

SONG OF SOLOMON

THE GREATEST
song



A person with their back to the camera, wearing a white lace-patterned t-shirt, sits on a dark ledge. They are looking out over a city at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, and the city lights in the distance are blurred into bokeh. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat melancholic.

BITTERNESS

love

A woman once said that a man is like
a deck of playing cards... you need:



A Heart to love him



A diamond to marry him



A club to hit him



A spade to bury him

I had put off my garment; how could I put it on?
I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?

(Song of Solomon 5:3 ESV)

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me— Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her. “Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”

(Song of Solomon 6:4-10 ESV)

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me—

Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her. “Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”

(Song of Solomon 6:4-10 ESV)

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me—
Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her. “Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”

(Song of Solomon 6:4-10 ESV)

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem, awesome as an army with banners. Turn away your eyes from me, for they overwhelm me— Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead. Your teeth are like a flock of ewes that have come up from the washing; all of them bear twins; not one among them has lost its young. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil. There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, pure to her who bore her. The young women saw her and called her blessed; the queens and concubines also, and they praised her. “Who is this who looks down like the dawn, beautiful as the moon, bright as the sun, awesome as an army with banners?”

(Song of Solomon 6:4-10 ESV)

I went down to the nut
orchard to look at the
blossoms of the valley,
to see whether the vines
had budded, whether
the pomegranates were
in bloom. Before I was
aware, my desire set me
among the chariots of
my kinsman, a prince.

(Song 6:11-12 ESV)



I went down to the nut
orchard to look at the
blossoms of the valley,
to see whether the vines
had budded, whether
the pomegranates were
in bloom. **Before I was
aware, my desire set me
among the chariots of
my kinsman, a prince.**

(Song 6:11-12 ESV)



Return, return, O
Shulammite, return,
return, that we may
look upon you.
Why should you look
upon the Shulammite,
as upon a dance before
two armies?

(Song 6:13 ESV)





How beautiful are your
feet in sandals, O
noble daughter! Your
rounded thighs are like
jewels, the work of a
master hand.

(Song 7:1 ESV)



Your **navel** is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your **belly** is a heap of wheat, encircled with lilies. Your two **breasts** are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. Your **neck** is like an ivory tower. Your **eyes** are pools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your **nose** is like a tower of Lebanon, which looks toward Damascus. Your **head** crowns you like Carmel, and your flowing **locks** are like purple; a king is held captive in the tresses.

(Song of Solomon 7:2-9 ESV)



How beautiful and pleasant you are, O loved one, with all your delights! Your stature is like a palm tree, and your breasts are like its clusters. I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its fruit. Oh may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples, and your mouth like the best wine.

(Song of Solomon 7:2-9
ESV)

It goes down smoothly
for my beloved, gliding
over lips and teeth.
I am my beloved's, and
his desire is for me.

(Song 7:10 ESV)



Come, my beloved,
let us go out into the
fields and lodge in the
villages;

(Song 7:11 ESV)



let us go out early to
the vineyards and see
whether the vines have
budded, whether the
grape blossoms have
opened and the
pomegranates are in
bloom. **There I will give
you my love.**

(Song 7:12 ESV)



The mandrakes give
forth fragrance, and
beside our doors are all
choice fruits, new as
well as old, which I
have laid up for you,
O my beloved.

(Song 7:13 ESV)



Oh that you were like a
brother to me who
nursed at my mother's
breasts! If I found you
outside, I would kiss
you, and none would
despise me.

(Song 8:1 ESV)



I would lead you and
bring you into the
house of my mother—
she who used to teach
me. I would give you
spiced wine to drink,
the juice of my
pomegranate.

(Song 8:2 ESV)



His left hand is under
my head, and his right
hand embraces me!

(Song 8:3 ESV)



I adjure you, O
daughters of
Jerusalem, that you
not stir up or awaken
love until it pleases.

(Song 8:4 ESV)



I went down to the nut orchard to look at the blossoms of the valley, to see whether the vines had budded, whether the pomegranates were in bloom. **Before I was aware, my desire set me among the chariots of my kinsman, a prince.**

(Song 6:11-12 ESV)



Maturing with You





THE REALITY IS WE
MARRIED SINNERS, AND
THAT REALITY MAKES
MARRIAGE HARD.

Bitterness is like a small crack
in the windshield of your relationship.

SONG OF SOLOMON
THE GREATEST *song*

Bitterness is like a small crack
in the windshield of your relationship.
It might look insignificant on the surface,
but left alone it branches out and continues
to split until the glass shatters into a million
pieces.

SONG OF SOLOMON
THE GREATEST *song*



BITTERNESS

**IS A SMALL CRACK IN THE WINDSHIELD
OF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.**

markmerrill.com



**IN YOUR ANGER
DO NOT SIN**

DO NOT LET THE SUN GO DOWN
WHILE YOU ARE STILL ANGRY

(EPHESIANS 4:26)

Let all bitterness, and
wrath, and anger, and
clamour, and evil speaking,
be put away from you, with
all malice:



EPHESIANS 4:31 (KJV)

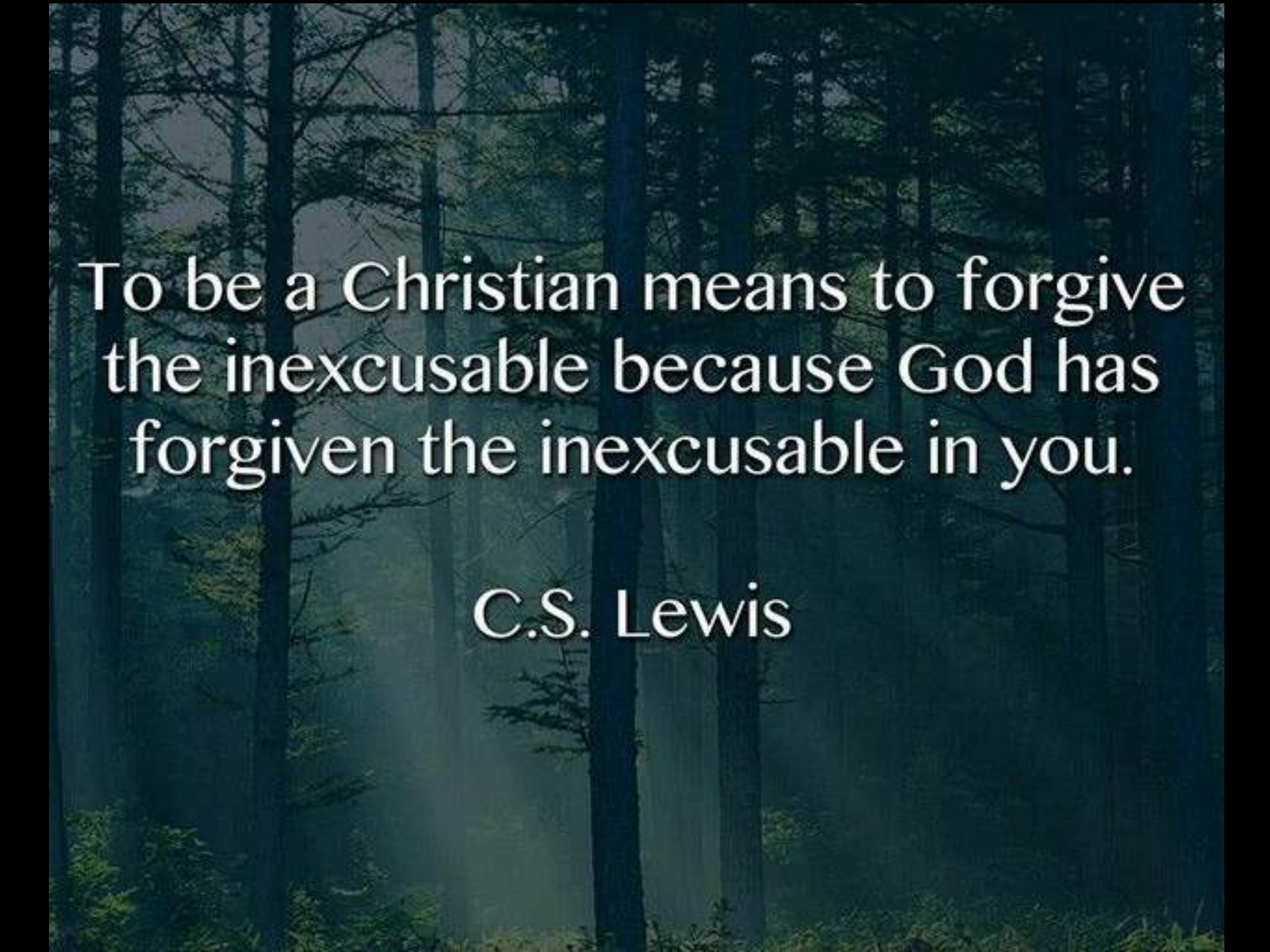


And be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you.

Col 3:13

Ephesians 4:32





To be a Christian means to forgive
the inexcusable because God has
forgiven the inexcusable in you.

C.S. Lewis



Forgiven people
forgive people.

- Max Lucado

*A happy marriage
is the union of
two good forgivers.
~ Ruth Bell Graham*



A black and white photograph of a paved road. In the foreground, the word "FORGIVE" is written in large, bold, black letters on the asphalt. A metal chain is attached to the end of the word, extending to the right. The background shows a road curving into the distance, lined with trees and foliage, which is out of focus. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene.

FORGIVE







God has said,

*Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.*


Hewbrews 13:5



FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT
NOTHING
— CAN —
SEPARATE US
— FROM THE —
LOVE
OF GOD.

ROMANS 8:39





If we confess our
sins, He is faithful
and just and will
forgive us our sins
and purify us from
all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

MARCH 7, 2016

Did You Expect Your Marriage to Be Easy?



11.7K SHARES 

No marriage has ever been easy...

No marriage has ever been easy...

Sin makes marriage hard. Every marriage,
period.

God created marriage to help us enter into the world of what real love looks like.

God created marriage to help us enter into the world of what real love looks like.

God created marriage to show us what His love for us looks like.

Marriage – and all very hard things we experience in this life – are a means God has devised to help us drink deeply of the immeasurable glory of genuine love.

God has called you to show your spouse and others what *God's* love looks like. Not love between sinless people, but grace-filled, patient, and forgiving love. Love like Christ's.