Series: The Meaning

of Intimacy
Message: Why Wait?

Scripture: Song of Songs 2:3-3:5

Date: April 21 & 22, 2018

## -[ LET'S START ]-

Pastor Dale talked about how things have changed over time. At one time, marriages were *arranged* by the parents. Later in history, the idea of *courtship* began. The concept of *dating* did not appear in writing until 1914, and now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century things have shifted to *hooking up*. Find a partner and discuss what societal changes have contributed to these changes.

## -[ LET'S TALK ]-

- Pastor Dale commented on some of the "fake news" going around regarding marriage, and he shared some statistics. What misunderstandings and interpretations were of interest to you? Explain.
- 2. Researchers Popenoe and Whitehead conclude that both men and women today see marriage not as a way of creating character and community, but as a way to reach personal life goals. They are looking for a marriage partner who will *fulfill their emotional, sexual and spiritual desires*. It is called the "Me Marriage" because this marriage is about **me** not about **us**. What does this expectation mean regarding intimacy in a marriage?
- 3. Cohabitation may appear to be more of a commitment than hooking up, however, in either case, both individuals are keeping their options open. Is that really a commitment? Expand upon your answer.
- 4. "Marriage is a promise of future love." What insight does that statement provide for you? Why?

## -[ LET'S ACT ]-

Like the couple in the Song of Solomon, to handle our passion today we still need to:

- Put God first.
- Commit to the truth rather than our passions.
- Ask others to help and hold us accountable:
  - Spouses are held accountable by each other.
  - Students are held accountable by their parents.
  - Singles are held responsible by friends.

Will you commit to following this example from the Song of Solomon?

## -[ SERMON REVIEW ]-

- Relationship changes over the years have changed from arranged marriages, to courtship, to dating, to hooking up.
- Sixty percent of married couples are very happy with their marriages, and two-thirds of those who are unhappy will become happy within five years if they stick it out.
- Researchers have concluded that both men and women today see marriage not as a way of creating character and community, but as a way to reach personal life goals.
- God created sex to be the height of our expression of selfless love.

—[ NOTES ]—			