

Sex is Easy

2. Singleness is Hard

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Song of Songs 8.

8 *We have a little sister, and her breasts are not yet grown.*

What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?

9 *If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her.*

If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.

- Why do you think an erotic love poem is included in the Bible - particularly one without any overt mention of God or obvious spiritual elements? What does this tell you about the nature of Christian faith?
- v6. *'Love is as strong as death.. it burns like blazing fire'*. Song of Songs paints a picture of a love relationship that is very compelling. Is this kind of relationship possible in the real world or is it an unrealistic fantasy? Does having such an ideal to aspire to make you feel inspired or discouraged?
- v9. *'If she is a wall'*. What does being a wall mean in your situation – in terms of relationships, sexual history, internet etc.? What does being a door mean? What are the challenges of developing a boundaried and self-controlled character?
- v9. *'we will build towers of silver'*. In what ways have you seen God build something beautiful and strong into someone's character as they've pursued moral integrity and a commitment to sexual purity? Have you experienced anything of that in your own life?
- Panels of cedar were the ornamentation of the richest palaces. How does God redeem and recover situations of regret and brokenness? Have you experienced this yourself at all?

Big Idea: 'God can use singleness to build something uniquely beautiful, precious and strong in you - even in the midst of pain, regret and failure.'

Pray for one another, particularly for those that are single right now. Pray for a renewed vision of what to aspire to, pray for an experience of God's grace in getting to that destination. Pray for encouragement and strengthening. Pray for wholeness and the ability to trust God with our hearts.