

THE PERFECT CHURCH – LESSON 16 (ABC)

QUESTION

USING THE FOLLOWING VERSES EXPLAIN THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERFECT(MATURE) CHURCH.

1. Song 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth(NKJ)

2. Song 1:2

-- for your love is better than wine.(NKJ)

3. Song 1:4

Draw me away! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will run after you. THE SHULAMITE the king has brought me into his chambers. THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. THE SHULAMITE rightly do they love you.(NKJ)

4. Song 1:5-6

5 I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark, because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept. (TO HER BELOVED)(NKJ)

5. Song 1:7

Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? THE BELOVED(NKJ)

6. Song 2:1-2

1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. THE BELOVED

2 Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. THE SHULAMITE (NKJ)

7. Song 4:1

Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! (NKJ)

8. Song 4:1

You have dove's eyes behind your veil. (NKJ)

9. Song 4:1

Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead.(NKJ)

10. Song 4:2

Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none is barren among them.(NKJ)

11. Song 4:3

Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. (NKJ)

12. Song 4:3

Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate.(NKJ)

13. Song 4:4

Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.(NKJ)

14. Song 4:5

Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies.(NKJ)

15. Song 4:12-15

12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits, fragrant henna with spikenard,
14 Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices--
15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

16. Song 5:2

I sleep, but my heart is awake; it is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."(NKJ)

17. Song 5:7

The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.

18. Song 5:7-8

7 The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.
8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM(NKJ)

19. Song 5:9-16

9 What is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you so charge us? THE SHULAMITE
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand.
11 His head is like the finest gold; his locks are wavy, and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.
13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh.
14 His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires.
15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet, yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM (NKJ)

20. Song 6:1

Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, that we may seek him with you? THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

21. Song 6:3

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies. THE BELOVED(NKJ)

22. Song 6:8-9

8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.
9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.(NKJ)

23. Song 7:1

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, (KJV)

24. Song 7:1

O prince's daughter (KJV)

25. Song 7:1

the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.(KJV)

26. Song 7:2

Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor (KJV)

Song 7:2

Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. (NIV)

27. Song 7:2

thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.(KJV)

Song 7:2

Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.(NIV)

28. Song 8:4

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases (NKJ)

29. Song 8:13

You who dwell in the gardens, the companions listen for your voice-- let me hear it! THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

30. Song 8:14

Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.
(NKJ)

Song 1:1

The song of songs, which is Solomon's. THE SHULAMITE
(NKJ)

SHULAMITE – PERFECT(JACKSON)

This is not the song of a pop star, but the song of songs.

It is written by the wisest man that ever lived - Solomon.

The wisdom of the song is that it reveals not only the relationship between Christ and his church, but the characteristics of HIS PERFECT CHURCH.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERFECT CHURCH.

DESIRE FOR A FACE TO FACE RELATIONSHIP

Song 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth(NKJ)

Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob related to God through a blood-stained altar.

The nation of Israel related to God through Moses.

Exod 20:19

Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."(NKJ)

Later, they related to God through the priest.

The priest related to God through a complex set of rituals. The High Priest could get into the Most Holy Place only on the Day of Atonement.

Daniel related to God through dreams, visions and angels.

The perfect church does not desire dreams, visions, angels, signs, wonders, shadows, events and altars
BUT A FACE TO FACE RELATIONSHIP.

Moses had such a relationship.

Num 12:8

I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the LORD.
(NKJ)

Paul desired an intimate relationship with Him.

Phil 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,(NKJ)

1 Cor 13:12

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.(NKJ)

Rev 22:4

They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.(NKJ)

RECOGNITION OF THE SATISFYING LOVE OF CHRIST

Song 1:2

-- for your love is better than wine.(NKJ)

The human heart craves satisfaction.

We seek this in cars, houses, education, careers etc., but always end up with emptiness.

Wine is rumoured to satisfy. It is the best that this world can offer to satisfy emptiness. A man will sell his house, sacrifice his family, career and vocation for wine – yet he finds out the next day that wine cannot satisfy.

The perfect church, recognises that only the love of Christ can satisfy.

Rom 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.(NKJ)

Rom 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?(NKJ)

Rom 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.(NKJ)

Eph 3:17-19

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--

19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.(NKJ)

REJOICING IN CHRIST

Song 1:4

Draw me away! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will run after you. THE SHULAMITE the king has brought me into his chambers. THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM we will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. THE SHULAMITE rightly do they love you.(NKJ)

The perfect church's joy is in Christ – not in buildings, cars, houses, land, gifts, networks etc.

Phil 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.(NKJ)

Phil 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!(NKJ)

Rev 19:7

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."(NKJ)

THE PASSION FOR CHRIST PROPELS THIS CHURCH.

RECOGNITION OF TARNISHED BEAUTY

Song 1:5-6

5 I am dark, but lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem, like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not look upon me, because I am dark, because the sun has tanned me. My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept. (TO HER BELOVED)(NKJ)

THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR THIS TARNISHED BEAUTY:-

TANNED BY THE SUN

This church has laboured diligently during the day - she has weathered the tribulation of the day.

1 Tim 4:10

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.(NKJ)

John 9:4

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.(NKJ)

MOTHER'S SONS

This is a picture of Cinderella persecuted by her sisters.
False brethren have tarnished the church's beauty.

2 Cor 11:26

in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;(NKJ)

Gal 2:4

And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),(NKJ)

KEEPING SOMEONE ELSE'S VINEYARD

The church's beauty has been tarnished by abuse of purpose. She was involved in human endeavours not ordained by God at the expense of her own call and purpose.

RECOGNITION OF TWO FLOCKS

Song 1:7

Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions? THE BELOVED(NKJ)

There are HIS flock and the flock of HIS companions.

His companions are false shepherds that have stolen the hearts of the sheep. The perfect church has come to recognize these false shepherds.

Acts 20:30-31

30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.(NKJ)

RECOGNITION OF POSITION

Song 2:1-2

1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. THE BELOVED

2 Like a lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. THE SHULAMITE
(NKJ)

The perfect church recognises that she is a lily among thorns.

She maintains her purity in the midst of "an evil and adulterous generation".

Phil 2:15

that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
(NKJ)

Col 1:22

in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--(NKJ)

Matt 10:16

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.(NKJ)

BLOOD-WASHED

Song 4:1

Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! (NKJ)

Divine proclamation of beauty. There is no reason for a damaged self-concept.

1 Cor 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.(NKJ)

Rev 1:5

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,(NKJ)

Isa 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.(NKJ)

FOCUSSED ON CHRIST

Song 4:1

You have dove's eyes behind your veil. (NKJ)

The ability to stay focussed.

This church is focussed on Christ.

Heb 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.(NKJ)

GLORIOUS SUBMISSION

Song 4:1

Your hair is like a flock of goats, going down from Mount Gilead.(NKJ)

Hair is a symbol of glory and subjection. Mt. Gilead was where God ordered Gideon to reduce the size of his army lest the people believe that numerical strength was responsible for their victory.

The glory of the perfect church is not based on numerical strength, but on obedience and subjection.

The glory flows from top to bottom – from God to the people, not from the people to God.

A CHURCH OF FAITH

Song 4:2

Your teeth are like a flock of shorn sheep which have come up from the washing, every one of which bears twins, and none is barren among them.(NKJ)

The teeth are clean, white, evenly matched and nothing is missing. The teeth pictures faith.

Heb 4:2

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.(NKJ)

A GUARDED MOUTH

Song 4:3

Your lips are like a strand of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. (NKJ)

This pictures the speech of the perfect church. It is scriptural, prophetic, edifying, exemplary, courteous and honest.

Josh 1:8

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.(NKJ)

Col 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.(NKJ)

ASHAMED OF SIN

Song 4:3

Your temples behind your veil are like a piece of pomegranate.(NKJ)

This church blushes when she sins. She carries the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:8

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:(NKJ)

VICTORIOUS

Song 4:4

Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an armory, on which hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.(NKJ)

The perfect church stands erect and upright. She holds her head up high in a position of victory. The hanging shields symbolize victorious end of the battle.

The church wears a necklace of victory.

1 Cor 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.(NKJ)

2 Cor 2:14

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.(NKJ)

BREASTS LIKE TWO FAWNS

Song 4:5

Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies.(NKJ)

This pictures the ability to drink from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Many believers are still one-breasted – drinking only from the New Testament.

AN ENCLOSED GARDEN

Song 4:12-15

12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

13 Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with pleasant fruits, fragrant henna with spikenard,

14 Spikenard and saffron, Calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes, with

all the chief spices--

15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

The perfect church is a garden – a well-watered garden – watered by the Word of God. It is not a bush that grows without discipline. There are no thorns, thistles, snakes, vultures or hyenas. It is not a desert or wilderness. It is not a park for entertainment. It is not a jungle.

It has all kinds of fruit(a sign of maturity). The components of the anointing oil and the incense are here.

The perfect church abundantly expresses the fruit and gifts of the Spirit.

There is no barrenness.

The perfect church is an ENCLOSED garden.

It is separated from the world. A wall is built around the garden. Every doorway has been closed. It belongs exclusively to the bridegroom.

The thief can no longer get in to steal or plant his seeds.

DISCONTENT

Song 5:2

I sleep, but my heart is awake; it is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is covered with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."(NKJ)

The perfect church has a heart of discontent. She laments the legitimate weakness of her flesh --the need for sleep because this interrupts her relationship with Christ.

Matt 26:41

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
(NKJ)

She laments her mortality. She sleeps while He neither sleeps nor slumbers.

She desires to be available all the time, but the weakness of the flesh interrupts this relationship. There is a groaning for immortality so that she can be available all the time.

Rom 8:22-23

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now;

23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

(RSV)

PASSION BEYOND UNDERSTANDING

Song 5:7

The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.

She is a late night seeker. She seeks Christ when others are asleep. The watchmen (shepherds) mistake her passion for sin(they think she is a lady of the night) and punish her.

PASSION BEYOND REVENGE

Song 5:7-8

7 The watchmen who went about the city found me. They struck me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took my veil away from me.

8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM(NKJ)

Notice, she does not tell the daughters(other churches) to tell her beloved how she was abused. Her passion for her beloved is beyond her wounds. This overwhelming passion ignores the wounds she received in the house of God.

ATTRACTION TO HIS PERSON

Song 5:9-16

9 What is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you so charge us? THE SHULAMITE
10 My beloved is white and ruddy, chief among ten thousand.
11 His head is like the finest gold; his locks are wavy, and black as a raven.
12 His eyes are like doves by the rivers of waters, washed with milk, and fitly set.
13 His cheeks are like a bed of spices, banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh.
14 His hands are rods of gold set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires.
15 His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, excellent as the cedars.
16 His mouth is most sweet, yes, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem! THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM
(NKJ)

Other churches cannot understand this passion. The immature church does not see the extraordinary beauty of Christ. She describes his person:-

white – sinless

ruddy – blood-stained

chief among ten thousand – unique(Jesus was unique in His birth, ministry, death , resurrection and ascension).

head like finest gold – his deity

black hair – his glory

dove's eyes – his judgements are pure and true

cheeks – speaks of his sufferings

lips - speaks of his testimonies

hands and fingers – speaks of his covenantal nature

body(belly) – speaks of his compassion

legs – his immovability

mouth – his excellent words

The description of his person, reveals that she is attracted to HIS PERSON – TO WHO HE IS RATHER THAN WHAT HE CAN DO.

PROVOKING LIKE-MINDED PASSION

Song 6:1

Where has your beloved gone, O fairest among women? Where has your beloved turned aside, that we may seek him with you? THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

This reveals the allegorical nature of this song. In a human relationship one would want exclusivity. Here the Shulamite provokes others to seek Him.

OWNERSHIP

Song 6:3

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his flock among the lilies. THE BELOVED(NKJ)

The perfect church recognizes her ownership by Christ. This is "bone of bone" relationship.

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

(NKJ)

Heb 8:10

10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
(NKJ)

Rom 9:25-26

25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved."

26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' there they shall be called sons of the living God."(NKJ)

Titus 2:14

who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.(NKJ)

1 Pet 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;(NKJ)

Rev 21:2-3

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.(NKJ)

PERFECT

Song 6:8-9

8 There are sixty queens and eighty concubines, and virgins without number.

9 My dove, my perfect one, is the only one, the only one of her mother, the favorite of the one who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.(NKJ)

The perfection of the church is here declared.

A READY WITNESS

Song 7:1

How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, (KJV)

Eph 6:15

and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;(NKJ)

The perfect church is a ready witness of Christ. The feet with shoes is a symbol of gospel witness – a vigilant preparedness to declare Christ.

Isa 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"(NKJ)

1 Pet 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
(NKJ)

RECOGNITION OF ROYALTY

Song 7:1

O prince's daughter (KJV)

The royalty of the perfect church is recognized.

1 Pet 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
(NKJ)

Rev 1:6

and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen.(NKJ)

Rev 5:10

And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."(NKJ)

BEAUTIFUL LIFESTYLE

Song 7:1

the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.(KJV)

Eph 4:16

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.(NKJ)

The perfect church is a functional church, symbolized by the joints. This is a walking church which is a metaphorical designation of function and beauty in lifestyle(jewel).

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Song 7:2

Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor (KJV)

Song 7:2

Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. (NIV)

This is symbolic of the flowing of the Holy Spirit from the innermost being of a person.

Out of the perfect church comes "blended wine".

EVERY VALID MOVE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT BROUGHT THE CHURCH TO PERFECTION IS REPRESENTED IN THIS CHURCH.

John 7:38

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.(KJV)

WORD CONFIGURATION

Song 7:2

thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.(KJV)

Song 7:2

Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.(NIV)

The waist is symbolic of truth. The belt of truth is applied to the waist(Eph. 6)

The problem with a belt is that it can be taken out.

In the perfect church, perfect truth pictured by "wheat encircled by lilies" is built into the waist of the church. It is a permanent, intrinsic part of the church.

UNINTERRUPTED LOVE

Song 8:4

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases (NKJ)
The perfect church demands an uninterrupted passion for God.
There is no danger of backsliding.

SOUGHT OUT

Song 8:13

You who dwell in the gardens, the companions listen for your voice-- let me hear it! THE SHULAMITE(NKJ)

The voice of the perfect church is sought out by other churches that have not reached this level of passion. There is passion provoked in others to fellowship with the "Shulamite church", for in this relationship there is edification, exhortation and comfort.

As much as others seek to hear the voice of the Shulamite, Christ expresses his desire to hear her voice, her prayer, praise and worship.

Mal 3:16

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name.(NKJ)

READINESS

Song 8:14

Make haste, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.
(NKJ)

The Shulamite church is ready to receive Christ, hence she cries "make haste".

Rev 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.(NKJ)

Rev 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!(NKJ)