

Pastor Geoffrey R. Boyle
Wedding for Michael and Samantha Wilker
20 August 2011
Song of Songs 8:6

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit

Dear Sam and Michael,

Today you enter a love song—
not a sappy one, like we used to hear at Fun nights or middle school dances,
you know, Boyz II Men, Backstreet Boys, and All-4-One—
not those, but a real one.

You enter a love song that sings of your love for each other in a way that no one else can sing it.
It's not a song that can be copied, or mass produced—
it's a song just for you, and you alone.

It's a song full of promises—
promises that you'll never leave each other,
that you'll remain faithful,
nourishing and providing for each other,
loving, honoring, and cherishing the other above yourself,
promises that you'll keep each other, in sickness, and health,
in poverty and wealth,
no matter how you find yourselves,
you promise to find yourselves together.

That's the love song you enter today.

Sure, this song has had a prelude—
but it properly begins today.

And while this song is unique to the two of you,
it's also much bigger than you.

You're entering a love song that goes above and beyond your life together.

While marriage is the joining of a man and woman as husband and wife,
it's also your entrance into a much greater love song,
a song that's been sung since the creation of the world!

It's true, your marriage is built on love—
but not the sort of love that's weak and fades.

That's the problem with most love songs today—
they're based only on our feelings of love.

But you both know better than that.
You know that your feelings change.

Sometimes your feelings lie, sometimes they get confused,
 and sometimes they're not even there at all,
 and you'll wonder why?

But the love of your love song isn't based on your feelings alone.

It's based on a true love, a creative love, a redemptive love—
 the sort of love you found as we looked at King Solomon's Love Song.

This book of Scripture is, without doubt, the raciest in the whole Bible!
 It's the sort of book that the ancient Rabbis and Church Fathers would forbid their young
 boys to read until the age of 30!

That being said, it is a very picturesque and romantic love song.

But the love shared between the Lover and her Beloved is even still a love bigger than them.

What stuck out in our reading was the verse that says,
**“Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
 for love is stronger than death, passion is fiercer than the grave.
 Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord”** (Songs 8:6).

The seal upon the heart and on the arm is the seal of everlasting faithfulness.
 For you it looks like a ring, sealing your fingers and proclaiming to the world your love,
 that you are married—
 the lover to the beloved.

And the love in this verse is no feeling, no emotion, no weak or passing thought—
 this love that is stronger than death and fiercer than the grave is an utterly self-giving love.

Sam and Michael,
 this love is the love of God Himself for you.

Like I said before, this True love is creative and redemptive—
 it's the sort of love that went into creating each of you,
 nourishing you on your way and leading you to each other.
 It's also redemptive, that is, redeeming,
 it's love alone that sent the Lord Jesus to the cross on Calvary for you.

That's love—
 our God taking on flesh and blood, and making His way through suffering, cross and
 grave for you!

And as you well know, death couldn't keep this Jesus down.
 On the third day the flashes of God's love for you came forth,
 the stone rolled away, and Jesus rose!

There, and there most fully, is love truly stronger than death—
there, passion is fiercer than the grave.

Sam and Michael,
this is the love song into which you enter today.

It's a song that's bigger than you—
and yet it's a song just for you.

Your love is sealed on your hearts today in a joyful wedding,
a public gathering of friends and family,
and before God Himself with His blessing and His guidance.

Today your love song properly begin—
but it lives and moves and rejoices most fully,
when it joins with the love song of Christ for you.

And when that happens,
your love will be creative and redemptive too!

Creative as the blessings of children come forth—
redemptive as you teach them to love and honor and cherish this Lord,
who loves us even to death and back again.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit