

## the Shulamite's brothers

### *Song of Solomon 1:5-6*

**1:5** I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon. **1:6** Do not look upon me, because I am dark, because the sun has tanned me. **My mother's sons** were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, But my own vineyard I have not kept.

### *Song of Solomon 8:1*

**8:1** Oh, that you were like **my brother**, who nursed at my mother's breasts! If I should find you outside, I would kiss you; I would not be despised.

### **Let's focus on purity.**

How best to teach the Song of Solomon is much debated. It is obviously about the courtship and early stages of marriage of a young Shulamite woman and her beloved who is probably King Solomon.

Problems arise when readers and interpreters try to apply the vast store of figurative language in the book to the love of God. There are undoubtedly some parallels between the romantic love of the young couple and Christ's love for the church, but the most obvious purpose of the book—the promotion of moral purity in courtship and marriage—can easily be lost by focusing on Christ and the church.

Perhaps, more than anyone else in the book, the Shulamite's brothers show the need for sexual abstinence before marriage and loving loyalty after marriage. This study is centered on them.

### *Song of Solomon 8:6-14*

**8:6** Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. **8:7** Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be condemned.

**8:8** **We** have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall **we** do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? **8:9** If she be a wall, **we** will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, **we** will inclose her with boards of cedar.

**8:10** I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour. **8:11** Solomon had a vineyard at Baalhamon; he let out the vineyard unto keepers; every one for the fruit thereof was to bring a thousand pieces of silver.

**8:12** My vineyard, which is mine, is before me: thou, O Solomon, must have a thousand, and those that keep the fruit thereof two hundred.

**8:13** Thou that dwellest in the gardens, the companions hearken to thy voice: cause me to hear it.

**8:14** Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices.