

Romance in Christian Marriage

Various passages

Introduction

Valentine's Day is here again and it's a great time for us to revisit the idea of developing and keeping romance in our marriages. Let's look at some passages in the Bible that should get us started in the right direction.

Bible Passage

1 Cor. 7:3-5 - ³Let the husband fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again lest Satan tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Prov. 5:15-21 - ¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern, And fresh water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your springs be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be yours alone, And not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. ²⁰For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress, And embrace the bosom of a foreigner? ²¹For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.

SoS 4:1-15 - ¹You're so beautiful, my darling, so beautiful, and your dove eyes are veiled by your hair as it flows and shimmers, like a flock of goats in the distance streaming down a hillside in the sunshine. ²Your smile is generous and full—expressive and strong and clean. ³Your lips are jewel red, your mouth elegant and inviting, your veiled cheeks soft and radiant. ⁴The smooth, lithe lines of your neck command notice—all heads turn in awe and admiration! ⁵Your breasts are like fawns, twins of a gazelle, grazing among the first spring flowers. ⁶The sweet, fragrant curves of your body, the soft, spiced contours of your flesh invite me, and I come. I stay until dawn breathes its light and night slips away. ⁷You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless. (The Message)

SoS 5:10-16 - ¹⁰My dear lover glows with health—red-blooded, radiant! **He's one in a million. There's no one quite like him!** ¹¹My golden one, pure and untarnished, with raven black curls tumbling across his shoulders. ¹²His eyes are like doves, soft and bright, but deep-set, brimming with meaning, like wells of water. ¹³His face is rugged, his beard smells like sage, his voice, his words, warm and reassuring. ¹⁴Fine muscles ripple beneath his skin, quiet and beautiful. His torso is the work of a sculptor, hard and smooth as ivory. ¹⁵He stands tall, like a cedar, strong and deep-rooted, A rugged mountain of a man, aromatic with wood and stone. **His words are kisses, his kisses words.** Everything

about him delights me, thrills me through and through! That's my lover, that's my man, dear Jerusalem sisters. (The Message)

Practical Application

What things can get in the way of having passionate romance in our marriages?

Relational? Love tank empty, broken commitments, conflict

Circumstantial? Kids, time, busyness, tired, money, health, kids,

What can you do to fix those things?

Will you?

What are your spouse's favorite things for you to do for them?

When was the last time you did something on the list?

It's time to put a plan together for Valentine's Day. Otherwise you'll lose one of the most obvious opportunities for marital romance this year.

What are some ideas of how to celebrate Valentine's Day in meaningful, romantic, creative ways? _____

Conclusion:

"If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she'll never turn into an old nag."