

ONE OF A KIND LOVE AFFAIR

SONG OF SOLOMON 3:1-5

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The Spinners had a song in the 70's that described what a one of a kind love affair is. Now don't act like you don't remember because you were probably patting your hand and snapping your fingers listening to it also. And while I didn't understand the meaning of the words at that time in my young life, I still remember them. They went on singing about the things that this world associates with love affairs. They said a one of kind love affair is, the kind of love that you read about in a fairy tale. And see that's about what this world thinks of any idea of a real love affair. It's fictional. It doesn't exist. It's just a pipe dream concocted by naïve folks, committed unrealistically to an irrational notion of love realities. But I'm here to tell that real love does indeed exist. Real Love not only exists but is necessary for the human soul. Real love can change your outlook and start your in-look and motivate you to do better for you and everybody around you. Real love makes the difference between living in vain and living a life more abundant. I want to talk to you today about what God says about this whole love thang. I believe we can look at this text and see a powerful picture of God's emphasis on love between His people. We can see God's power thru love that He showers on His people and the strong, unbreakable, undeniable and incorruptible love that He has for His people. I believe that we will be able to see God's love affair with His people. You see, there is a fact that can never be disputed in this world. God loves us and we, the redeemed, love Him. But what we can never get over, that which mystifies us, what brings tears to our eyes, is that we love Him, because He first loved us. Ain't God alright? He is the apple of my eye. He's the Light in a world of darkness. He's the calm in the midst of a storm. He's the reason in a world of chaos. He's the comfort in a time of sorrow. I love Him because He first loved me. In fact, He sent His Son, because He loved us so. For the bible says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whomsoever shall believe in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life. I love Him, because He first loved me. I'm talking about the definition of a One of a Kind Love Affair.

This book is a piece of Hebrew poetry. And while it does allude to and point to

God's relationship with His people Israel, and His church, it's main theme is describing the love affair that exists between a young Shulamite woman and her lover Solomon, the King. Some scholars have said this is the young woman who was brought to minister to King David, in his old age as recorded in 1 Kings 1:1-4,15). Others say it was a lady that was a part on Solomon's harem as recorded in 1 Kings 2:17-22. But regardless who she was in name, we do know one thing, that she was definitively, unequivocally and unashamedly, head over heels in love. And let me tell you, don't ever let the devil try to tell you, because of past experiences, and bad encounters, that love is a bad thang. Or as another record declares that, "love don't love nobody". I tell you it's good to love somebody. It's good to have love in your heart. It is essential for the believer to constantly check his or her love level, that we continue to become more like Him, and hence, the people that our God is calling for in a time like this. You see one of the definitions of a one of a kind love affair, is that when your around somebody enough, like two persons in love, you start taking on some of the characteristics of the other person. You see, our God, by definition is love. And how can you say that you know Him and have not love in your heart for anybody? How can you, who say that you pray and praise the One in whom all true Love dwells, have your heart remain as cold as ice? How can you, whose love was gifted, demand that everyone else earn, and pay homage, and slave for your old, worthless love? How can we, the recipients of His abundant grace and overwhelming mercy, not shower the love of God on everyone we meet, whether we like them or not. Help me Holy Ghost. Look at your neighbor and ask them, "Are you really in love?"

In chapter 2 of this book, they start describing the one in whom their soul loves. This is Valentine's Day right? The Shulamite says I am a rose of Sharon and a Lilly of the valleys. She was saying with all humility; I am nothing special. I am just like everyone else here. You see roses of Sharon and lilies of the valleys while beautiful were commonplace in Israel at that time. And she was saying, I don't know why you picked me. I was doing what everybody else was doing. Looking like everybody was looking. Smelling like everybody else was smelling. I can relate to that saying. I think back to Solomon's Daddy, Good King David, when he said, "what is man that thou art mindful of him! I think about when he said, "I was born in sin and shapen in iniquity". O I don't

know why He chose me, but I'm glad He did. But her Beloved, replies sweet as an early autumn breeze, in that 2nd verse of chapter 2. He said, you might have been a lily, but to me, "like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens". You see in a real love affair, there is an appreciation for one another. I love you and you love me. I appreciate you for you, and you accept me for me. No one has to put on fronts. But they can relax and know that the love that's shared is a love that goes beyond superficialities and is based on what's going on down on the inside. I thank God that I don't have to put on any "airs" with Jesus. I can go to Him in prayer. Tell Him all about my troubles, my problems, my hang-ups, my weaknesses, my secret thoughts, my fears, my disappointments, my hopes and my dreams. And I don't have to worry about Him frowning on me or taking His love away. Ain't God alright? The Shulamite goes on to refer to her Beloved, as an apple tree in the midst of a forest. In other words, He is somebody that can refresh her hungering spirit. He is somebody who can provide nourishment in time of need. He is somebody who refreshes with the sweet fragrance of fruit with promises of a delightful savor made just to her liking. She said, "His left arm is under my head and His right arm embraces me!" She remembered everything about Him and their moments together! And she had nothing but good stuff to say! So let me ask this question, "if you say, your so in love with Jesus Christ, and He is your everything, and all in all; how come the Church of God doesn't brag on Him"? We talk about everything else, how bad his deacons are? We talk about the kind of preachers He's calling these days? We talk about, His no good church folks. But when it comes about telling folks about His goodness to us, we become as silent as church mice. When it comes to letting folks know how he has delivered time and time again from certain destruction, that we caused ourselves, we don't want to look radical. When it comes to describing how He rocks you to sleep when you're going through your midnight hours; how He dries your tears, when the enemy won't leave you alone; how He makes a way out of no way, every day and every hour, through dangers seen and unseen; it seems like we don't want to rock the boat of complacency and norm, and give Him the praise He deserves. But I believe that God is getting a few folks that ain't ashamed to tell somebody like it T I S that God is my Rock in a weary land. He's my shelter in the time of time! He's my water in dry places! He's my bridge over troubled waters! He's my refuge and secret Hiding Place!

Do I have a witness? He's calling folks not ashamed to say, yes, 'weeping did endure for a night, but because of Jesus, joy came in the morning'. You see, another sign of a real love affair is that you don't mind bragging on the one you love. I remember there was another song when I was a young child of the 70's and it said, "ain't no woman like the one I got". And the brother was bragging on the love that they shared with this young lady. I just wish and I'm praying that if no other church is willing to go out and tell somebody about the love of Jesus, New Harvest Community Baptist Church, will. Amen!

The doxologic text shouts, "By night on my bed, I sought Him whom my soul loveth:". One translation says, "all night long on my bed, I looked for the one in whom my soul loves. Another sign of a true love affair, there ought to be a longing to be with each other. When Jesus was on the cross, He uttered these words, "I thirst!" But He was not referring to physical needs but He was longing for the souls that would come to Him and believe on His Name. Even in the midst of His agony, His thoughts were on us, the body of Christ. He longed for the fellowship that would exist between His people and their Savior as He groaned His last breaths upon that old rugged tree. And we long for Him, to be with Him, to see His face, to never again be separated from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. David said, "One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life, and to inquire in His temple. I want to see Him! I want to see Him! Don't you want to see Him? Don't you want to make it over? Don't you want to be in a land where it's always howdy and never goodbye?"

The longing was too much for the Shulamite woman and she took to the highways and byways looking for her love. And let me tell you the Love of God ought to move all of us, every now and then. It's time out for the Stationary Baptist Churches and time in for us to become Missionary Baptist Churches again. Telling every man woman boy and girl, every saint, every sinner, every watchman, every blind person, to seek Jesus while He may be found. Work while it's still day because at night no man can work. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

But in verse 4, she again finds her prize, her lover is again in her arms and she

determines not to let Him go again. And let me tell you something, if you've allowed some mountains of division to come between you and God, if some hills of troubles have been able to get distance between you and your Savior, all you have to do is call on the Name of the Lord. And like a strong, lightning quick gazelle, He'll come running back to you. He will bridge the gap that has distanced you from Him. And He'll come running back to you. You see the thing about love, at least the love of God, is that nothing and no one can separate you from it. Not tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor famine, nor shame, nor peril, nor violence. In fact, I agree with Paul, when He said, "In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Then He goes on to say, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ain't God alright? Do you know He's alright? Have you tried Him for yourself? Do you know what He will do? He's alright! In the morning, He's alright! In the noonday, He's alright! In the evening, He's alright! In the midnight hour, He's alright! As I come to a close, trying to put a definition on a "One of A Kind Love Affair!" I can't help but recall the other verses of the Spinner's classic. You see, all of it ain't bad. Some of it, they hit on point. They said a One of a Kind Love Affair Is, when your down is up and your up is down, but love stays around. You see, I'm glad I serve a God, that in my ups and my downs, in my storms and rugged plains, in the sunshine and the rain, He said in His Word, He'll never leave me nor forsake me. They went on to say a One of a kind love affair, can make a lame man walk, and a blind man talk, about seeing again. It will make your everyday like sunshine. And when you find that kind of love, your sho' nuff glad, you found it, and it found you. In fact, so glad, that it makes you want to stick around awhile. I kind of like that, because I tell you this, 'I came to Jesus, just like I was, weary wounded and sad. But I found in Him, a resting place and now He has made me glad'. Jesus, the true love of the redeemed, is our one and only, One of A Kind Love Affair. His love goes farther and is more powerful than any love man can muster. You see His love, did make the lame walk and the deaf to talk. Blind folks didn't just talk about seeing again, but the blinded did see. In Him, we move and have our being. In Jesus, we have the kind of Son-shine, that never goes down, and will never flame out. And when we

found Him, He sealed us with His Holy Ghost, that His Spirit, would become the deposit that marks our Salvation. I'm talking about a One of a Kind Love Affair! It didn't happen overnight but it was developed over 42 generations. It didn't have a lot of fanfare because it was born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. It didn't involve a lot of expenses, but it healed the sick, without a health care plan, fed five thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread, changed water to wine without a wine vat, and even raised the dead without an operating table. It had some dark moments, because they took my Jesus, one Thursday Evening, marched Him from Judgment Hall to Judgment Hall. They mocked Him, beat on Him and forced a crown of thorns on His head, while proclaiming Him, the King of the Jews. Yet He never said, a mumbling word. It had some horrific moments, because after they marched Him up, Golgotha's Hill, they put nails in His hands, and spiked Him in His feet, stretched Him out wide, and hurled Him up High. And He died, for the sins of the world. And He died, that we might be free! And He died, till the moon dripped down in blood! And He died, that we might have the right to eternal life! This love affair had some bad moments but it's alright now! I said it's alright now!! It's alright now!!! Because early, Early, EARLY.....



ABOUT PASTOR KENNETH T. RICKS

With Christ Jesus as the founder and the Holy Spirit as his guide, Pastor Ricks was led to organize the New Harvest Community Baptist Church (www.newharvestbc.com) of Romulus, Michigan in October of 2008. The church motto is "Winning Souls and Making Disciples for the Cause of Christ" gleaned from Luke 10:2. Pastor Ricks shared in a variety of ministries at His home church of 14 years. He was blessed to serve as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, Male Chorus Director, Brotherhood member, Men of Peace Officer, Christian Youth United Counselor and Angelic Choir Member.

Rev. Ricks loves the study of God's Word! He and his wife, Diane, are very active in the Congress of the local Metropolitan Detroit District, where she is an officer with the Minister Wives Auxiliary. They also have attended and participated frequently with both Congresses of the Wolverine State and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Pastor Ricks has matriculated at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, Michigan and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, where he studied urban ministry and political science, respectively. He is a Desert Storm veteran of the United States Air Force and is currently employed by the Ford Motor Company. He and his wife, Diane are

the proud parents of three daughters, Acacia, Kaila, Brittani and one son, Terrence. Psalm 27 is his favorite scripture, “One thing have I desired of the Lord, and that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life”! Hallelujah!