

## **Song of Songs 2:1-17**

### ***What is Intimacy?***

The devotional for today is drawn from Song of Songs 2:1-17. The book depicts very frankly a picture of physical intimacy between lovers. From this we can see, first of all, that God is all in favor of the pleasures of sexual relationships. He made the process beautiful, but we, as humans, have complicated it and often have made it base and far removed from its real purposes.

Real intimacy involves connection on all three levels which we are comprised of- physical, spiritual, and emotional. We really cannot connect on just one of these levels if we are talking about true intimacy. We are three part beings, and we were made to share all of them together. The sexual act, however, was meant to be made only in the context of a committed relationship which we call marriage.

As we visualize the three parts of us, it is like there are three concentric layers. The core part of us is our soul, our spiritual part. It is the most basic, and it is only seen through the other layers- the emotional and the physical. The soul is most important because it is the eternal part of us. It must be nurtured and guarded. It is the guide for how we live our lives because it gives us purpose.

The next layer is the emotional, governed by both the spiritual and the physical. It gives our lives depth and richness of experience, but it cannot be our guide because it is subject to rapid changes, which can be fleeting. Emotional experiences are powerful and moving, but not always long-lasting. Emotions are informed by our physical and spiritual parts and give depth to them.

Finally, we have the physical part of us. Because it is the most visible, we pay the most attention to it. Physical too is very fleeting, and it is prone to decay and ultimate destruction. Our bodies are often nurtured more than the spiritual and emotional parts because it is the most demanding, driving us to fulfill cravings and wants.

True intimacy takes into account all three parts, given mutually to one another in sexual relationships. As Song of Songs states in v. 16 “My lover is mine, and I am his...” This is the mutual willing sacrifice of lovers that God expects of us in our relationship to him. Only in such yielding can we experience true intimacy with God and others.

*Prayer: Father, thank you for all of your gifts to us, including our sexuality. May we only please you in our actions, including our most intimate relationships. Amen*