

Foreword

Love, marriage, sex and romance can serve as the ultimate Jekyll and Hyde of life. On one hand, they give us great joy and satisfy the deepest desires and needs, but such desires can also turn on us and plunge our lives into the deepest of pain. Has God given us these desires, drives and needs, and yet failed to give us any guidance through what can be such treacherous ground? I think not. He has given us the Song of Solomon. As you study this book with me, may you be blessed, enlightened and directed by the good Word of God, the Great Designer of life and all of its delights and joys.



Author Information

Since 1977, Tommy Nelson has been the pastor of Denton Bible Church, in Denton, Texas. He has been featured on Focus On The Family, FamilyLife Today, Josh McDowell, For Faith and Family, and other national broadcasts. Tommy graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. He then attended Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas, where he received the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. In addition to the Song of Solomon materials, he is the author of these books: *The Book of Romance*, *The Story of God*, *A Life Well Lived*, and *Better Love Now*. Tommy has been married to Teresa Nelson for 33 years and they have two grown sons, Ben and John Clark, along with two grandchildren.



SESSION ONE

The Art of Attraction



INTRODUCTION

The Art of Attraction is the beginning of romance. There are two questions each person should ask: “What kind of person am I attracted to?” and “What kind of person is attracted to me?” Many people continue to date the same kind of person and continue to have the same problems in dating relationships. Attraction is about becoming the person God wants you to be and allowing God to bring to you the kind of person He knows is best for you. This lesson is the foundation for the entire study. To whom a person is attracted shows a great deal about his/her character and personality. To whom we are attracted—and therefore date—will ultimately be a person we will marry.

SCRIPTURE:

Song of Solomon chapter 1, verses 1-7

- 1 *The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.*
- 2 *“May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine.”*
- 3 *“Your oils have a pleasing fragrance,
Your name is like purified oil;
Therefore the maidens love you.”*
- 4 *“Draw me after you and let us run together!
The king has brought me into his chambers.
We will rejoice in you and be glad;
We will extol your love more than wine.
Rightly do they love you.”*
- 5 *“I am black but lovely,
O daughters of Jerusalem,
Like the tents of Kedar,
Like the curtains of Solomon.”*
- 6 *“Do not stare at me because I am swarthy,
For the sun has burned me.
My mother's sons were angry with me;
They made me caretaker of the vineyards,*

*But I have not taken care of my own vineyard.”
7 “Tell me, O you whom my soul loves,
Where do you pasture your flock,
Where do you make it lie down at noon?
For why should I be like one who veils herself
Beside the flocks of your companions?”*



TEXT NOTES



TEXT QUESTIONS

- 1) There are three sections to the Old Testament:
 - 1) Historic, including what books?
 - 2) Poetic, including what books?
 - 3) Prophetic, including what books?
- 2) What are two of the qualities Abraham looked for in a wife?

3) Song of Solomon 1:3b, “Your name is like purified oil.”
What does this Scripture mean?

4) Song of Solomon 1:6b, “My mother’s sons were angry with me;
They made me caretaker of the vineyards...” What does this verse mean?

5) Song of Solomon 1:7b, “For why should I be like the one who veils herself beside the
flocks of your companions?” How does Tommy interpret this?



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1) How is God sovereign over your love and passion?
- 2) Why does Tommy say, “If he will not obey God as a single, he will break your
heart as a married man?”
- 3) Do you find yourself pressing your partner morally? Why?
Is your partner pressing you morally? Why?

- 4) How does God want you to deal with your desire/passion?

- 5) What differences are there in the way this couple attracts versus the way the world tells us?

- 6) “Charm is deceitful and beauty is in vain.” Why do we look to ourselves and the world (magazines, movies, etc.) rather than to the Word of God for answers to our relationship questions?

- 7) How much time do you spend worrying about your looks vs. your character? Why?

- 8) What is meant by, “it is worse to be lonely and single than lonely and married”?

- 9) How do you allow Christ to fulfill the loneliness that can come with being single?

- 10) Prioritize the qualities you are looking for in a mate:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)

- 11) Prioritize the qualities you are looking for in a friend:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)

- 12) How can you remain accountable to these priorities? Be specific.

- 13) What qualities do you have to offer to a mate?

- 14) What qualities do you have to offer to a friend?

- 15) Song of Solomon 1:3b, “Your name is like purified oil.” A man’s name is his character/integrity. Are people attracted to the value of your name? Why? Why not?

- 16) What do you think God would say about your character?

FOCUS POINT

Tommy shares perhaps one of the greatest illustrations about attraction that has ever been told. Looking for a mate is like running on a track. The track is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal of the race is to become more like Christ. As we run we will see others running the race as well. When a person is running, he will see another running the same pace as him. After awhile, one might say, “Hey, let’s run a lap or two together and see what it is like.” In time, the man will say at some point, “We are both running the same race, the race for Christ. Why don’t we run the race together?” Finding a mate is not a race unto itself. It is something that naturally happens when we run God’s race.

17) What do you know about the character of God? Be specific.

18) What do you think Tommy means when he says, "Sin is always ugly in the dark"?

19) What sin do you need to bring out of the dark?



KEY QUESTIONS

Are you running in the Race for God?

How?

Is your mate?

Are your friends?

Do you know someone who isn't?

What can you do to help others run the race?

What was the most meaningful point you heard today? Why?

In light of what you have viewed today, how would you like to become more like this couple?



KEY THOUGHT

"All that glitters is not gold; all that is gold does not necessarily glitter."



MEMORY VERSE

Men: Proverbs 3:30

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

Women: Proverbs 19:22

"What is desirable in a man is his kindness, And it is better to be a poor man than a liar."



PRAYER REQUESTS