

(1:1) – THE SONG OF SONGS, WHICH IS SOLOMON’S. – As stated in the introduction, this book is an allegorical poem describing both Christ’s love for His church and the His church’s love for Him. The church is made up of sinners saved by God’s grace through Christ. Christ is portrayed as Bridegroom and Husband of the church which is portrayed as the bride and wife of Christ. Christ, the Bridegroom, is the Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Preserver of the church, His bride. He is the worthy, powerful, loving, and willing Savior of His bride. She is the unworthy, sinful, and adulterous object of His unconditional love. He is shown to be the one who chose His bride and takes responsibility for her complete salvation. As her Surety, all her sins were imputed to Him. He willingly took her debt as His own. As her Redeemer, He came to where she was in her sin and depravity, and in her name and nature, yet without sin, took her place under the law and died to redeem her. He provides her with the wedding garment of His righteousness imputed to her and gives her everything necessary for her full salvation. He sends His Spirit unto her and reveals Himself as the one who loves her unconditionally and, thereby, draws her to Himself with cords of love. The next verse begins with His bride, after having been drawn to Him, desiring to see and know more of Him and His love for her. All true believers (members of His bride) know that Christ’s love for them is the greatest love of all and longs to see and know more of Him and His love for them.

(1:2) – LET HIM KISS ME WITH THE KISSES OF HIS MOUTH: FOR THY LOVE IS BETTER THAN WINE. – Unto all who know and believe in Christ, “HE IS PRECIOUS” (1 Pet. 2:7). This is the God-given and sincere desire of one who has been saved by the grace of God in Christ. She longs to see more of her Savior’s love for her. It is HIS love for her that created and filled her with love for Him. In her natural, sinful, unbelieving state, she did not know Him, nor did she love Him at all. In fact, she was His enemy, but she has been reconciled unto Him by the revelation of His love for her in that He died for her sins (Col. 1:21). And when He revealed Himself to her, the love of God welled up within her to draw her to Him. How did He reveal His love to her? “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9–10). This love of Christ for His bride is the effectual, redeeming love that insured her salvation unto final glory. It is love that brought Him to die for her and satisfy the justice of God by taking upon Himself the full wrath of God against her sins (Rom. 5:5–10; John 13:1; 2 Cor. 5:21).

So, “Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth” expresses her passionate desire to see and know more of Him and His love to her. Though she loves Him, she does not boast of her love for Him. She realizes that it is His love for her that saves, protects, and preserves her unto glory. A kiss from the Savior’s mouth is an expression of His deep, abiding love for her. It is an evidence of complete pardon, forgiveness, and acceptance based on the righteousness that He worked out only for her. This is not like the empty love of false Christianity that declares a counterfeit Christ who tries to save his loved ones but either does not or cannot insure their salvation and eternal glory. No one perishes who is the object of the Bridegroom’s love described here (Rom. 8:28–39). Christ will never let the objects of His love perish (John 10:6:37–45; 27–30; Heb. 7:25).

She realizes that His “love is better than wine.” In the Bible, wine can symbolize the blood of Christ shed for us to purge away our sins. It is also a symbol of joy given by the Holy Spirit Who brings us to rejoice in Christ Jesus (Psa. 104:15). Wine rejoices the heart, revives the spirit, and soothes the nerves of man. But the love of Christ is far better than the best wine. When the love of Christ is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, it is like drinking some heavenly, spiritual

wine. We become consumed with Him, His truth, and His love. It brings us joy and peace in believing (Rom. 14:17; 15:13).

(1:3) – BECAUSE OF THE SAVOUR OF THY GOOD OINTMENTS THY NAME IS AS OINTMENT Poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. – This refers to the healing, soothing, and comforting balm of His glorious character and presence. There is no attribute of His nature that is repugnant or rejected by His bride. By the grace and power of God, she is brought to love everything about her Bridegroom. The people of God love Christ as He is revealed in the Scriptures (Psa. 45:1–9; Rev. 1:10–20), because they see in Him every attribute of God engaged to save, protect, and preserve them. They love His holiness and goodness, His justice and mercy, His righteousness and grace, His power and tenderness, His immutability and compassion, His wisdom and sympathy, His wrath and love, His judgment and salvation. They love His sovereignty in all things. They do not deny His sovereign mercy and grace in electing a people and giving them to Christ. Every aspect of His nature brings His bride joy, peace, and comfort. In the eyes of others our adorable Savior has no form nor comeliness for which they desire Him (Isa. 53:1–3). But in the eyes of His bride, He is the beauty of holiness (Psa. 27:1–4; 73:25; Isa. 61:3). To His bride He is fairer than ten thousand, the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the valley.

Who exactly are these “virgins”? They are His people, sinners saved by the grace of God, and made spiritually and eternally pure by the washing of His blood and the water of His Word. Legally, they are washed clean from all their sins in their redemption by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5; 7:14). This is their justification before God whereby their sins are forgiven, and they are declared legally righteous in God’s sight based on Christ’s righteousness imputed to them. Their sins cannot be charged to them, and they cannot be condemned because they are in Christ (Rom. 8:1; 33–34). Spiritually, they are washed by the water of the Word of God (Eph. 5:26; cf. Psa. 119:9). Having been married to Christ by God-given faith through the Word of the Gospel in the power of the Spirit, sinners are brought to faith in Christ and repentance of dead works. Although they are still plagued with the remaining presence, influence, and even contamination of the sins of the flesh, they are espoused to ONE HUSBAND that they may be presented as chaste virgins to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). Not only does she love His name (His glory), as His willing bride, she is brought by God to take His name unto herself (Jer. 23:5–6; 33:15–16). This is the case of all sinners saved by the grace of God in Christ.

(1:4) – DRAW ME, WE WILL RUN AFTER THEE: THE KING HATH BROUGHT ME INTO HIS CHAMBERS: WE WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN THEE, WE WILL REMEMBER THY LOVE MORE THAN WINE: THE UPRIGHT LOVE THEE. – Notice how the bride expresses her total dependence upon the power, will, and love of her Bridegroom. Salvation is not by the works or the wills of men. It is ALL of grace through the power and will of God and based on the righteousness of Christ. If we are to be saved, we must be legally justified in God’s sight, and we must be spiritually drawn to Him. By nature, the members of the bride of Christ are so depraved and sinful that none will come to Him of their own wills (**John 1:11–13; 6:44–45; Rom. 3:10–12; 1 Cor. 2:10–14**). They have to be drawn with cords of love as revealed in the Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in Christ. They have to be brought into His bedchamber. They must be changed by God to be glad and to rejoice in Christ. They must be made willing in the day of His power. They must be preserved to remember His love. The “upright” describes justified sinners who have been drawn to Christ by God’s power and grace. They believe, rest in, and love Christ as He is their whole salvation. They have seen and know HIS love as the greatest love of all.