



## A Qualitative Approach to Song of Solomon 2:7: The Concept of Patience in Love and its Implications for Young Marriages

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the concept of patience in love as taught in Song of Solomon 2:7 and examine its implications for couples who marry at a young age. Using a qualitative approach, this study relies on hermeneutic methods to interpret the biblical text in depth as well as case studies through interviews with young married couples and theologians who have expertise in the study of the book of wisdom. Data were obtained through an analysis of biblical texts aimed at understanding the meaning of patience in love as well as in-depth interviews to explore how this principle is applied in the real lives of young married couples. The results of the study show that patience has a significant influence on building more stable and harmonious relationships.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### ***The Urgency of Early Marriage in Various Social and Cultural Contexts***

Early marriage is a phenomenon that occurs in various parts of the world, for various reasons, including social, cultural, economic, and religious factors. In some communities, early marriage is seen as part of a tradition and a solution to social problems, such as protection for women, family economic stability, and adherence to religious norms. However, in many cases, early marriage also presents significant challenges, especially in the psychological, educational, and well-being aspects of the couple.

From a social perspective, early marriage is often associated with the emotional and psychological unpreparedness of couples in dealing with the dynamics of married life. Imbalances in understanding responsibility, communication, and conflict management can have a negative impact on the continuity of relationships. In addition, economic factors are also a major challenge for couples who marry young, especially in terms of financial independence and the ability to manage family life without full support from parents.

### ***The Importance of Theological Perspectives in Understanding Early Marriage***

In Christianity, marriage is not just a social institution, but it also has a deep spiritual meaning. Marriage is seen as a union that reflects the relationship between Christ and His church, so it requires readiness not only physically but also emotionally and spiritually. The theological perspective provides an understanding that marriage should be based on wisdom, maturity, and God's will, not just social impulses or cultural demands.

The Book of Psalms is one of the wisdom literatures in the Bible that provides a deep reflection on love, patience, and readiness in relationships. Song of Solomon 2:7 specifically highlights the principle that love has the right time to develop and should not be forced before it is ripe: "*Do not stir up and stir up love before it is desired.*"

In the context of early marriage, this verse has important relevance because it provides the basic principle that relationships need to be based on mature readiness, not just emotional drive or social pressure.

### ***An Initial Discussion of Song of Solomon 2:7 and Its Relevance to Patience in Relationships***

The concept of patience in love taught in Song of Solomon 2:7 affirms that healthy relationships take time to grow and develop naturally. Patience is a crucial element in building a strong marriage foundation, as it allows individuals to understand themselves, their partner, as well as the dynamics of the relationship before making the decision to get married.

In many cases, couples who rush into marriage without careful consideration often face great challenges in understanding each other's emotional and spiritual needs. Patience helps young couples to prepare for long-term commitments more wisely and responsibly.

## **METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative approach, which aims to understand the meaning of patience in love as taught in Song of Solomon 2:7 and examine its implications for young couples who marry early. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the concept of patience in the context of theology and social life.

The two main methods used in this study are:

### ***Hermeneutic Method***

- a. Hermeneutics is used as the primary approach in the analysis of biblical texts, with the aim of understanding the metaphorical meaning of Song of Solomon 2:7.
- b. The analysis was carried out by considering the historical, cultural, and theological context, and comparing various classical and modern interpretations of the verse.

### ***Case Studies***

- a. Case studies were applied in this study to investigate the experiences of couples who married young and how they internalized the principle of patience in love in their marriage journey.
- b. In-depth interviews are conducted with individuals who have first-hand experience or expertise in understanding early marriage from a social and theological perspective.

### ***Data Collection Techniques: Biblical Text Analysis and Interviews***

To obtain comprehensive results, this study used two main techniques in data collection:

#### ***Analysis of the Bible Text***

- a. The text of *Song of Solomon 2:7* is hermeneutically analyzed to understand the essence of patience in love based on the narrative of the poem and the wisdom contained in it.
- b. Comparisons are made with other verses in the Bible that discuss love and marriage to strengthen the understanding of *readiness and wisdom in relationships*.

### ***An Interview with a Theologian and a Young Married Couple***

- a. Interviews were conducted with theologians who have expertise in Bible studies, to understand how this verse can be applied in real life, especially in the context of marriage.
- b. Couples who married young were also interviewed to explore their experiences regarding the role of patience in relationships as well as the challenges they face in early marriage.

### ***Analytical Techniques: An Interpretive Approach to Song of Solomon 2:7 and Correlation with Real Experience***

Once the data is obtained, the analytical techniques used in this study are **interpretive** approaches, which include:

1. Hermeneutic Interpretation of Song of Solomon 2:7
  - a. Elaborate on the metaphorical meaning in the verse and relate it to the teachings on love in other books of wisdom.
  - b. Explain the historical context and theological relevance of this verse for couples considering marriage.
2. Thematic Analysis of Interview Data
  - a. Identify key themes that emerge from interviews with young couples, such as patience, emotional readiness, challenges in early marriage, as well as community support in building healthy relationships.
  - b. The correlation between the insights from the interview and the principle of patience in love as taught in Song of Solomon 2:7.

### ***Validity and Reliability of Data in Theological and Social Studies***

In order for the research to have a high level of validity and reliability, the following steps are implemented:

#### ***Data Triangulation***

- a. Compare the results of the text analysis with the interview to ensure the conformity of the interpretation with the real experience.
- b. Using theological and psychological perspectives to strengthen the analysis of patience in love.

#### ***Consistency of Interpretation***

Use references from theological literature and other academic studies to ensure that the interpretation of Song of Solomon 2:7 remains within the corridor of scientific study.

### **Academic and Practical Reflections**

Align research findings with broader scholarly discussions regarding early marriage and the concept of patience in love in Christian theology.

With this systematic and structured methodology, the research is expected to provide *in-depth understanding, sharp analysis, and applicative recommendations* for young couples and the Christian community in understanding the importance of patience in love before entering married life.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### ***The Metaphorical Meaning of "Don't Awaken Love Prematurely" in the Context of Human Relations***

The verse of *Song of Solomon 2:7* contains a powerful warning about *patience in love*, especially in relation to emotional and spiritual readiness before entering into a deeper relationship commitment.

The phrase *doesn't arouse love prematurely* can be interpreted as an invitation to appreciate the natural process of relationship development and not to rush to make the decision to get married before there is a mature readiness. In the context of human relationships, patience in love allows individuals to:

- a. Get to know yourself before getting into a more serious relationship.
- b. Understand your partner deeply, not only from the emotional aspect but also the character and values of life.
- c. Avoid impulsive decisions, which can lead to imbalances in the marriage due to a lack of preparedness in dealing with domestic challenges.

For young couples who marry early, this verse provides an important principle that marriage should be done with *emotional, psychological, and spiritual maturity*, not just external impulses such as social or economic pressures.

#### ***Patience's Perspective on Relationships as a Biblical Teaching***

Patience in relationships is a theme that often comes up in the Bible and is part of the teachings on wisdom in love.

Some other verses related to *patience in love and relationships* include:

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Love is patient; love is generous; he is not jealous, he is not boastful, and he is not haughty."
- b. Ecclesiastes 3:1 "For everything there is a time, for everything under heaven there is a time."
- c. Proverbs 19:2 "Without knowledge, no craft is good; Whoever is in a hurry will misstep."

These verses affirm that in every aspect of life, including marriage, *patience is a fundamental element* that helps couples in building a stronger foundation of a relationship.

In the context of early marriage, the Bible's teaching on patience provides the principle that relationships *require not only love, but also a willingness to wait, understand, and grow together before making a major decision like marriage*.

#### ***Comparison with the Teachings of Love in Other Books of the Bible***

When compared to other books in the Bible, *the Song of Solomon* offers a unique perspective on love and patience. Some other books that discuss love and relationships between humans include:

- a. Proverbs – Emphasizing wisdom in building relationships and the importance of patience in choosing a life partner (Proverbs 31:10-12).
- b. Ephesians – Teaches that the relationship between husband and wife should reflect the love between Christ and His church, which is based on patience, sacrifice, and faithfulness (Ephesians 5:25).
- c. Ecclesiastes – Reminds that every aspect of life, including marriage, has its own time and should not be forced before there is readiness (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

From this comparison, it can be seen that the concept of *patience in love* is not only a teaching in *the Song of Solomon* but also a principle that is consistent in various other books of the Bible.

Thus, the verse of *Song of Solomon 2:7* not only provides a *warning against impulsivity in love, but also offers a universal principle in human relationships* that can be applied in the context of marriage, especially for young couples who face challenges in building a married life.

### ***Social, Cultural, and Economic Factors That Encourage Early Marriage***

Early marriage is a phenomenon that is influenced by various social, cultural, and economic factors. In many communities, marriages at a young age often occur due to environmental pressures or long-inherited norms.

The main factors driving this practice include:

- a. **Social and Cultural Norms** Many people have the view that getting married at a young age is a tradition that must be maintained. In some communities, early marriage is seen as a way to maintain family honor or as part of a custom that has been passed down from generation to generation.
- b. **Economic Factors** Economic instability and limited access to education are often the main reasons for individuals to marry young. In some cases, families with weak economic conditions see marriage as a way to improve well-being or reduce their financial burden.
- c. **Some religious groups encourage early marriage as part of their teachings, arguing to maintain morality and avoid extramarital relationships. In addition, pressure from family or community can also be a factor that accelerates the decision to get married without sufficient preparation.**

### ***Advantages and Challenges of Young Couples in Building a Family***

Early marriage has a diverse impact on young couples, both in terms of *benefits and challenges*.

#### **Advantages of Early Marriage**

- a. Family life is more stable if the couple has good preparation and is supported by their family and community.
- b. The adaptation period is longer, allowing couples to grow together in facing different stages of life.
- c. Strong social and spiritual support in some religious communities can help couples face the challenges of early marriage.

#### **Early Marriage Challenges**

- a. Emotional unpreparedness is often a major problem, as the couple does not yet have enough experience and maturity to deal with domestic dynamics.
- b. Financial instability, especially for couples who are still in the education stage or do not have a permanent job, which can affect family well-being.
- c. Potential conflict, due to a lack of communication and conflict management skills, can have an impact on marital happiness and resilience.
- d. The risk of divorce is higher, based on several studies that show that couples who marry young are more prone to relationship instability than those who marry after adulthood.

### ***The Church's and Christian Community's View of the Ideal Age of Marriage***

In a Christian perspective, marriage is not just about *physical unity*, but it is also a *spiritual agreement* between two individuals committed to living life together in God's will. Therefore, many churches and Christian communities emphasize the importance of *emotional, psychological, and spiritual readiness* before a person enters marriage.

1. *Views on the Ideal Age of Marriage* Although the Bible does not provide specific age limits for marriage, various churches teach that marriage should take place when the couple has reached *emotional maturity and a sufficient understanding of marital responsibilities*.
2. *Premarital Education as a Solution* Many churches suggest premarital education for couples who want to get married, with the aim of:
  - a. Ensure a firm agreement and understanding of the marital commitment.
  - b. Helping couples prepare for spiritual and emotional life before entering marriage.
  - c. Provide an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of husband and wife based on Bible teachings.
3. *The Principle of Patience in Love as a Guideline*. The concept of patience in love taught in *Song of Solomon 2:7* has become a guideline for many Christian communities in emphasizing the importance of the right time to get married. The Church teaches that true love is not hastily, but grows in *the process of character formation, emotional maturity, and spiritual readiness*.

Thus, the Christian view of early marriage emphasizes that age is not the only determinant of a successful marriage, but that readiness in various aspects of life emotional, psychological, financial, and spiritual becomes a more important element in building a strong and harmonious marriage.

#### ***Benefits of Patience in Building the Foundation of a Healthy Husband-Wife Relationship***

Patience in love is one of the important factors in building a solid and harmonious marriage foundation. This principle not only reflects the emotional and spiritual readiness of the couple before marriage but is also the key in dealing with the dynamics of married life.

Some of the main benefits of patience in building a healthy husband-wife relationship are:

- a. **Increased Emotional Maturity** Couples who live relationships with patience have a greater chance of getting to know each other's characters before marriage. This allows them to develop better communication skills, understand the needs of their partner, and build a stronger foundation of trust.
- b. **More Effective Conflict Management** Marriage is inseparable from conflict, but couples who have built patience in their relationship tend to be better able to manage disagreements in a healthy and constructive way. Patience helps couples in responding to problems more wisely, without rushing to make decisions that can make the situation worse.
- c. **Financial Readiness and Social Stability** Patience also has an impact on financial readiness before marriage. Couples who wait for the right time to get married have a greater chance of preparing for their economic aspects, such as education, career, and family financial management. This economic stability contributes to household well-being and reduces the stress that young couples often experience.

#### ***The Psychological and Spiritual Effects of Postponing Marriage to Adulthood***

Postponing marriage to a more mature age does not mean rejecting the institution of marriage, but rather ensuring that the couple has reached an optimal level of readiness before committing to a domestic relationship.

From a psychological and spiritual perspective, some of the positive effects of postponing marriage include:

- a. **Better Psychological Stability** Research shows that individuals who marry after reaching adulthood tend to have better emotional balance than those who marry young. Factors such as life experience, interpersonal skills, and the capacity to manage stress play an important role in building a more stable marriage.
- b. **Deeper Spiritual Understanding** In a Christian perspective, waiting until the right time to get married allows individuals to better understand their spiritual calling and strengthen their relationship with God. Patience in love teaches the values of perseverance, sacrifice, and wisdom that are foundational in living marriage as part of God's plan.
- c. Studies on marriage show that couples who marry after reaching adulthood have lower divorce rates, as they already have better communication skills, higher economic stability, and stronger emotional capacity to cope with household challenges.

### **Learning from Early Married Couples: Case Studies and Interviews**

To get a more concrete picture of the implications of patience in love for couples who marry young, this study examined case studies and interviews with individuals who had firsthand experience in early marriage. Some of the key findings from this interview include:

- a. **Couples Who Postpone Marriage Experience Fewer Early Conflicts** Many couples who marry early report that they face significant challenges in the first years of marriage due to a lack of emotional and financial readiness. On the other hand, couples who wait until they are older have better adaptability, so early conflicts in marriage can be minimized.

- b. **Patience in Love Affects Marital Happiness** Interviews with couples who have been successful in early marriage show that those who apply the principle of patience before marriage by knowing themselves and their partner deeply have higher levels of marital satisfaction and happiness than those who marry in a hurry.
- c. **Importance of Social Support and Premarital Education** Couples who marry young often have a hard time dealing with major changes in their lives. Case studies show that social support from family and community, as well as adequate premarital education, can assist couples in understanding the principles of patience and preparedness before marriage.

Thus, patience in love not only serves as a theological teaching but also has *real implications in the lives of young couples*, which can help them in building a more harmonious and stable marriage.

### **CONCLUSION**

Dari hasil analisis terhadap *Kidung Agung 2:7*, This research confirms that *patience in love is a fundamental element* in building healthy and sustainable relationships. This verse gives the principle that love should develop in *the right time and with mature readiness*, so that it should not be forced by external factors such as social pressures or cultural expectations.

In the context of early marriage, this study shows that couples who marry young often face *emotional, social, and financial challenges*, potentially affecting the resilience of their relationship. Patience in love, as taught in *Song of Solomon 2:7*, has *positive implications in building the foundation of a husband-wife relationship*, as it allows couples to better understand themselves and their partners before making major decisions in their lives.

In addition, based on interviews and case studies, it was found that couples who postponed marriage to adulthood had *a better level of readiness*, both in psychological and spiritual aspects. Thus, the principle of patience in love contributes to *the continuity of a more harmonious and stable marital relationship*, and helps young couples in facing domestic challenges more wisely.

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