

The Glory of Christ's Friendship
Song of Solomon 5:15-16; Psalm 147:10
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Sadly, just because a couple is married does not mean they are friends. The legal bond that ties them together in marriage does not necessarily tie them together in the bonds of love and friendship. Neither a marriage license nor even a 50 year wedding anniversary reveals what may be a relationship of unending conflict, days of silence and lack of fellowship, or simply performing duties out of a mere sense of obligation (a mere formality). A Christian marriage that reaches the goal for which God designed it is one in which love draws a couple together to be friends—not adversaries. True love for one another in a marriage will not remove all conflicts and disagreements, but it will make you friends so that you are able to face and resolve whatever the Lord brings your way. Dear ones, the devil wants you to be adversaries. The Lord Jesus wants you to be friends.

Throughout the Song of Solomon we have seen the amazing love of Jesus for His sinful, struggling bride for whom He suffered and died to unite to Himself forever; and we have seen the love of Jesus shed abroad in her heart which engenders a holy desire to love Him, obey Him, seek Him, and commune with Him. The chosen bride of Christ closes this chapter by identifying Jesus as both her beloved and her friend (Song 5:16). If Jesus is not your beloved and your friend, then I dare say He is not your Savior who has rescued you from sin and condemnation. If your profession of faith has not brought you to enjoy His love and His friendship, you have the mere formality of a marriage relationship with Jesus, but not the reality of it. May Jesus work a saving relationship with Him even now in your life.

The main points are: (1) The Unsurpassed Beauty of the Lord Jesus (Song 5:15-16a); (2) The Unsurpassed Friendship of the Lord Jesus (Song 5:16b).

I. The Unsurpassed Beauty of the Lord Jesus (Song 5:15-16a).

A. Because the beloved bride of Jesus Christ so earnestly sought for the Lord Jesus to enjoy Him in blessed communion and called the daughters of Jerusalem (professing Christians) to pray with her that she might find Him (Song 5:8), they asked her to explain how Jesus was better than other lovers in the world (Song 5:9). In Song 5:10-16, this is what the bride has been doing and continues to do in our text today. Each of the bodily parts extolled by the bride represent an attribute or work of the Lord Jesus that reveals His unrivaled beauty that infinitely surpasses any other lover this world might offer.

B. We come to the last three aspects of Christ's unlimited beauty in the eyes of the bride (which if these are not beautiful to you, if these do not set Jesus apart from anyone or anything in this world for you, your eyes are sadly dimmed or blinded by your love for the world).

1. The Beauty of His Legs (Song 5:15).

a. Legs (which include our feet) are given by God to us for the purpose of walking—taking us from one location to another. The walk of a person speaks of the way in which one lives. The Christian is characterized by a walk of love and obedience to Jesus and His commandments; whereas the unbeliever is characterized by a walk of worldliness and disobedience to God's commandments (Enoch walked with God, Genesis 5:24; so did Noah, Genesis 6:9; Psalm 81:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:7). The legs of Jesus speak of the way of perfect righteousness and obedience in which He walked (1 John 2:6). He who was absolutely pure and undefiled took upon Himself all the sin and condemnation of His elect bride that by faith alone she might be imputed His perfect righteousness. As the elect bride of Christ, we are not simply to look at and

adore from a distance the legs of His obedience, but we are to love His obedience and to walk in His obedience—that is the necessary evidence of love for Jesus (2 John 6). Dear ones, do you delight in the legs of Christ’s obedience? Do you adore the beauty of His legs with which He walked in perfectly keeping all of God’s commandments? If so, that will be seen in your love for His commandments, in your desire to walk in them, and earnest repentance when you fail (as you eye God’s mercy in Christ).

b. Legs are also for the purpose of standing firm rather than sitting or fainting. And in this sense Christ’s legs are beautiful and strong like “pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold.” The Lord’s legs are the immovable life-giving truths found in the gospel, in His doctrine, worship, and government for which He stood and did not faint (1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:11). The Christian life is a battle for the truth of Jesus Christ against the devil. You are called to stand firmly and defend the truth found in His Word. You are not to come up with new truth, new innovations in worship, but rather to use the pillar-like legs of Christ and stand firm, immovable for Jesus Christ. The legs of men are weak and unreliable, but the legs of Christ are forever sure and unbreakable (Psalm 147:10). Are you weary of standing firmly for some part of Christ’s truth because it is unpopular, hated, or ridiculed? Perhaps it even brings separation from family or friends. The world hates strong Christians because they hate a strong Jesus (sadly this is true of even those who profess Jesus at times). Let us not be apologetic about the truth of Jesus Christ—this brings shame upon us and more importantly upon Jesus Christ. Look with adoring worship at the pillar-like legs of Jesus who stood for truth against all adversaries, and pray for His legs of truth that you might be a faithful witness until death (Hebrews 10:23).

2. **The Beauty of His Countenance (Song 5:15).**

a. This feature of Christ’s beauty is not so much focused on one particular part of the face of Jesus (like His eyes or lips), but takes in the whole glorious view of His face as a whole (Song 2:14). When His face is likened to the cedars of Lebanon, it is with a view of one who is standing at a high point on Lebanon’s mountain looking over the landscape of cedars that fill your sight with stunning beauty and that waft in the air the sweet aroma of the cedar. To look upon the loving and tender countenance of Jesus takes away the breath of the elect bride. Is that how you see Him?

b. The countenance of the Lord Jesus is full of the light of His compassion and tenderness toward His bride (Psalm 4:6). Peter looked upon the merciful countenance of Jesus and wept. On the other hand, the countenance of the Lord is full of anger toward His enemies (Psalm 80:16).

c. The ultimate goal of the Christian is to delight in the countenance of Jesus face-to-face (1 Corinthians 13:12). That is the ultimate nearness of communion with Jesus. We now behold His face and commune with Him through His ordinances, but then face-to-face.

3. **The Beauty of His Mouth (Song 5:16).**

a. The mouth of Jesus is beautiful, for with it He showers us with His kisses of love and affection (Song 1:2). A kiss is universal in expressing love, affection, and tenderness to the one who is cherished. In ancient times, a king may have permitted his hands or even his garment to be kissed which would have been considered a great honor; but that he should kiss another with his mouth was the highest of honors (because it moved beyond his mere authority to convey his heart-felt affection for the one so treasured). Jesus kisses you, dear Christian, with His mouth as one whom He has loved you an everlasting love. You have never been kissed with the kisses of love as Jesus is able to do when He set His love upon you from all eternity though you were no different from those He passed over and condemned for their sin, when He suffered and bled to death for you, when He sent His Spirit to regenerate you and give you faith and apply His redemption to you; and when He promised to be with you at all times.

b. Every Lord’s Day (as in secret and in family worship) the Lord kisses you with His love and affection and you fall upon His neck in your loving embrace and kisses of Him. That is what gospel worship (as opposed to mere legal worship) is all about. He kisses you in giving His ordinances to you, and you kiss Him in receiving them in faith and love. That is what makes worship, worship. Dear ones, every

trial that comes your way is always accompanied with the kiss of His mouth. What you face is changed when you know and receive His kisses.

II. **The Unsurpassed Friendship of the Lord Jesus (Song 5:16b).**

A. **“He is altogether lovely” (Song 5:16).**

1. What the bride declares about the Jesus here is literally, “All of Him is desirable.” There is nothing that can be found lacking in Jesus. He is full and running over endlessly in all of His attributes, graces, affections, and love for you, His beloved bride. What do you truly need? It is found in Jesus Christ. There is not one part of Jesus that is desirable and lovely and another that is not—that will no doubt be true of every lover in the world—but it is not true of Jesus. Every part, every work, and every feature of Jesus is altogether lovely (Psalm 73:25; Philippians 3:8).

2. The response that we should give to all other persons or other things in this world that would seek to rob us of that first love and affection that we should have for Jesus is that there is no rival to my love and devotion to Jesus Christ. We will not exchange our love of an eternal, all-desirable, unchangeable, and perfect Christ for a temporary, unfulfilling, changeable, sinful lover here upon the earth. We certainly may and ought to love family and friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, but none can compare to our beloved Savior who has loved us and rescued us from Hell and has united us to Himself by His marital Covenant of Grace, has clothed us with His royal garments of righteousness, has cleansed us forever of our sins through His suffering on the cross, and has been raised from the dead confirm it is all true and that He will love us and defend us forever.

B. **“This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem” (Song 5:16).**

1. The final words of the bride in extolling the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ are here in calling Him “my beloved” and “my friend”. This marital union and communion with Jesus Christ go beyond some mere legal connection. It is not a marriage of convenience, or a marriage of pressure from others, or a marriage that was founded upon an emotional outburst of temporary feelings, or a marriage that only desires to escape hell and destruction. It is a marital union and communion with Jesus that is one of love and friendship (as our Christian marriages should be). Friends enjoy being with one another. Friends are honest with one another. Friends know one another. Friends are there in times of joy and in times of trial. There is no friend like the Lord Jesus, for He is the perfect Friend in every imaginable way to those sinners He draws to Himself in love (Hosea 3:1-3).

2. All other friends may desire to help as much as they can, but they are limited many times by their own helplessness. But Jesus is a friend who comes walking upon water to come to your help. Other friends may tell you what you want to hear from them (tickle your ears). But Jesus is a friend who tells you what you need to hear—the truth even if it hurts and is painful (Proverbs 27:6). Other friends may be on again-off again in their friendship. But Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24). Other friends may not always draw you closer to God. But Jesus always draws you closer to the Lord God (Hebrews 4:15-16).

3. You cannot truly call yourself Christ’s friend while at the same time pouring your time, affections, and money into making this world your friend. When we are friends of Jesus, we will not approve of or want to spend time with those who mock Jesus, despise Him, use His name in vain, and make a sport out of breaking His commandments. We should pity them, care for their souls, pray for them, and be a witness in word and deed before them. But we cannot enjoy company with those who make themselves the enemy of God without partaking of their sins (James 4:4). That not only is true with those that we know, but also those in movies, programs, and song (John 15:14). Are you merely pretending to be His friend, or are you truly Christ’s friend? The world is divided into two categories of people: friends of Christ and enemies of Christ. Which are you? It’s easy to simply say, “I would die for Him”? But are you living for Him? Yes, a true

friend will die for a friend, but if you not willing to live as true friend, then your talk is cheap (especially with him/her to whom you are united in marriage). Is Jesus your friend? Then live for Him!

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