

“To Have and to Hold”
The myth, mystery and miracle of Christian marriage

Part 2: **“The Sacred Romance”**
Before and After "I Do"

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 16

Listen! My lover!

Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice.

My lover spoke and said to me, “Arise my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.

(v.16) My lover is mine and I am his ...

I. _____ love

- Falling in love is _____
- Falling in love is _____

Song of Songs 2:11-13

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.

The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

Arise, come my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

- Falling in love is _____

Song of Songs 3:5

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you ...do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

II. _____ love

Song of Songs 8:6

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave.

It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

- Covenant love is a _____
- Covenant love has _____
- Covenant love is a _____

III. _____ love

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife, loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh,” This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- True love _____
- True love _____
- True love _____