



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Biblical Romance: The Design for Intimacy – Part 1

Guest(s): Tommy Nelson

Air Date: October 13, 2021

[Listen to the broadcast](#)

Dr. James Dobson: Well, greetings everyone and welcome to Family Talk. I'm your host, Dr. James Dobson. I think I've shared with you before that my lovely wife, Shirley and I have been married for a long time. Can you believe that? Because we're still so very, very young, but our relationship is more solid now than it's ever been before. But you know what, during our dating days, we were just learning to love each other. And we bumped along like two selfish people often do. We dated together for three and a half years before falling head over heels in love. And by the time we were married, we'd built a solid foundation.

Would you like to know how to do that? Would you like you some suggestions on building a firm foundation of love? Well, I'm not going to provide that for you, but I've brought a message that I think will be helpful to you. The programs we're going to hear today and tomorrow are among the most popular recordings we have ever put on the air. And it was that way when we first aired it many years ago, but it has stood the test of time.

The speaker is Reverend Tommy Nelson, pastor of the Denton Bible Church in Denton, Texas. He's been a pastor for more than 40 years and he's a wonderful preacher. He's also my friend. On this occasion, when this message as recorded, Reverend Nelson built his sermon on the Song of Solomon and every marital couple and every dating couple should hear this biblical message. And I'm anxious to share it with you. With that, here is Reverend Tommy Nelson as he opens the Word, the Song of Solomon and provides analysis and exposition that I think you will find very helpful. Here is the Song of Solomon.

Tommy Nelson: Dating is a pain and can be a painful thing. But actually, if you want to get kind of specific about it, it's not so much dating as it is the phenomenon when dates stack up in the same person and you evolve into that institution that is known as courtship. You see, a bad date, cost you a little time, money and an annoyance, but courtship, when you have a bad courtship, that costs you a little bit of your soul. It's kind of like if you were to see somebody on a subzero day taking their tongue and putting it to a flag pole, and you would say, friend, that is an ill-designed and an uncommon union. And you're not going to get out of that without leaving a little part of you on that flag pole. Well, that's kind of what courtship is. When you start dating the same person over and over and over,

you may not do it like the quiet man with John Wayne coming in and having your formal proposal.

But when you date the same person, you're into courtship, be it in Dallas or in Victorian England. You're into courtship. Now, dating takes a little bit of time and a little bit of politeness. Courtship is a different animal altogether, and it takes all kinds of sensitivity. You can't go too shallow or you're frustrated. You can't go too deep, too fast, or too far, or you destroy it. Courtship takes great flexibility. It takes tenderness, sensitivity. It takes holiness. Courtship really is just what the word says, to treat somebody in a courtly manner is to treat them like they were a prince or a princess to bring them to your way of thinking and to trust you.

When you date a young lady and you court her, you treat her in a certain way that she'll want to spend the rest of her life with you. You treat a young man in your words, your responses, your actions so that he's convinced about you and he wants to spend the rest of his life with you. Courtship takes you intentionally to marriage. Dating is observation. Courtship is depth. Dating is marketing. Courtship is the close, if you know what I'm saying. Now, to have a good courtship, four things have to occur in dating. The number one thing you have to do in dating is you have to have the wisdom to properly evaluate the character of the person that you were now going to court.

In other words, what you see is what you get. In other words, you are courting what they are, not what they are not and you have to be willing to live in courtship with the character, the standard of righteousness, and also the personality. If you're going to court somebody, you're saying that I've evaluated them in dating. And if it's a quiet person in dating, you can't court and then marry and make them noisy. If it is a fellow who has the sensitivity of a stomach pump in dating, you can't try to court with this fellow and marry him and think you're going to change him. Women have been trying it for forever and it will not work. It is the job of the Holy Ghost to transform, not yours. And so you have to have the wisdom like this couple did to properly evaluate that person that you have dated, that you intend to go to courtship. All right? The standard of moral righteousness and the personality. You got to be willing to live with.

Secondly, you got to have consistency in dating. I see all of these couples that fight in dating and fall in and out of dating and break up and get back together. So they say, "Look, it ain't going to work too well. Let's get married. "We're not bench pressing 70 pounds. Let's stack 350 on the bar. We can't get along in four hours a day, let's commit until we're 90 and never leave the house. Not wise.

Folks, your dating relationship should be easy. You should be able to negotiate it. You should have the same standard of moral uprightness and you should be able to live with the kind of person God has made and has given you. So I've never seen a good courtship from a dating that breaks up, breaks out, and then gets back together. You just can't do it.

Thirdly, this is a biggie. In dating, you have to have the sensitivity of communication. This is where most specifically girls get hurt. And here's what I mean. Anybody read Dave Barry this week in the Dallas Morning News, great article. He said, women are reaching for a relationship. He said, "Men shy from responsibility, said if a man was a chicken breast and you put him in the microwave in July, he wouldn't be ready at Thanksgiving." Men shy away from that kind of commitment.

Fellas, when you've taken her out five, six times, then you've got to sit down with her and say, "You know, I want you to know. I don't know if you're the girl that God has for my life or whether you would want to be, but I know this, you're certainly the type of woman that I would want to spend my life with. And I so enjoy spending this time with you. And I would like to ask you if I could keep taking you out as to whether I can fall completely in love with you and you can be my wife. And I want you to know that if you would like to back out of this, you owe me nothing but honesty. You have been nothing but upright with me."

And then here's the key. This'll get her right here, right. Then you say this, you say, and "If I'm not the fellow, not only do you need to leave me, but I'll pray and find the guy that you should marry." That'll work. You see what I'm saying? And in the same way, fellas, if you're taking this girl and she's a wonderful friend, but it doesn't want to go any deeper, then you need to say, and girls, you need to give him the freedom to say. And incidentally, guys, always give a girl an out. At this point I would hate to be a woman. Women don't like messing on guys all the time and just putting them down. I said to my wife, I would hate to be a woman and always have some knucklehead like us, kind of, and what do you say to him? Nah, get out. Or why don't you die or something like that. How does a woman graciously drop a guy off? That's a hard thing to do. Always give a girl the option to say, you tell me no, and I'll go away.

And the same way, fellas, if you're taking a girl out and she's a wonderful girl, but you don't see it going any place, you need to say, "You're a wonderful person. I so enjoy. Just spending time with you as a friend, I don't see my heart going any place." And girls, that may not make you happy or excited, but nevertheless, he's being honest with you. And I see more couples get hurt from bad communication and the lack of it. Somebody has got to talk and listen, I have this done to me and I know it can be done. Maple Street Dorm, 1972. A girl sat with me and said, she was a Christian girl. "I so enjoy spending this time with you, however." She was sharp. She said, "I would feel such a peace if God were to take us now in different ways." And it didn't take Forrest Gump too long right here to figure this out. God gives peace when I'm not around. All right, I see what you're saying. But she was able to do it. So you got to talk. Are you with me? This is good stuff.

Now on this couple did this in their dating. The couple had wisdom of evaluation. They had sensitivity and communication and they got along. They had consistency. And the other big one is you have got to have patience in letting the relationship go on. Don't escalate a relationship too quick. How do

you escalate a relationship too quick? One way is couples share too much, too deep, too fast. You go to Denny's and you spend from seven to two on the first date. And the guy just goes and just lets everything out in his entire life. And sometimes you can bind too quick on that. Another way is how can you say this, keep your hands off each other. You know what I'm saying? Sometimes you get your hands too fast on somebody. It's like those kids at the mall and energies coming off of them like bug zappers, where they're walking around with each other in the mall and you know they're playing with fire.

Especially guys, you don't go kissing on some woman before you're willing to be responsible to hold her heart. And so be careful at taking it too deep. And fellas, good word. Whenever a girl says, thanks, but no thanks or whenever a girl shows any inclination, here's a great verse for you. "Do you see honey? Eat what you need lest you eat too much and vomit it up." Next verse. "Let your foot not be often in your neighbor's house lest he come to despise you." Those two verses are put right next to each other to show that a good thing is good, but too much of a good thing, when you become a bore can make people hate you.

Now, once those are established, let's take a look at chapter two. In verse eight, we're in a new day and this couple that has dated with wisdom and success and consistency and sensitivity and piety and restraint. Now, let's see what a man should feel in a good courtship. Verse eight. "Listen my beloved, behold, he is coming climbing on the mountains, leaping on the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag." And in verse seven, she is called a young doe, gazelle. Behold, he is standing behind our wall. He's looking through the windows. He is peering through the lattice. This man is pictured as a stag and he draws, he runs and he leaps on the mountains to get closer to this woman. He is excited This is what a man should feel, and a woman also, in a relationship that is going into courtship.

Time should not dwindle. Time kindles this relationship. That's why one of the greatest test of a relationship is the separation test, when you're away from each other. Is it out of sight out of mind, or do you feel like a young stag wanting to get closer and closer to her? Look at something else. Verse 10, what period, girls can answer this so well. What period of the year are we in here, ladies? Verse 10. "My beloved responded and said to me arise, my darling, my beautiful one and come along for winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers have already appeared in the land. The time has arrived for pruning the vines. The voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. The fig tree has ripened. The vines and blossom have given forth fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one and come along." Ladies, what period are we in? Yeah. It's time for growth. It's spring time and summer that we've moved into. That's the second thing that a relationship should produce is life.

How many times have you seen singles begin to date that are spiritual, godly people, and once they get to date, their spiritual relationship goes down and there is not life produced. There's guilt and anger, they disappear from church. They disappear from Bible study. The guy's worried about her. He doesn't read

his Bible. That's why not just the separation test, but the time test. Time should produce life. When I was with my wife, fellas, I wanted to read my Bible more to keep up the pace, to be able to mirror at this woman. I met her in a prayer group at Campus Crusade for Christ when she was heading the prayer group for an illusionist named Andre Cole, that was coming. And I was the MC and I met this woman and I wanted to walk close with God just to be with her. And if I hadn't shown up in church, if I had of dropped out, if I had acted immorally to her, I'm convinced Teresa would have dropped me like a hot rock as she should of. What are two things you should feel? You should feel desire and you should feel life by being around this person.

Verse 14. Now what's something that you do? Watch this. "Oh, my dove in the clefs of the rock in the secret path or place of the steep pathway. Let me hear your voice. Your voice is sweet and your form is lovely." Fellas, what kind of position is this girl in? She is an innocent dove up in the clefs of a rock in the steep pathway back there. Solomon thought that he knew her in dating, but he didn't. And now she's coming out and, guys, to a dove and the clefs of the rock, there's nothing more frightening than a man's hands. And this girl is back there and she slowly and surely coming out. And this is the way it's going to be in courtship.

Fellas, how does Jesus Christ love your girl to be? Ephesians five, "He has washed her by the washing of water with the word to present to himself the church and all her glory. Having no spot nor wrinkle, nor any such thing. There is no spot so nasty that He cannot get it out." See, also, Paul, the murderer, David, the adulterer, Mary Magdalene, the prostitute, Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He can forgive anything. And there is no wrinkle, that's something that's hidden. There are some things in your life that only you and God, an offended person and your mate to be will know. And if you forgive like God forgives, there's no wrinkle, there's no hidden thing that you can't forgive.

You talk and you cry. And fellas, if you've got a girl that in some of these girls have been hurt so deeply and when a man puts his hands out, they're going to instinctively go back in the steep place. When she tells you of how she has been hurt, of what she's been through, many of them have immorality they have been through. Let me tell you, you're going to want to take that girl and hold her so close to you. You're going to love her so deeply that your thought is going to be, "Sweetie, you are never going to be hurt again. You're with a man that's going to treat you with such kindness and such dignity and such love and with such gentleness. And in the same way, girls, you're going to look at him and say, "You're going to find all of your needs satisfied in me. You will never ever get defiled again." So you talk.

You know what the next way you're going to find out about your mate is the inevitability of time. You're going to stumble onto things. I remember. I'm not a really good pathfinder. I get lost easily. My wife is Daniel Boone. She never gets lost. I kid you not. On one occasion we were driving around. And I was in a place and I said, "Where are we?" And Teresa went "There's our backyard right

there." Honest. She can find her way anywhere. I can't find my place no place. When we were dating early on I and my dear sweet wife to be, my dear precious dove. She and I would go to speak in the metroplex area. And whenever I would get kind of lost, I would do the obvious thing you would do to find your way around.

I would look for a water tower with the high school mascot on it. And I knew if it was a fighting farmer or if it was a Grand Prairie, whatever, where I was. Okay, smart guy. And I, one time I got mixed up and I said, "I don't know where we are" and went in and I said to the 7-11 guy, I said, "Where am I? Is this a Lewisville?" He said, "No, you're an Irving." I went out and I said, "Teresa, we're in Irving. We're going to be late." I thought that was so funny. And she looks at me with these eyes and she ain't laughing. And I found out some things about my wife and I found out little things that still today I discover about her. My wife is of the gene of species what is called Pakus Ratum.

She saves everything. We have boxes of hair from the shower. I ain't kidding. Not really. But that's the way she is. Me, I love to clean house. I take a trash can bag and I clean like Sherman did Atlanta. Everything's gone. I've thrown away paychecks. I've thrown away bills, everything. She don't think that's funny. Can you imagine? And she and I sometimes do this. You're going to inevitably learn things.

Dr. James Dobson: I hope you enjoyed part one of Tommy Nelson's sermon through Song of Solomon here on Family Talk. You know, we care about you and we'd love to help you through the ups and downs of marital life. If there's anything we can do for you, I wish you would contact us. Let us know, let us know how we can pray for you. If today's message has encouraged you, I would love to hear about it. You can write me a letter and send it to 540 Elkton Drive. That's E-L-K-T-O-N Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907. If you're able to contribute to our ministry, you can do so securely online at drjamesdobson.org or by calling toll free (877)732-6825. That number again is (877)-732-6825.

I'm so grateful for your continued support and prayer for our ministry. And don't forget to hear the second half of Reverend Tommy Nelson's analysis of the Song of Solomon, that's tomorrow right here on Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.

Roger Marsh: For over 40 years Dr. Dobson has been working to support the institution of the family. During that time he's authored over 50 books, written hundreds of articles, broadcast thousands of radio shows and produced many videos and films. Over the past few years, we've been busy digitizing and organizing Dr. Dobson's entire life's work to create a comprehensive library. And now you can personalize the Dobson digital library as your own. Getting started is easy. Want to find out ways to encourage your strong-willed child, or perhaps you want to add some more romance into your marriage. Simply tap into the search bar. Thousands of related articles, broadcasts, books, and videos are at your

fingertips. Want even more? You can save your favorite resources to your personal library by creating an account. We even give you the ability to save resources to view later.

Like what you find? We make it easy to share with those you care about. It's as simple as that. Search, save, and share. With the Dobson Digital Library, thousands of resources on parenting, marriage, faith, and culture are at your fingertips. Getting started is only one click away.

Dr. Tim Clinton:

Hi, this is Dr. Tim Clinton for the James Dobson Family Institute. Are you leaving a lasting and godly legacy? When you think about your family after you're gone, are you worried about them or are you competent they'll hold on to what you've taught them? At the Dobson Family Institute, we're committed to helping you understand the importance of passing on your faith, not only to your children, but your children's children too. Check out drjamesdobson.org today for helpful hints, tips, and advice to help make this happen. Remember this, your legacy matters, don't waste it.