



You Can Only Recall What You Can't Forget, SOS 3:1; Principles from the Doctrine of Love: Four Categories: (1) Reciprocal, (2) Romantic: Attraction Stage

15. From this we see a comparison between the believer under pressure from the temptations of *cosmos diabolicus* while trying to remain focused on the Lord and His mandates and doctrines.
16. Solomon represents the devil's world and functions as an *agent provocateur* for Lucifer who is the ruler of this world. The Shulammite illustrates the believer who is under assault from the Dark Side. And the Shepherd is identified with Jesus Christ and the commandments that He has implored us to keep, "If you love Me keep My commandments."
17. Her failing efforts to concentrate on her Shepherd cause her to remember a similar occasion during her courtship with him. It was an occasion when she was residing in the same community with him, we assume Shunem but possibly elsewhere.
18. When a romantically involved woman is lonely and memory fails to sustain her under pressure then she desperately desires to be with her right man. Thus her memory center recalls another time when she was lonely and sought out the Shepherd so she could be with him physically rather than just mentally.
19. This brings us to Chapter 3 as the Shulammite's aria continues:

Song of Solomon 3:1 - [SW] "On my bed night after night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him but did not find him."

1. Under pressure it is the doctrine that you can recall, that you can't forget, that enables you to endure the moment. If fear and panic trump memory then you are handicapped in your ability to manage the crisis.
2. The Shulammite is endeavoring to recall all that she can about her right man in an effort to sustain her deference to him and to him alone.
3. We must depend on the doctrines we know in order to efficiently execute the Christian way of life. We must avoid the frustration that comes from being unable to recall those doctrines we know when faced with life's dilemmas.
4. The Shulammite is struggling to maintain her concentration before Solomon's advances. This results in a vector that stimulates recall of similar experiences she had in the past.
5. On these occasions she would retire for the evening and indulge in a ritual she practiced before going to sleep. She would recall her Shepherd and enjoy her memories of times spent with him.
6. However, there came a point when she sought the memory of the one her soul loved but she could not clearly recall his appearance. In other words, her desire to be physically with him was greater than her ability to remember.
7. This situation was inspired by a disposition of forlornness— dejection, woe, and listlessness— due to her separation from the Shepherd whom she describes as "him whom my soul loves."
8. This is an expression of soul rapport that is unique to the right man-right woman relationship. There are four categories of love that are expressed by the human soul: Category 1: **Reciprocal** love for God; Category 2: **Romantic** Love for one's right person, Category 3: **Subjective** love for friends, and Category 4: **Familial** love of parents for children and children for parents.



9. The phrase “whom my soul loves” emphasizes category 2 and is said by the Shulammite in Song of Solomon 1:7, and once each in the first four verses of chapter 3. This statement is biblical documentation of the soul rapport that exists between right people and is unique to one man and one woman and usually culminates in marriage. It also illustrates the believer’s occupation with Christ.
10. True Category-2 romantic love begins in the soul not the body. They occur in tandem. Soul love must precede sexual love and therefore we must stop and examine principles from the Doctrine of Love.

Principle from the Doctrine of Love

1. There are four general categories of love:

- (1) **Category 1** is Reciprocal love for God that is conditional. To have virtue such love must be directed toward a perfect object. God is trusted to be Who and What He asserts Himself to be in the Bible. We thus place our faith in the validity of His divine attributes, concluding them to be consistent, unalterable, and eternal without reference to our attitudes, decisions, or behavior. God is perfect in each of His attributes. His perfect sovereignty makes Him the perfect Ruler of all creation both in heaven and in the universe. His perfect righteousness includes perfect standards that are unalterable absolutes by which His perfect justice is executed. His love toward us is perfect in its expression and function. His eternal life sustains the everlasting function of His attributes. He has perfect power to execute all that He determines. He has perfect knowledge of all that is knowable. He has perfect perception of all events through omnipresence. His Person, attributes, promises, and revelations are unalterable and inerrant due to his immutability. The content of His revelations to us is the expression of absolute truth regarding the veracity of their content.
- (2) **Category 2** is Romantic love between right man and right woman. It originates in the soul through a process of physical attraction, followed by compatibility of personalities, and finally the rapport of souls.

Attraction emphasizes the physical appeal of the man and woman for each other. It also stresses personality and the fulfillment of one’s personal standards regarding the desirability of a member of the opposite sex.

The attraction stage is both an exciting time of discovery and a dangerous time of emotional blindness. Physical and personality attributes may camouflage undesirable dispositions, attitudes, and ideologies. Such was the case for Solomon.

Emphasis on a man’s visible attributes often causes a woman to assume that his virtue, integrity, honor, and character are just as pleasing. The man can have the same misconception of the woman.

The danger is found in making such assumptions in the attraction stage and then getting married. Marriage is a problem-manufacturing machine. The baggage each brings into the marriage is quickly discovered and the visible attributes that led to attraction are replaced by those that lead to incompatibility of souls.

These undiscovered characteristics come into conflict with each other and include spiritual, philosophical, fiscal, ideological, cultural, moral, ethical, and behavioral differences. Those who marry on the emotion of physical attractiveness and then discover areas of conflict such as these usually find themselves in divorce court.

Two of the best ways to guard against such a surprise is first, never consider marriage in the attraction stage and second, make sure you are on the same page spiritually and that both of you are growing spiritually. This could lead you to the second stage of romance.