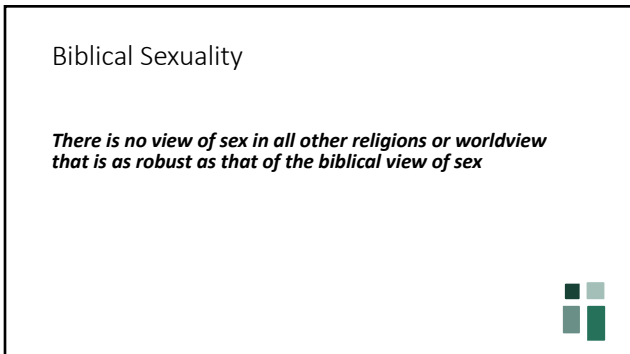
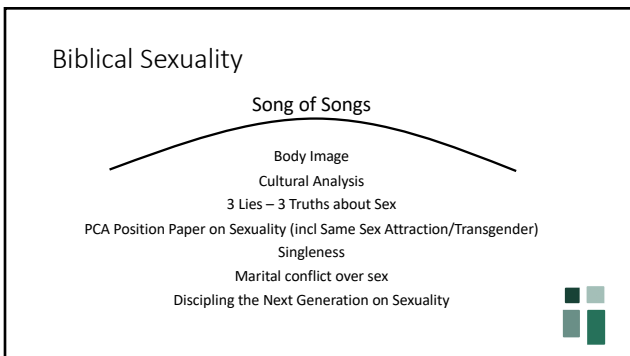


1



2




3

Wider Context

2 Interpretive approaches to Song of Songs

1. Spiritual Approach
2. Natural Approach




4

Spiritual Approach


1:13 – *My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts.*

5:11 – *His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven.*



5

Spiritual Approach



6

Natural Approach



7

Blended Approach



8

Gen 1-2

2:22-25

²²And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.



9

Gen 1-2

The attention of the text shifts from the heavens and the earth coming together in cosmic order to a man and a woman coming together in earthly marriage...There it is, this peculiar thing we call marriage, tenderly portrayed in its humble reality and delicate innocence against the enormous backdrop of creation.

- Ray Ortlund



10

Gen 1-2

How is our relationship with God like a marriage?

1. Both based on love
2. Both bound by promises
3. Both are exclusive relationships



11

New Testament

Ephesians 5:32

³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.


"Marital intimacy is meant to preach to our own hearts & community of the wonder of what it means to be in relationship to Jesus"



12


The relationship that God wants to have with us is like the mutual affection of a man and a woman who are so deeply in love that they promise not to love anyone else but to stay together for the rest of their lives. Whether we are married or single, all of us are invited into this spiritual marriage
 - Phil Ryken

(Song of Songs) echoes the melody of another deeper and richer song, a song about a true and faithful lover who is not like Solomon, with his massive harem of disposable women, but rather one who loves and gives himself for his bride - Iain Duguid



13


Our primary longing and need in life is the spousal affection of Jesus.



14

3 Lies about Sex

1. Sex is everything
2. Sex is nothing
3. Sex is the way to freedom




15

Lie 1: Sex is everything


I don't know what the question is, but sex is definitely the answer

- Woody Allen



16


Lie 1: Sex is everything



17

Lie 2: Sex is nothing

"Making love" (60's) → "having sex" (80's) → "hooking up" (00's)



18

Lie 2: Sex is nothing

1 Cor 6 -¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."



19

Lie 3: Sex is the way to freedom

"Age of authenticity" – create your own beliefs and morality, the only rule being they must resonate with who we feel we really are. The worst thing we can do is to conform to some moral code that is imposed on us from outside – by society, parents, church, or whoever else.



20

Lie 3: Sex is the way to freedom



21