



When Not to Marry: A Person Is Neurotic, under Peer or Parental Pressure, the Woman Is Antiauthority; Compatibility Is in the Soul, SOS 1:7a

35. We have recently discussed the concept of physical attractiveness. This is a legitimate part of the attraction stage of romance but it is not a reason to marry. Physical attractiveness fades with age and if this is the emphasis then the marriage cannot be sustained by it.
36. A woman can be strikingly beautiful and the man extremely handsome but if this is emphasized as a reason for marriage to the exclusion of soul compatibility then their physical attractiveness may have served as camouflage for damaged or flawed souls.
37. Those with damaged or flawed souls often have several telltale neuroses that warn against matrimony. Neuroses are present in a person when they have a distorted perception of reality manifest by irrational emotions, unreasonable fears, illogical phobias, recurring obsessive-compulsive reactions, hypochondria, and hysteria.
38. No one should hurry into marriage because of peer or parental pressures. Those who insist it is time someone should be married are intruding into the privacy of a person who ought to be guided by divine viewpoint not by the calendar and human viewpoint.
39. No couple should marry until they have achieved compatibility in four areas: (1) spiritual, which we have noted already, (2) mental, discovered by each learning how the other thinks, (3) economic, by reaching agreement on how to manage the family budget, and (4) mutual interests, for example hobbies, activities, social life, and recreation.
40. Finally, no woman should ever marry a man if she is not willing to submit to his leadership authority over her spiritual life and her temporal life.
41. The Shepherd and the Shulammitte have complied with all these indicators and were prepared to start their life together. This eventuality is now put in jeopardy as the Shulammitte approaches a face-to-face meeting with the king of Israel.
42. As she arrives at Solomon's tent she carries with her a soul which is concentrated on her right man. The Shepherd's presence in her soul will serve her as a FLOT line of problem-solving devices.

SOS1:6 - [SW] "Do not stare at me because I am dark, for the sun has burned my skin. My brothers burn with anger for me; they made me keeper of the wine vineyards but I have not taken care of my own sexual vineyard."

SOS 1:7 - [SW] "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves ..."

1. Here the Shulammitte appeals in her thoughts to her Shepherd Lover and identifies him as one whom her soul loves.
2. Identification of one's right person occurs in the soul. The physical attracts but compatibility is the result of soul harmony which is manifest by the contentment of soul enjoyed by two individuals whether together or apart.
3. Soul rapport is the constant attraction of one person toward another drawn together as if one unit. This is the union of two souls held together by the mutual affinity of one person for another of the opposite sex.



4. In marriage the sexual life of these two people becomes a ritual commemorating this union of souls.
5. What the Shulammite expresses is not libido. Libido is the desire for sex due to what Paul refers to as “burning” in:
1 Corinthians 7:9 - If they [the unmarried and widows (v. 8)] do not have self-control [οὐκ ἐγκρατεύομαι, *ouk enkrateuomai*], let them marry, for it is better to marry than to burn [πυρώ, *puroō*].
6. The phrase “do not have self-control” is introduced by the negative particle *ouk* followed by the verb *enkrateuomai* and refers to “lack of self-restraint.”