

Song of Solomon 7:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!

Analysis

How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights! (מַה־יָּפִית וּמַה־נָּעֻמָּתְךָ) —the bridegroom exclaims in wonder at the bride's beauty. The Hebrew mah-yafit (מַה־יָּפִית, how beautiful!) and mah-na'amt (מַה־נָּעֻמָּתְךָ, how pleasant!) express emphatic admiration. The word ahavah (אַהֲבָה, love) can be vocative (addressing the beloved as 'O love') or describing the quality of love. Batta'anugim (בַּתְּעֻנוּגִים, in/for delights) emphasizes the exquisite pleasure love brings.

This verse models the biblical pattern of verbal affirmation in covenant relationships. The bridegroom doesn't merely think the bride is beautiful—he declares it enthusiastically and specifically. The exclamatory 'how!' (mah) expresses wonder that doesn't diminish with familiarity. Church tradition heard Christ's voice celebrating His Church's beauty, made lovely through His sanctifying work. The verse teaches that covenant love creates an atmosphere of delight, pleasure, and celebration—not grim duty or mere tolerance.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern love poetry celebrated beauty, but Israel's wisdom tradition connected beauty with covenant faithfulness. The Song presents marital love as God's good gift, meant to be a source of joy and pleasure (Proverbs 5:18-19). The repeated exclamations 'how fair! how pleasant!' reflect Hebrew poetic emphasis through parallelism and repetition. Early church fathers sometimes allegorized 'delights' as spiritual pleasures found in contemplating divine truth. The Puritans,

often mischaracterized as anti-pleasure, actually emphasized that God designed marriage to be delightful, not merely functional. Modern application affirms that Christian marriage should be characterized by mutual delight, generous affirmation, and celebration of the beloved.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When was the last time you expressed enthusiastic, specific appreciation to your spouse or to Christ in prayer?
2. How does this verse challenge the cultural lie that passionate delight fades inevitably with time and familiarity?
3. What 'delights' does Christ find in His Church—and how should this transform your self-understanding as a believer?

Interlinear Text

מֶה	יְפִית	וְמֶה	נָעַמְתָּ	אֵהָבָה	בְּתַשְׁנוּגִים:
H4100	How fair	H4100	and how pleasant	art thou O love	for delights
	H3302		H5276	H160	H8588

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 45:11: So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Song of Solomon 4:10: How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!

Song of Solomon 7:10: I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

Song of Solomon 4:7: Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.

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.

Zephaniah 3:17: The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

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