

Song of Solomon 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

Analysis

My dove, my undefiled is but one (אַחַת הִיא יוֹנָתִי תְּמִתִּי)—following the enumeration of many potential lovers, the bridegroom declares his bride is unique. Yonati (יוֹנָתִי, my dove) emphasizes purity, faithfulness, and singular devotion. Tammati (תְּמִתִּי, my perfect/undefiled one) means complete, whole, without blemish—morally and relationally pure. The word achat (אֶחָד, one) stresses both her uniqueness and his exclusive commitment.

She is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her—the bride is her mother's unique treasure, the chosen and favored one. **The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her**—even potential rivals recognize her excellence and bless her. Church tradition saw Christ declaring His Church 'one'—united in Him despite many members (John 17:21-23; Ephesians 4:4-6). Believers are undefiled not inherently but through Christ's cleansing (Ephesians 5:26-27).

Historical Context

The term 'dove' carried rich symbolism in Israel—purity, innocence, faithfulness, and the Holy Spirit. Being called 'the only one of her mother' emphasizes both the uniqueness of the bride and her mother's particular love for her—echoing how God

calls Israel 'my son, even my firstborn' (Exodus 4:22). The fact that even queens and concubines (the multitude just mentioned) praise the bride demonstrates her undeniable excellence. Early church fathers saw the 'one dove' as the catholic (universal) Church—many congregations but one body in Christ. Augustine emphasized that the Church is 'undefiled' because Christ presents her without spot or wrinkle, cleansed by His sacrifice. The Reformation highlighted believers' positional righteousness in Christ—declared 'undefiled' through justification while being progressively sanctified.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does being called Christ's 'one dove, undefiled' transform your identity, especially when you feel unworthy or flawed?
2. What does it mean practically to live as the 'choice one'—chosen and treasured by God Himself?
3. How should the Church's unity ('my undefiled is but one') shape your relationships with other believers, even across denominational lines?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָד is but one H259	הִיא H1931	יוֹנֶת My dove H3123	תִּמְתָּ י my undefiled H8535	אֶחָד is but one H259	הִיא H1931	לְאִמָּהּ of her mother H517
בָּרָךְ הִיא she is the choice H1249	הִיא H1931	לְיוֹלֶדֶתָּהּ one of her that bare H3205	רָא וְהָ saw H7200	בָּנוֹת her The daughters H1323		
וַיֵּאָשֶׁר וְהָ her and blessed H833	מְלָכֹת her yea the queens H4436	וּפִילָגִשׁ יִם and the concubines H6370	וַיְהַלְלוּהָ: and they praised H1984			

Additional Cross-References

Song of Solomon 2:14: O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

Psalms 45:9: Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

Genesis 30:13: And Leah said, Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed: and she called his name Asher.

Song of Solomon 5:2: I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

Galatians 4:26: But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Psalms 126:2: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

Deuteronomy 33:29: Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency!

and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Numbers 23:9: For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

2 Thessalonians 1:10: When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

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