

# The Song of Solomon Hoax

## Chapter 1 God Loves Passionate Sex

After Jesus died, the Apostle Paul warned that a great religious hoax regarding marriage would come. He called it a doctrine of demons that would forbid marriage. Lying hypocrites, seared in their own conscience, would promote it (1 Timothy 4:1-3). Within a few hundred years, the hoax had spread over the Christian world.

For the next 2000 years, the swindle bubbled under the surface wielding its harm—unnoticed by many. But it sprang to new life at the turn of the 21st century when the Internet made the Song of Solomon more popular. The hoax thrives in blogs, tweets, and YouTube sermons.

The victims of the hoax aren't cheated out of their life savings as many Internet scammers desire. Instead, they have their identity stolen as they never rise to their full potential as a loving human being. As the deceivers quietly camouflage the beautiful sexual teaching of the Song of Solomon, they deprive their followers of all-encompassing love for their mate and children. The sexual deceit sucks the victims into three major love disorders—all without natural affection:

1. The Purity Culture—on one extreme
2. The Hookup Culture—on the other extreme
3. The Intimacy Anorexia Culture—sexless marriages

Unfortunately, we can't check out this urban legend on Snopes, MythBusters, or TruthOrFiction. But the Song of Solomon exposes the hoax that instigates all three cultures and destroys lives. It limbers us all up to begin *SPEAKING GOD'S BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE OF LOVE* which transcends words.

*For the unmarried*, it teaches them how to be intellectually, emotionally, and sexually healthy. It reveals the secrets for choosing a like-minded mate for a lifetime of wonderful lovemaking. It showcases the sensual delights of true love, which include adoring looks, melodious sounds, inviting fragrances, intoxicating tastes, and passionate touches.

*For the married*, it allows couples to analyze themselves and their marriage no matter their age or love history. If needed, they can begin to make lasting changes to bless their family and their own life.

### God Loves Passionate Sex

Contrary to mankind's belief in the hoax that desexualizes the Song of Solomon, God loves sex more than we mortals do. He devotes more space in the Bible to teaching how to delight in a wonderful sexual relationship for a lifetime than to any other area of marriage—including subjection and leadership. God openly boasts about lovemaking being his proudest, most brilliant accomplishment in the creation:

*Proverbs 30:18-19:*  
*There are three things which are too wonderful for me,*  
*Four which I do not understand:*  
*The way of an eagle in the sky,*  
*The way of a serpent on a rock,*  
*The way of a ship in the middle of the sea,*  
*And the way of a man with a maid.*

This is not God's empty locker-room brag. It's God's genius for husbands and wives to enjoy! Proverbs says the first three things are too wonderful to understand: an eagle soaring in the sky, a snake slithering across the mountain, or a ship sailing in the midst of the sea. But four amazing things are hidden from man's understanding.

Ancient man has always attempted to fly like the eagle. Finally the Wright Brothers solved the puzzle. Man continues to improve on their initial genius from airplanes, to rocket ships, to drones.

To scale a mountain, man must strap on cleats and use safety lines. Even then, he can't go wherever he

wants like the agile snake. Many men and women die trying to imitate the serpent.

Matthew Maury said, "If God said paths are in the sea, I'm going to find them" (Psalms 8:8). He spent eighteen years charting the ocean's currents. Today worldwide commerce and travel depend on them.

The eagle, the snake, and the paths in the sea testify to God's superior intelligence in creating the world. And mankind seeks to replicate his divine wisdom. But the fourth is the most profound and difficult for man to figure out—the way of a man with a maid.

*It's more than a male hopping a female's bones. Animals do that.*

*It's more than a woman moaning and groaning. Prostitutes do that.*

*It's more than a vibrator shaking up an orgasm. Laboratory subjects do that.*

None can compare to God's design for a man's gentle touch to stir up a maid's emotions and powerful sensations.

With machines to measure and watch men and women perform sexologists often assume they've figured out sex. Alfred Kinsey thought he discovered the secret with his prostitutes. Masters and Johnson claimed success with their bionic experiments. But they all neglected the role of the mind and intimacy for giving wonderful orgasms to men and women. Now using MRI and SPECT scans scientists are finally beginning to understand the role the brain plays in sex.

God declares, "Ecstatic lovemaking is my crowning act of creation!" He intends for husbands and wives to surrender their minds and hearts to each other to speak with their bodies his beautiful language of love. Clearly, God expects earthly marriages to be tastes of heaven. But before we expose the hoax against God's love of passionate lovemaking and the Song of Solomon, let's look at the devastating harm done to the three classes of victims.

## The Purity Culture

"No! No! No!"

"Dirty! Dirty! Dirty!"

"Sex is just for the guy."

"Sex is not to be enjoyed."

These answers were given in response to the question, "What is the one line that comes to mind when it comes to sex?" The question was posed to young women in a 2013 premarital and new bride sex-education class taught by Dr. Mark McGinniss, a professor at Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, and his wife. They routinely ask their students to text their answers to similar questions to maintain anonymity and openness.

Then in October 2013, McGinniss taught three sessions on "The Song of Solomon and Hot Topics." He said in his *Outside My Door Blog*, "I was asked to address sexual hot topics such as masturbation, pornography, homosexuality, and the like. I used the Song of Songs to help the students think biblically about these topics and draw conclusions that are in line with God's viewpoint" (11/10/2013).

In the first class McGinniss asked the young men and women, both single and married, to text their answer to the same question. He received over seventy replies. Here's a sample of their answers:

"Sex is sinful."

"Be fruitful and multiply."

"Sex is for marriage."

"Sex is designed by God."

"Sex ruins your life."

"Sex is forbidden, and it's a sin to talk about it."

"Actually, having sex terrifies me."

"How do I convince my spouse sex is to be enjoyed by her as well?"

McGinniss spent the first two sessions reviewing the Song of Solomon. In the final class, he asked a series of questions about conclusions the students could draw from the Song of Solomon on the hot topics. He explained, "You're attending a Bible college. That means the world is going to regard you as an expert. Teenagers are going to ask you all kinds of questions once they trust you. Their questions will leave you gasping for air" (10/29-31/2013).

Young people on our college campuses are immersed in sexual extremes—neither of which brings true

happiness. Those in the Purity Culture often view sex as a necessary evil they must always fight against to be pleasing to God. Dianna E. Anderson in her blog "Taking the Lead in Developing New Sexual Ethics" shares their common attitude of a "God of sexual shame, a heavenly father who sits upon his throne and condemns" their sexual thoughts and desires (2/4/2015). This attitude doesn't magically disappear with marriage.

## Virginity-Pledging Young Women

At age 10, Samantha Pugsley pledged to keep her virginity until she married. Now married, she recently stepped into the limelight to renounce her youthful pledge with her blog "I Waited Until My Wedding Night to Lose My Virginity and I Wish I Hadn't." She hit a nerve, receiving nearly 5000 comments. Some wrote to describe similar experiences. Others criticized her lack of faith. Still others attacked religion in general.

Her parents and her church applauded her righteousness for making the public pledge. At age 10, she knew nothing about sex. She still "played with Barbie dolls and had tea parties with imaginary friends."

Like other girls who comment, blog, and write about taking a virginity pledge, it stole Samantha's identity by the time she became a teenager. She was taught, "Once I got married, it will be my duty to fulfill my husband's sexual needs. I was told over and over again, so many times I lost count, that if I remained pure, my marriage would be blessed by God, and if I didn't that it would fall apart and end in tragic divorce."

She was never told the Old and New Testaments portray the woman as the man's sexual equal in desire and ability to receive and give pleasure. Instead, she was told to keep herself pure and she'd enjoy a fairy-tale marriage. How is this different from teaching kids to believe in Santa Claus? "If you're nice, presents will appear under the tree."

You can read Samantha's story online. Essentially, she experienced so much guilt from the one-sided teaching of her church, she was unable to enjoy sex with her husband. After two years of doing her duty she broke down. She got counseling.

Samantha says, "I don't go to church anymore, nor am I religious. As I started to heal, I realized that I couldn't figure out how to be both religious and sexual at the same time. I chose sex. Every single day is a battle to remember that my body belongs to me and not to the church of my childhood. I have to constantly remind myself that a pledge I took when I was only 10 doesn't define who I am today" (8/11/2014).

Dianna Anderson made a similar pledge at a purity ball with her father at age 14. The week before, her parents gave her a small diamond ring from Walmart. Instead of a web article, Dianna wrote *Damaged Goods, New Perspectives on Christian Purity* to describe her experiences. After her pledge, she flaunted her holier-than-thou condemnation of others who had sex outside marriage.

She tells about watching the 2007 movie *Atonement* and viewing the sex scene in a library. The "intensely erotic scene managed to feature no nudity." This was her first exposure to the concept that she was a sexual being who might actually enjoy sex. She was 22-years-old, eight years older than when she took a virginity pledge before her congregation. She said, "Sex became something I wanted, rather than something I would cooperate with once I got married" (45).

Instead of rejecting God, Dianna redefines the Bible's teaching on sex in her chapter, "Let's Get Biblical: Sex in Scriptures." She views the Song of Solomon as singing the praises of premarital sex. She concludes: "From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible contains numerous instances of polygamous marriages, premarital and extramarital sexcapades, and complicated and complex gendered relationships." Then she urges her readers to study their Bibles for themselves and draw their own conclusions. She shares interviews with many young women who had similar experiences with the Purity Culture.

Samantha and Dianna, their parents, and their churches are victims of the hoax imposed upon the Song of Solomon and the love lives of Christians. The Shulammite and the Shepherd were both virgins when they married. The difference? Their parents prepared them to intellectually, emotionally, and sexually celebrate the wonder of God's perfect creation – the way of a man with a maid.

Nowhere does the Bible portray sex as something for men and women to "cooperate with once they get married." Instead, the Song of Solomon exults the Shulammite's femininity and her promise to initiate lovemaking in marriage—for both her husband's pleasure...and her own. In fact, the Shulammite talks more about looking forward to the sexual relationship in marriage than the Shepherd does.

## Women Sexually Inhibited in Marriage

I get many emails from angry middle-aged husbands who are frustrated from being married to a mental

virgin proudly living in the Victorian time warp which perpetuates feelings of shame and guilt for God-given sexual desires. These husbands, full of passionate love for their wives, are rejected by antiquated virginal timidity. The ticking away of their own biological clocks causes these men to fight resentment and the temptation to commit adultery. They fear the loss of their potency to age and dying without ever realizing the ecstasy of world-shaking lovemaking with the wife they love and desire.

I get as many, if not more, emails from wives lamenting being married to a man who shows no sexual interest in them. Sometimes I wonder, "Are there any hot-blooded men and women out there... among Christians?" Few of them seem to marry a like-minded person. In these instances, the idea of opposites attract is a sexual train wreck in the making.

Men and women who are married to a sexual dud never experience the freedom to delight in the daily sexual twinges that occur in a healthy person. They know if they allow the sensations of desire to build into looking forward to a romantic interlude at home, the awaiting answer is a definitive, "No," a lukewarm, "Yes," an impatient, "Wait a few days," or as one husband said, "Laughter." Constantly being forced to stifle normal sexual love dries up the emotional bond with the mate which gets worse as the years pass.

As you follow along with *Stacey's Story*, interspersed between the Song of Solomon chapters, you'll meet such a wife. You'll read how hard she worked to save her marriage. Her story offers hope for miserable marriages that are victims of the great sexual hoax and swindle. She shows the power of God's word to transform lives and marriages.

## Virginity-Pledging Young Men

In 2008, Sarah Diefendorf, a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Washington, studied a group of 15 young evangelical Christian men. She wanted to know how they manifested their sexuality after pledging sexual abstinence until marriage. Her main concern was how virginity-pledging, normally thought of as something women do, would affect their views of their masculinity.

When she started the study, the men were all single, and most of them had already attended a two or four-year college. They went to support groups through their church and held each other accountable for their conduct. "The men talked about sex as both 'sacred'—a gift from God meant for the marriage bed—and 'beastly' if it occurs outside marriage. Instead of talking about scoring, the Christian men talk about how hard it is to manage temptation." They believed "to maintain this gift from God, they must refrain from sex before marriage."

The men lamented to Diefendorf, "The church tells us sex is bad, but we are not told *why* sex is bad." In their support group, they discussed the "beastly" threats to their pledges of abstinence. Diefendorf said, "Specifically, topics relating to pornography, masturbation, lust, and same-sex desire were recurring themes in our conversations, and central to the ways in which these men understand their pledges of abstinence, sexuality, and gender."

These young men believe the use of pornography is prevalent within the Christian community. Many of them opened up to Diefendorf about their own struggles with pornography. She wrote in her doctorate study "After the Wedding Night: Sexual Abstinence and Masculinities Over the Life Course":

The men understand masturbation and pornography as heavily related. Pornography helps men, who Aidan [leader of the group] calls "visual animals," with masturbation. For Aidan, masturbation before marriage is fine, with certain boundaries in place: Simply pleasuring yourself without porn is fine, as long as you're not always relying on it or scheduling time around it.

Chase worries masturbation could substitute [for] sex with his [future] wife, and as both marriage and the act of sex within marriage are sacred, anything that could hinder the act remains a sin that must be controlled.

For Jason, masturbation is heavily related to lust, a feeling these young men consider very dangerous.... Jason believes one can masturbate not just because of lust—you can do it to deal with stress, to help you fall asleep—to give you that high just before you go to bed (2014-2015).

To maintain their virginity pledges some of these young men are developing a habit of masturbation. For many married men, as Chase worried, self-pleasuring does become a substitute for lovemaking with one's wife. It also interferes with emotional intimacy in the marriage.

## Men Sexually Inhibited in Marriage

A few years later in 2011 and 2012, Diefendorf reconnected with the young men, all but one was married. She wrote "Where is the Sacred?" and said:

While sex is framed as "sacred", "wonderful" and a "gift from God" post-marriage, these married men still think of sex in its "beastly" terms. In focusing solely on the goal of abstinence until marriage, conversations on healthy sexuality *within* marriage were never part of the discussion for these young men....

Aidan adds, "It's a myth that I think is kind of perpetuated by the lack of communication, is that once you get married, suddenly all those desires are fulfilled in your spouse. It's not true. Guys are so visually driven. The desire for porn, especially if you struggled with it in the past, is still there. It doesn't go away once the ring slips on!"

Diefendorf states in various sections of her paper:

- *These men have been promised a sacred, sexually active marriage.* Their wives, as Seth says, have a job of entertaining them "both visually and sexually."
- *These men have a very narrow understanding of female sexuality.* If Adrian thinks of Christian women as, he says, "prudish", he won't think of them as sitting around and talking about sex.
- *They understand sex as something that needs to be controlled, and masculinity as something dependent on their wives.* At the same time, they view their wives as simultaneously protected, non-sexual beings and their sexual partners. Women are given a fairly impossible and contradictory role as wives to these men, with seemingly few resources to navigate such assumed responsibilities.

Diefendorf observed the contradictions and concluded: "This highly-gendered, highly-contextualized understanding of sexuality as 'beastly', wonderful, promised and unfulfilled requires years of conversation pre-marriage, and, although not offered, seems to require the same after marriage" (2014-2015).

In the press release for Diefendorf's paper, Molly McElroy ended with this plea:

She [Diefendorf] hopes her study leads to more positive discussions of sex and how it is healthy, especially within the context of abstinence-only sex education. "There's an obsession with virginity in this country," Diefendorf said. "And we forget to have informative, successful conversations on sex" (8/16/2014).

Many churches forget to discuss the benefits and wonderfulness of married lovemaking when teaching young people. But God did not forget. The way of a man with a maid is his proudest creation, and he did not leave us without instructions. He preserved the beautiful, sexually-explicit Song of Solomon to show us the way to enjoy a lifetime of passionate lovemaking.

## 1st Century Pagans

Before the hoax started, 1st century pagans exclaimed, "What women those Christians have!" (Lockyear 14).

But they're not saying it now. Instead, they're saying, "You're a Christian? Guess that means you never get a good lay job." And all because of the great hoax against the Song of Solomon and married love.

## The Hookup Culture

"Hookups? What's that?" parents and older adults often ask when hearing the term for the first time.

Young people seldom tell parents it refers to casual-dating sex without getting to know the person or having a relationship. However, it can lead to a steady hookup where the partner actually becomes a boyfriend or girlfriend. They might even fall in love. More often, they just stay "in like" as "friends with benefits." No strings attached.

Some youth boast of primary and casual sex partners. They openly pursue multiple hookups while courting a special "steady hookup." Girls usually don't enjoy these options. Yet realistically, many accept it as their only chance of snagging a boyfriend – pseudo boyfriend, that is.

To adapt to this peer-approved lifestyle of anything goes with sex, both boys and girls work at emotional

survival. Laura Sessions Stepp shares such a story in *Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both*. Stepp interviewed several Duke University students over the course of a school year to learn the effect of the Hookup Culture on their lives. Her book is filled with candid conversations with these young women who were trying to figure out boy-girl relationships.

To protect their self-images the girls learned to react to sex by beating the boys at their own game of impersonalizing sex. Two of the girls bragged about being the first to jump out of bed after their tryst. This left their partners beyond surprised. One young woman said the look on the boys' face gave her a rush (240-1).

Throughout the book Stepp provides examples of girls saying variations of "I tell the boy, 'You can use my body, but don't expect anything from me.' Hookups are easy because I don't have to do anything."

## Girls Drink to Numb Their Brains

Frequent sex without love is a major problem on college campuses, including Catholic and other religious institutions. Donna Freitas explains the hookup rules in her book *The End of Sex: How Hookup Culture Is Leaving a Generation Unhappy, Sexually Unfulfilled, and Confused About Intimacy*. She interviewed thousands of boys and girls over several years:

Typically, students used three major criteria to characterize the hookup:

1. A hookup includes some form of sexual intimacy, anything from kissing to oral, vaginal, or anal sex and everything in between.
2. A hookup is brief—it can last as short as a few minutes to as long as several hours over a single night.
3. A hookup is intended to be purely physical in nature and involves both parties shutting down any communication or connection that might lead to emotional attachment.

To sum up briefly, the three qualities that make up a hookup are its sexual content, its brevity, and its apparent lack of emotional involvement (25).

Freitas drew her conclusions from interviewing both male and female students on a multitude of college campuses. In her chapter "The All-Purpose Alcohol Solution," she explained that both boys and girls numb their emotions with alcohol. This allows them to survive the attack on their psyches that emotionally-bankrupt sex creates for their minds. Many young people use alcohol to loosen up for uninhibited fun. She summarized:

Alcohol can transform the politest, nicest students into people who commit shocking, reckless, and dangerous behaviors. It also functions as that X factor of hookup culture, the ingredient that students turn to in order to overcome their hesitation (40).

Although science has not discovered all the secrets about how the brain functions during sex, it recognizes the mind as the most important sexual organ. The students are zonking out with alcohol to disable their most important sexual organ. Consequently, they may have a difficult time establishing a healthy emotional bond with someone. A few years of being cool can translate into a lifetime of emotional loneliness.

## Girls Perform at Theme Parties

In the chapter "Learning to Play the Part (of Porn Star): The Sexualization of College Girls" Freitas exposes theme parties. These take place at some high schools, but are expected on many college campuses. The girls must appear at the door almost naked to be admitted. The boys stand around ogling them, hoping the girls will get drunk enough for them to get lucky. The girls drink more and get drunk more often than the boys do in this emotional vacuum.

The parties cater to dressing up to some theme such as doctors and nurses, maids and millionaires, or housewives and handymen. The boys are always cast as GOD/MAN while the girls portray the lowly HUMAN/WOMAN. Without some adult help, the girls often don't realize the degradation they're being subjected to as a powerless second-class piece of meat to the boys playing god (75ff, 81, 84).

Most of these girls claim they want to go to these parties and relish the male attention. But they need alcohol to loosen up and perform. Consequently, both the girls and boys are programming their minds and bodies that sex is a rum-dumb comatose act. The girls deliberately zone out, anesthetizing themselves with alcohol. Since they are only providing a masturbation receptacle, the boys must close their eyes and fantasize

to perform.

Both the boys and girls are setting themselves up for a lifetime of mediocre sex in any relationship—especially marriage. With this kind of emotionally-stifling sexual history, I expect these young women to be turned off of sex in marriage. They will have to work hard to reboot their bodies and minds, to slough off all their android rituals, to be a compassionate loving spouse.

## Boys Are Bored with Sex

In the chapter, "Why We Get Boys Wrong: The Emotional Glass Ceiling," Freitas discusses how the Hookup Culture doesn't create a satisfying sexual relationship for many of the young men. About half of them talked about hookups like "eating a bowl of cereal every morning." The main feeling they expressed was boredom with sex. They didn't view it as the wonderful, exhilarating expression of love that God designed it to be.

Many of the young men felt pressured by their peers to pursue hookups. Some pretended to work the hookup scene to avoid being ridiculed. They spoke of the disgust of waking up next to someone they didn't remember being with. They hoped she'd be gone by the time they got out of the bathroom. And horrors if she stayed for breakfast. A few recognized the emotional emptiness of the hookups and decided to wait for someone special (111).

What kind of husbands will these young men make? If they marry a woman with healthy sexual attitudes, will they be able or willing to satisfy her. They may well be ruining the future happiness of two people.

## VIAGRA Demasculinizes Young Studs

Many young men complain of performance anxiety and failure. Pornographic email spam targets their vulnerability with ads for VIAGRA and other performance-enhancing products. The Internet hawks black-market who-knows-what's-in-it drugs. A young virile husband who understands the emotional aspect of sex only needs the aphrodisiac of love to perform with gusto.

Many young adults who were very sexually active as teens regularly use a dangerous drug that can kill. Long-term use of VIAGRA carries risks of blue-tinged vision, heart problems, and hearing loss. And that's just a few of the dangers (Pfizer 3/2015).

Tanith Carey exposed the addiction in her article "Addicted to Viagra: They should be at their most virile, but a growing number of young men can't cope without those little blue pills" for *Daily Mail Online* out of London. She interviewed 32-year-old Daniel who started taking VIAGRA when he was 20 and was out picking up girls with friends. Now he needs two of the blue pills to perform and takes up to six a week. Even if he likes the girl, the tablets don't always work for him. He says his ears ring and his heart beats so hard and fast, he breaks out into a cold sweat. Even though he fears having a heart attack he keeps taking the pills (10/3/2012).

The problem is not just with the men. Young adult women, not understanding the role their mind and heart play in earth-shaking vaginal orgasms, often require marathon male performance to climax. Thus they exert tremendous pressure on men to keep going so they can respond in spite of their attitudes toward men and their femininity.

Because young women don't know the dynamics of a vaginal orgasm, they assume no such erotic pleasure exists for women. Yet mothers of the Song-of-Solomon era enjoyed vaginal orgasms and taught their daughters the secret. Losing this wisdom of the ancients is one of the consequences of the hoax on the Song of Solomon. And it impacts society by demasculinizing men and defeminizing women.

## Too Holy, too Drunk, or too Drugged for True Love

What we've just read from the lips of the young people themselves is that many of them today are too holy, too drunk, or too drugged to enjoy a wonderful love life in marriage. They have closed up their emotions of tenderness and delight in the opposite sex.

Some flaunt their virginity and deny their sexuality, not only while dating, but also in marriage. Others drink themselves into mindless stupors and numb their sensations so they don't care or remember what their bodies do. And young men in the prime of their sexual lives worry about having a heart attack because they

must take two VIAGRA tablets to perform—even when they love their partner. And this is supposed to be fun? But that's not the worst of it.

### Both Culture Extremes Often Result in Atheism

In 2012, I put 8,400 miles on my little Victory Red Chevy HHR traveling from Amarillo to Dallas, to Houston, to Las Vegas, to North Carolina, and back to Houston to attend seminars, boot camps, and conferences. Everywhere I went, when men and women learned during round-robin introductions that I taught about sex and the Bible, at breaks and lunch, they confided their personal pain to me.

At one conference a woman, whom I'll call Jean, invited me to lunch. After saying she'd looked at my website on her iPad she shared her story. Her eyes misted, "I'm a heathen. How can I believe in a God of love when he didn't even exist in the Christian home I grew up in? My dad was an elder and preached sometimes. He always put his arm around Mom in church and smiled at her.... But it all changed on the ride home.... The tension between them was unbearable. I couldn't wait to get home and get away from them.... The rest of the week was full of putdowns as they ridiculed each other and us kids."

She swallowed hard and continued, "I married the same kind of ole' boy. We always went to church. When he died, I swore I would never marry another Christian. Now I'm polyamorous with a man who has a wife and four kids. They all lived with me for a while, but his wife was abusive to me and their kids, so I asked them to leave."

Playing with her food Jean said, "Now he lives down the block, and I have sex twice a week with him.... It's the best sex I've ever had. He says an older woman taught him.... He keeps begging me to let them move back in. If I do, I'll pay all the bills as I did before. I figure I will commit suicide someday.... I have no children and no one cares...." Jean's story is only one of many similar scenarios I listened to that year.

### Children of Christians Are Turning to Atheism

Many churches lament that attendance by young people is decreasing by alarming rates. At the same time, the U.S. Census Bureau supports the claim that atheism is on the rise (2012). However, the Census Bureau doesn't attempt to discover the reason apathy and unbelief are growing in the United States.

That job falls to the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. that compares the statistics with their own surveys and current writings about the data. In "'Nones' on the Rise" the center evaluated the impact on politics of people who say, "None," when asked about their religious affiliation.

### Majority of Nones Are Raised with Religion

"The overwhelming majority [74%] of the 'nones' were brought up in a religious tradition." The nones expressed concern that "religious organizations are too concerned with money and power, too focused on rules, and too involved in politics." Too focused on rules was later explained as "judgmental, homophobic, and hypocritical" (10/9/2012).

In our hooked-to-a-handheld mobile society, few people invest time in lengthy books or articles. More than ever the world is observing Christians rather than reading the Bible to learn about God. And they are rejecting Christianity because of what they see.

### What Goes On in Our Homes Doesn't Stay There

Young people have legitimate doubts and reject organized religion as too "judgmental and hypocritical" for a basic reason. Our children are denouncing God because of the hypocrisy of their parents and churches who preach love while failing to practice love in their own homes. Their skepticism and atheism stem from their parents and religious leaders believing the hoax perpetrated against married love. When religious leaders don't enjoy healthy love lives themselves, the hoax against the Song of Solomon affects everyone in the congregation and their families.

### What Is the Intimacy Anorexia Culture?

Dr. Seth Stephens-Davidowitz is an economist and former quantitative analyst at Google. As a Harvard graduate student he began writing about how Google searches can give "us fresh insights into socially

sensitive topics." In response to numerous requests, he ran the numbers on sex. In his article "Searching for Sex," his statistics show that between a quarter and a third of a million people google each month for one of these key phrases in this order of frequency:

- Sexless marriage
- Sexless relationship
- Sex starved marriage
- No sex marriage
- Won't have sex with me

His figures reveal that a nearly equal number of husbands and wives suffer in marriages to a sexual dud. These sexless-marriage stats are much higher than searches for "unhappy marriage," "loveless marriage," "abusive relationship," "unhappy relationship," and "bad relationship" (1/24/2015).

Looking back over 40 years of being the confidante of both husbands and wives trying to survive an unloving marriage, I've observed this: If the sexual relationship is defective, then the marriage is defective on all levels. Without a doubt, such a home environment is also defective for nurturing children. The family lives in an emotional vacuum in which the couple and their children are all starved for love.

## Intimacy Anorexia Defined

Dr. Douglas Weiss is a licensed psychologist and the author of more than twenty books on addiction and relationships. He coined the expression "intimacy anorexia" to describe a condition he and other researchers in sexual addiction noticed. They worked with sexual addicts who habitually had sex with themselves, looked at pornography, or engaged in extramarital affairs.

In 1995, Weiss and other leaders in the emerging field of sexual addiction met in Dallas, Texas to discuss the shocking behavior they were noticing in male clients. The psychologists observed that after the husbands were in recovery, many of them continued to avoid sex with their wife. They might not have sex for weeks, months, or even years. These psychologists wanted to know what was causing this anomaly.

This meeting put Weiss on a professional journey to write *Intimacy Anorexia: Healing the Hidden Addiction in Your Marriage*. He defines intimacy anorexia as the hidden addiction of avoiding sex with the mate—not necessarily avoiding sex, but *avoiding sex with the mate*. Sexual anorexia is a *withholding addiction* manifested in marriage. When sex does occur, it is mechanical and emotionless.

Certainly, the mate is well aware that he or she is not getting enough sexual intimacy. What the husband or wife doesn't know is that the spouse's withholding of sex and affection is an addiction. And like any addict, the intimacy anorexic employs many devices to keep their addiction a festering secret. They deliberately and compulsively starve their mate of both sexual and emotional love.

Weiss discusses in his book *Beyond the Bedroom, Healing for Adult Children of Sex Addicts* how intimacy anorexia is passed on from generation to generation. Everyone in the family is affected when one mate withholds emotional and sexual love from the other. The children usually grow up to withhold love from their own mate or to marry an anorexic. It's all they've ever experienced and they don't know how to create or function in a loving relationship.

## The Song of Solomon and Sexual Addiction

In the early 1990s when I began to work with couples dealing with sexual addiction, I noticed many of the husbands sounded like King Solomon in the way they talked about women. As I read books on the subject I could not escape the obvious. Solomon was a sexual addict 3000 years before Dr. Patrick J. Carnes coined the expression and wrote the groundbreaking book *Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction*. Carnes attended the Dallas meeting with Weiss and wrote *Sexual Anorexia: Overcoming Sexual Self-Hatred* in 1997.

I observed that the emotional part, or soulmating aspect, of sexual attraction and glorious lovemaking just doesn't compute with modern sexual addicts. Like Solomon, they think the perfect feminine body will fill the emptiness in their souls. The Song of Solomon exposes Solomon's depravity in his fascination with bodies, especially breasts, instead of seeking true companionship.

When I revised [\*God's People Make the Best Lovers\*](#) in 1996 I added sexual addiction to the lessons. The problem was just starting to rear its ugly head in our churches. Now sexual addiction is a major issue that

continues to get worse in our congregations.

Men who've talked to me about their extreme emotional pain in trying to survive a sexless marriage frequently say, "My wife avoids sex with me by accusing me of being a sexual addict." I always know these men are not sexual addicts for two reasons:

1. *They understand the emotional aspect of lovemaking.* A lack of an emotional response from their wife is their major complaint and their greatest source of pain. Their wife is emotionally distant during sex and doesn't initiate lovemaking.
2. *They want sex only with their wife.* They are offended when their wife suggests they take care of themselves with masturbation. They adamantly insist they don't want to have an affair. Some of them view porn as a necessary evil because of their wife's coldness. Others install computer and television controls so they can't watch porn out of frustration because their wife is unavailable emotionally and sexually.

## The Song of Solomon and Intimacy Anorexia

As I began updating my Song of Solomon material, a friend recommended *Intimacy Anorexia* by Weiss. Almost immediately, I realized Solomon was an intimacy anorexic as well as a sexual addict. In contrast, both the Shulammite and the Shepherd displayed many of the sexually-healthy attitudes Weiss highlighted in his book. A whole new dimension of the Song of Solomon opened up and put me down on my knees in admiration of God and this wonderful book he's preserved to bless our lives and the lives of our children.

I've studied the intimacy-anorexia issue for months reading five of Weiss's books and looking up word definitions in the Song of Solomon. Here's the definition of intimacy anorexia portrayed in the Song of Solomon:

*The Song of Solomon's Definition of Intimacy Anorexia: The inability to love the mate intellectually, emotionally, and sexually.*

In my earlier editions of the Song of Solomon, I defined sensuous love as "satisfaction of the five senses without an emotional attachment." Working on this book, I expanded sensuous love to the following:

*The Song of Solomon's Definition of Sensuous Love: Satisfaction of the five senses without an intellectual, emotional, and sexual commitment.*

Previously I defined true love as "satisfaction of the five senses along with an emotional and sexual commitment." After further study I realized I had only two-thirds of the definition right:

*The Song of Solomon's Definition of True Love: A feasting of the five senses with intellectual, emotional, and sexual love for dessert.*

## Unloving, Without Natural Affection, and Intimacy Anorexia

2 Timothy 3:1-5: "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving [without natural affection – KJV], irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."

"Unloving" means "(without love of kindred), without natural affection: Romans 1:31; 2 Timothy 3:3" (Thayer 82).

We often think "without natural affection" refers to homosexuals and lesbians. However, the word addresses *anyone* who is unable to show natural affection for his or her spouse and children. It includes mental adulterers, masturbating adulterers, and physical adulterers. Huggin'-em-up gropers and back-rubbing dry flirts fall under this description of being without natural affection. Sexual addicts, serial adulterers, and homosexuals married to straights lack natural affection.

Both men and women who refuse to respond emotionally and sexually to their mate for whatever reason can accurately be described as "unloving – without natural affection for family." Dismissing their being without natural affection with, "Honey, I'm better than I used to be," doesn't negate the sin. It only means *maybe* they're trying to do something about it.

This isn't just sexual hang-ups. We're dealing with sexual sin. I've observed if it's only a matter of ignorance, when people learn the truth, they readily change. Sometimes both men and women don't respond with glorious orgasms because they don't know what to expect or that God blesses their enjoyment of sexual love. Often when they learn how to take care of their attitudes and yield to their physical instincts and sensations, the problem is quickly resolved.

Intimacy anorexia is an addiction of deliberately withholding intellectual, emotional, and sexual love from the spouse to create a sexless marriage. God calls it the sin of being without natural affection. At the end of the verses Paul tells Timothy, "Avoid such men as these." God doesn't want us to tolerate the sin of being without natural affection in our homes or our churches.

*Throughout this study I use the words intimacy anorexia, without natural affection, unloving, and sexual dud synonymously.*

Toward the end of Solomon's life God condemned him as a sinner without natural affection. Solomon presents an excellent example of the many facets of intimacy anorexia displaying seven of the ten classic characteristics. You'll probably come away from this study with a different view of King Solomon than you had before. I know I have. I hope you'll also grow in your love and appreciation for God and how much he loves us. This study has made my heart sing his praises.

### Overview of the Song of Solomon

For 3000 years, the Song of Solomon has taught the secret of a lifetime of passionate lovemaking. God used real people to tell a true story of sexual pursuit that took place over three whirlwind days. King Solomon is the perfect example of the sensuous, rich, influential man who is obsessed with finding the perfect feminine body. He married 1000 virgins, averaging 25 a year for 40 years. And all that before VIAGRA!

Commentators often dispute Solomon's Herculean track record as being impossible for any man. In contrast to their speculation, such a feat is not that difficult. Several years ago when I attended a writers' conference, the instructor for one session asked us to share what we were working on. When my turn came I said, "I'm studying the Song of Solomon and how Solomon averaged deflowering 25 virgins every year of his 40-year reign."

Although most of the people at the table gasped, the older woman next to me said, "I'm the director of the local Planned Parenthood.... I believe it. We are seeing these same numbers with teenage boys. And we now know it does lasting damage to their brains."

After the program, I asked for her documentation about the brain damage to these boys. She was retiring and wasn't able to find the reference. In recent years, a friend found the medical proof in the book *Hooked: New Science on How Casual Sex Is Affecting Our Children* by Doctors Joe S. McIlhaney, Jr. and Freda McKissic Bush.

The Song of Solomon reveals that while Solomon was inspecting his vineyard, he was instantly infatuated with a young virgin, the Shulammite (Song 6:11-12). However, the Maiden was promised to the Shepherd, and they were planning their wedding. The love triangle preserves the Maiden's internal turmoil as she compares the proposals of the two suitors and tries to decide whom to marry.

### The Song of Solomon Captures Our Emotions

This marvelous drama uses four action-type writing techniques to speak directly to our emotions about an emotionally-charged subject—love and sex. Each of these techniques adds life to a story. But the Song of Solomon combines all four for a powerful presentation.

### Dialogue

The story contains only dialogue—no narration. We learn the location and backstory through the words of the four main characters—the Shulammite maiden, King Solomon, the Shepherd boyfriend, and the King's Virgins in waiting. This creates an interesting, fast-moving story.

### Play

The characters' dialogue is written in the format of a modern play which could be produced as is. The acts and scenes end with cliff hangers just as we expect in plays and movies today. I assume the role of a movie director to set up the scenes to make them more obvious.

## Musical

The Hebrew language in the Song of Solomon contains all the elements for a musical play and even an opera. The Israelite women and girls put on plays and sang in the evenings (Réville 65). The story is written perfectly for a captivating performance.

## Poetry

A favorite use of poetry is to convey the intense emotions surrounding romance to touch hearts. Also the story's skillful use of words makes it easier to remember the concepts. I highlight some of the plays on words and assonance inside the Hebrew language.

## Solomon's Siren Song

Just for fun, I share with you snippets of the backstory a movie director might add to the production. I hope you enjoy these glimpses into the era in which the Shulammite lived and loved. You'll find these at the beginning of each chapter.

### Origen's Hoax on the Song of Solomon

The Israelites viewed the Song of Solomon as a sacred book for hundreds of years before the earthly ministry of Jesus. They sang selections from it at certain festivals in the temple at Jerusalem. Thus it was in the canon of scriptures from which Jesus and his apostles quoted and taught (ISBE "Song of Songs").

## Jewish Rabbis

After Jesus's death and Titus's destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, a major religious hoax began that still exists today. With their temple gone along with their system of religion, surviving Jewish rabbis worked to protect the sacred scrolls. Some of the rabbis tried to leave the Song of Solomon out of the collection of inspired writings. When their efforts failed, they fabricated the allegorical interpretation of the Song of Solomon as merely God's marital relationship with Israel (ISBE "Song of Songs").

As the rabbis moved away from a literal view of the book, it required them to merge the two suitors, King Solomon and the Shepherd boyfriend, into one man. They ignored the typical Hebrew marriage rituals at the end of the story. Then they transformed the dialogue into an exchange between a husband and wife—God and Israel.

## Early Church Fathers

The early Church Fathers admired pagan virgins who served their cults of Achaean Juno, Delphi, and ministered to the African Ceres. The Song of Solomon celebrating a woman's sexuality horrified them. Various religious leaders began suppressing the book (LeSaint 18-9).

The most notable Church Father who attacked the Song of Solomon was the 3rd century theologian Origen. He denounced married lovemaking in answering Celsus's attacks on Christianity. Origen wrote, "Christianity actually transformed a man's conduct...from the time they adopt it...certain among them...abstain even from the permitted indulgences of (lawful) love" (Harrell 205-6).

Origen tamed his own sexual desires by castrating himself (Instone-Brewer, *Jesus* 24). He successfully hid the sexual teaching of the Song of Solomon by reworking the Jewish allegory to be about Christ and the church. Then he applied his mystic visions to create his own illusions. Origen essentially castrated the Song of Solomon right along with his own body.

### Origen's Hoax Fit Only for Old Women

After warning about a coming hoax against married love, the Apostle Paul concluded, "But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women" (1 Timothy 4:7).

Origen, who gave up his manhood by castrating himself, audaciously commanded sexually healthy husbands and wives to give up voluntarily their lawful sex lives. Then he invented an allegory which perverted the beautiful sexual teaching of the Song of Solomon. What irony! Origen's allegory is "a worldly

fable fit only for man-made old women."

## The Hoax Is Alive and Thriving

One YouTube preacher said, "Do you know why preachers love the allegory position on the Song of Solomon? It's because we don't have to talk about the embarrassing subject called sex." He admitted a similar prejudice against lovemaking that motivated Origen to mutilate the Song of Solomon just as he deformed his own body.

In the process of surrendering to the hoax against married lovemaking, the victims cheat their children out of a loving home. Not knowing any better the children grow up depriving the grandchildren of emotional stability. Thus the hoax self-propagates and proliferates.

([God's People Make the Best Lovers](#) devotes a chapter to tracing the history of how the Church Fathers' ignorance of reproduction influenced their teaching condemning sex even among married couples.)

## It's Time to Reject the Hoax

The true story of the Song of Solomon is more relevant today than ever before as society struggles between two extremes – the lingering prudish morals of the Purity Culture pitted against the Hookup Culture of high school and college students. Both opposing views of sexuality often involve the Intimacy Anorexia Culture. All three cultures deny the theme of the Song of Solomon – that sex is not about the release of pent-up hormones or proving your masculinity or femininity. Rather, God designed sex to bond the male and female minds and emotions together in a monogamous loving relationship.

In other words, proper soulmating during courtship along with healthy sexual examples and teaching at home leads to a lifetime of ravishing lovemaking – all to the glory of the God who loves passionate sex more than we mortals do.

### Study Exercise

Answer all questions in your own words.

1. Do you know someone who was influenced by the Purity Culture? How did it affect his or her life?
2. Why do you think 1st century pagans said, "What women those Christians have"?
3. Do you know anyone who was involved in the Hookup Culture? How did it affect his or her life?
4. What advice would you give someone in the Hookup Culture knowing that many of them reject God?
5. What should a person's attitude be toward someone like Origen who changes the meaning of the scriptures for a personal agenda?
6. Give three reasons why you want to study the Song of Solomon?
7. If the Song of Solomon teaches something about sex that contradicts what your parents taught you, what should you do? Why?
8. If the Song of Solomon contradicts something you've always believed about soulmating and lovemaking, what should you do? Why?
9. Do you disagree with anything in the lesson? If so, explain giving scriptures for your reasons.

### Personal Exercise

It's easy to read a book like this and give mental assent or dissent. But it takes effort to make lasting changes from the heart. If you want to gain the most from this study, I invite you to read "[Your Marriage and Your Love Life Will Never Be the Same If...You Do the Homework Exercises](#)." The article contains the stories of previous students to encourage you. It explains why the exercises at the end of the chapters are important. You can find it at [PatsyRaeDawson.com](#) on the sidebar in the Book Shelf. Print it or read it online. The Personal Exercise at the end will help you start getting immediate results from your study. (Class teachers may print the article as a handout for their students.)