships](#)

READ [Song of Songs 3-8](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney talk about God's design for love being rooted in God's own character. They emphasize that love, by God's design, is filled with commitment, mutuality, and delight. Who in your life exemplifies this type of love well?
- Have you ever considered that sex is God's idea, that it is sacred and holy, or a way to glorify God with our physical bodies? Do you think this truth is reflected well in the way most Christians talk—or don't talk—about sex? Why or why not?
- In discussing how God wants us to function in all our relationships, Scott and Darrell talk about *shalom*, the biblical concept of thriving and flourishing together. They also mention the African term *ubuntu*, which means "I am because we are." Do you find this design for relationships invigorating or intimidating? What do you think gets in the way of this type of mutual submission?
- As they close the episode, Darrell and Scott acknowledge that conflict in relationships is inevitable, and sometimes relationships break. They remind us that God is a redeemer who specializes in restoring what is broken and healing what is wounded. Are there relationships in your life that need God's redemption and healing? Bring those relationships to him in prayer.

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[1 John 4:8](#), [Romans 5:8](#), [Exodus 6:7](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4-5](#), [John 13:34-35](#), [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [Ephesians 5:21-33](#), [Psalm 103:4-5](#), [Revelation 22:1-5](#), [John 15:13](#), [Proverbs 27:17](#), [Philippians 2:3-4](#), [Colossians 3:13](#)

CONCLUSION

In what ways have you been encouraged by studying the Song of Songs? Give thanks to God for teaching us to love like he does through his Word.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/gods-design-for-sex-and-relationships>

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