

Love, Marriage and Human Sexuality: An Exposition of Song of Songs and a Review of the PCA Study Report on Human Sexuality
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Worksheet #2: Challenges to Relationships – Marriage, Sin and Shame

- I. Shame
 - A. A feeling of being alone or outside of community.
What are areas in which you don't feel accepted by another?
Consider Proverbs 10:5; 12:4; 19:6
 - B. Shame as distinct from Guilt
 - C. Shame may be caused by something we do or by something that has been done to us.
 - D. Shame disables our intimacy
- II. Marriage
 - A. Shame in our Marriage
Consider Genesis 2:18
 - B. Intimacy which prevents shame
Consider Genesis 2:25
 - C. Belonging to Community
Consider 1 Corinthians 12
- III. Song of Songs Authorship
 - A. Is this Solomon's story?
 - B. Is this Solomon's intrusion?
 - C. Is this an idealized picture between a man and a woman

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Are there ways that you do not feel accepted by the Church? If so, have you shared these feelings with others?
- 2) Why do we bring shame into our closest relationships?
- 3) How do Solomon's sinful patterns caution us in our marital relationships?

Additional Resources on Shame:

- 1) Perfecting Ourselves to Death by Richard Winter
- 2) Shame Interrupted by Edward Welch
- 3) Shame and Grace by Lewis B. Smedes