I. Anyone care to debate the proposition: a husband and wife should love each other.
   A. Would you take the negative?
   B. But is it via divorce being taken?
   C. Purpose of this lesson is to suggest some of the delicate relations and affections that need to exist today.

II. We turn to Songs of Solomon. A. I've heard many fanciful interpretations of it.
   1. Most say its an analogy of Jesus & Church
   2. Would the Heb. recipient at time of its writing so understood?
   3. Tho it may be, not one can say it isn't a great love story.
   B. We read the poetry to see the basic facts.
      1. Two people speak
      2. They tell of their love for one another.
      3. Surely in engagement and certainly in marriage these sweet affections must be present.
      4. We move thru the poem to see the attitudes.

III. Evidences of Love
   A. She says "I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of
the valleys" (v-1)
1. Catch picture of sitting outside on great spot
1:16 - our bed is verdant
1:17 - Beams are cedar
1:17 - Rafters are fir
(a) Lofty beams in outdoor setting
(b) Forrest glade, sitting on grassy seat

2. Rose is beautiful
   Lily is pure

3. Valley shows lowliness - not mt. top

4. Flowers are short lived.

5. Let the woman be beautiful, pure, lowly - humble & wise. Enough to know days are short.
B. He says "Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens" (v-2)
   1. Her love to him is beyond comparison
   2. Son, daughter, darling - shows simplicity
      innocence, gentleness.
   3. She is No. 1 without doubt - and she's so
told!
   4. But note they resemble each other - both
lilies.
   5. Social aspects of aging card

Kirk Douglas "The most important thing a father can
do for his kids is to love their mother."

C. She extolls him as:
   1. "An apple tree among the trees of the
      forrest" (v-3)
      (a) He's present
      (b) He's known
      (c) He's accessible
      (d) He's beautiful (missing clip)
      (e) He's sweet - literally "to breathe
      Sweetly"
(f) Fruit is useful, servicable, pleasant, profitable.

(g) He's more precious than any other tree; there're wild

(h) He's in the field - not locked up somewhere in a garden.

(i) Husbands are like wood fires. When unattended they go out.

2. I delight to sit in his shade (v-3)

   (a) shade or shadow shows:
   (1) protection

   (Tournier card) "Shal cheer up his wife which he has taken"

   (b) Protects from heat of day

   (Lion's clipping) "husbands"

   (Crawling on hands and knees)

   (c) She looks up with reverence and pride she's beneath his guardian care.

   (when did you first love me?)

   (d) Note they also relax together - she likes to sit now period!

Geo. asked Alice "when I began to get mad when people said you were ugly & stupid."
3. "He has taken me to the banquet hall" (v-4)
   (a) Pleasure in our company
   (b) Wants closer ties
   (c) Seeks to extend honor and show esteem
   (d) Exuberant joy
   (e) Dobson card
   (f) Only clean towels out, showed little
   boy as all sat down to dinner. "Mother shall I
   start one?"

4. "His Banner over me is love" (v-4)
   (a) Standard to flock to
   (b) It means security and supplying what
earlier she does not have.
   (c) Love is its emblem - shows to whom
also we belong!
   (d) He brings gifts (v-5) They are love
   sick - have you ever been?
(He gathers us in to the banqueting table. He
builds his house on a firm foundation. I am my
beloved's and he is mine.)

   (e)#Left arm under my head. Right arm
   embraces me" (v-6)
   (1) Left bears up
   (2) Right - unquestioned assurance
   (Dobson page 56)
(f) Tho she's happy she knows it can be broken - make the most of the day and let love be unforced (v-7)
(1) Love shrinks from ostentation
(2) Love's a sacred thing
(3) Anadelin card

IV. What features has he called for?
   A. Be identified with the good
   B. Have a love beyond compare
   C. Be useful
   D. Enjoy each other's company
   E. Honor one another
   F. Grant support and affection
   G. Let the love banner float uninterruptedly.
   H. Give comfort and assurance.

Host End 11-25-79
Amherst, Ohio Lectureship (at Lorain) 11-26-79
The correspondent of a newspaper noted for its sensational treatment of news events was dispatched to Red China. When he had reached Peking and had had an opportunity to survey the field he cabled his superior: "Conditions terrible; suffering horrible. Almost impossible to exaggerate—but will do my best."—American Opinion, 12-72.
The lady was into politics. Big. She was stumping the state for her favorite candidate. Morning, noon, night, she would tell everyone she could corner how to mark the ballot. Nothing the matter with good people in politics. We need them. But maybe somebody else does too. In her case it was one lonesome husband, and three little children asking, "When will mommy be home?"

Late one night like 1:00 A.M. she came in exhausted. She threw off her shoes, sat down in the big chair, wiggled her tired toes. Then with a mighty sigh, she said, "We're going to sweep the state." To which her weary husband came with this classic: "Why don't you start with the living room?"

"The Exciting Church Where They Really Use the Bible" - Page 59
By Charlie W. Shedd
The profession of the homemaker, perhaps the noblest in the world, & the one they should be termed sacred if any is, lends itself to the establishment of centers of Christian influence.

One of the highest functions of a wife is to console her husband for all the blows he receives in life. Yet, in order to console, there is no need to say very much. It is enough to listen, to understand, to love. Look at that mother whose child runs crying to her knees. She utters no word, and yet in a moment the tears have disappeared, the child jumps down, smiles all over his face, and heads out into the world once more where he will receive new blows. In every man, even the most eminent and the apparently strongest, there remains something of the child who needs to be consoled.

(Tournier, To Understand Each Other, p. 23)

"Her Whole Heart - A Woman's Way To Fulfillment" - By Jeanie Mercer

Page 61
"Marriage then becomes a great adventure, a continuous discovery both of one's self and of one's mate. . . . The human being needs fellowship; he needs a partner, a real encounter with others. He needs to understand others, and to sense that others understand him. Such is the very intention of God in instituting marriage, according to the Bible. Alone, a man marks time and becomes very set in his ways. In the demanding confrontation which marriage constitutes, he must ever go beyond himself, develop, grow up into maturity."

Paul Tournier

"How'd you make out in that fight with your wife?"
"She came crawling to me on her hands and knees."
"Yeah? What did she say?"
"Come out from under that bed, you coward!" — R & R Mag, 11-69.
Small children isolate a mother. It's such a hassle to pack the porta-crib and the diapers and all the supportative paraphernalia in the car, and go off to visit a friend. Mom has to wonder if it's worth the effort. Then too, the kids won't play by themselves and they keep the women from enjoying the occasion, anyway. And if the youngsters are not well disciplined, their mother is embarrassed to take them anywhere and the invitations become more scarce from her former friends who simply can't stand to have her brats in their houses. Thus, the mothers of preschool children often give up and stay at home, spending month after month predominantly in the company of "little people." I heard of one such mother who was finally given an opportunity to get out of the house.
Her husband's company had prepared a banquet in honor of retiring employees, and she was seated beside the president himself. She was very nervous about talking to a real, live adult again. She feared she might revert to baby talk during the course of the evening. To her surprise, however, she conversed without a flaw through the entire meal, speaking of world events and current political conditions. Then she realized with dismay that throughout their conversation, she had been dutifully cutting the president's meat and wiping his mouth with her napkin. I suppose you could call this a housewife's occupational hazard.

I know one mother who has developed a unique "stalling" device for use when she is late with the preparation of dinner. She rushes into the kitchen a few minutes before her husband arrives home from work, and places one sliced onion in the heated oven. When he walks through the front door, he is greeted by a pleasant aroma of, perhaps, beef stew or enchilada pie. He is so pleased by the obvious progress in the kitchen that he settles down to read his paper and await the final product. Of course, she occasionally has to explain why tuna fish sandwiches made the house smell like onion-something-or-other.
It isn't practical help a husband needs from you. He comes to have his soul restored, his self-esteem re-established, and his self-doubt removed... Build him up by offering him approval, hope and admiration... Lift his spirits, not his burdens.

(Helen Andelin, "Fascinating Womanhood", pp. 81-82)

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