

LOVESICKNESS

Request: I was surprised to experience lovesickness as a grown adult. I had experienced it as a teen and thought of it as part of first love. Does the Bible talk about lovesickness?

There are many forms of sickness such as homesick, carsick, seasick, lovesick, even heaven sick.

(Phil. 1: 23) “But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.” These can be experienced at any age.

To answer your question, the Bible does mention lovesickness in the Song of Solomon (SOS 2:5; 5:8).

The word lovesick consists of two Hebrew words (achabah) [love] and (chalah / kal ptc) [sick]

“Sustain (samak / piel pf) me with raisin cakes, refresh (raphad / piel impv) me with apples, because **I am lovesick.**” (2:5) This was a natural remedy for the physical problems associated with lovesickness.

This lesson will study Five aspects of Lovesickness.

1. Lovesickness is not related to age, but rather to romance of the heart.

It is part of the early stages of romantic love.

- It is part of the early stage of romance known as infatuation love -“You have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes.” (SOS 4:9) When the young of age experience it, we refer to it as puppy love.
- It is part of the early stage of intimacy interest.
- It is part of the early stage of commitment interest.
- It is part of early stage of becoming pre-occupied with a special person in the soul. Some of the experiences of it are sound, sight, and smell oriented toward this person – “On my bed night after night I sought him whom my soul loves.” (SOS 3:1/ day and night dreaming)

2. Lovesickness is part of the initial and immature stage of romance.

Romantic interest’s needs to move from self-centered interests to couple interest without threats, bullying, or engaging in tradeoffs. Romantic interests need to develop without emotional love gimmicks.

A maturing romantic relationship needs to move from **I love you to I love YOU**. It is important to wait for this transition before committing to exclusiveness. You will regret making infatuation love as the basis for exclusive love relationship.

Infatuation love is the uncommitted stage of “let’s get to know each other and let’s see where it goes.” You definitely need to apply 1 Cor.7:18-7:2 by means of the faith cycle to this relationship.

3. There are four progressive periods of romantic love in the American culture.

- Infatuation love that occurs during dating period.
- Exclusive love that occurs during courtship period.

These romantic interests usually move from attraction to passionate attachment within a period of 18-30 months. This is more physical intense. But it should always be spiritually intense.

- Monogamous love that occurs during engagement period.
- Cleaving love that occurs during marriage period.

These romantic interests move from passion attachment to companion love. This is more psychological intense. But it should always be spiritually intense

The first three periods are for only soul touching among Christians (1 Cor.6: 18-7:2). The idea is to development soul compatibility under the filling indwelling of Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-25).

“And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.” (1 Cor.7:35)

The devil tries to destroy marriage (DI#2) or the principle of marital cleaving by building scar tissue during the first three periods (Prov.5: 9-11; 6:32; 1 Cor.6: 18-20).

The cleaving love period is designed for both soul and body touching (Gen.2: 18-25; Eph.5: 31; 1 Cor.7: 1-5).

4. Many men like Solomon never move beyond infatuation love for long term intimate relationships. It is bound to fail when it is unable to meet the need of cleaving into ONE (Eph.5: 31).

It results in a need to move from woman to woman never able to settle down with one. He gets hooked on the high intensity of infatuation love as the standard for love - a big mistake! It is the immature stage of love. It focuses primarily on ecstasy and self-interests.

You can see it at work in Solomon as tries to woo the Sullamite woman in SOS 1:5-11. Note his response (1:8-11) to her remarks (1:5-7) and you will see what she would have to contend with all her life if married to Solomon. She attempts to get rid of him politely. But he isn't interested in listening to her wishes and needs. He believes he knows what she needs more than she does – “To me, darling, you are like my mare among the chariots of Pharaoh.” (1:9)

He uses pet names for his conquest like his pet animals. He will later call her names that are not kind. He compares the women in his life with other prized possessions. He compares them with the things that he believes have been designed for his pleasure. He is looking to add another trophy to his stable of through-bred harem. At the present time he had 60 wives and 80 concubines (6:8) and was trying to add the Sullamite woman to his list – “But my dove, my perfect one, is unique.” (6:9).

These types of men see women as slot machines that with a small investment they can hit the big jackpot.

5. However, Solomon has met a spiritual mature believer in the Sullamite woman. She dominates twice as much of the story as Solomon. God spotlights her (2:7; 3:5; 8:4).

She understands how important it is to guard the affections of her heart from all lovers except for the one in marriage – “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Prov.4:23)

How do you guard the affections of your heart? “Do not let them (bible doctrine) out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.” (Prov.4:21-22; 1 John 2:5-6; 3:20)