

Waiting: The Song of Songs on Singleness
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IBCD Conference 2016

Time and again, I've listened to Christian undergraduates recount to me how their relationships turned sexual. One thing I never ask them is why. I know why. Because sex feels great, it feels connectational, it feels deeply human. I never blame them for wanting that. Sex is intended to deepen personal relationships, and desire for it is intended to promote marriage.

- Christian sociologist, Mark Regnerus

a) Introduction: Interpreting the Song

b) Song 2:8-17: Waiting

Woman:

⁸ *The sound of my beloved!*
Look, now he comes,
leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹ *My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.*
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
looking through the lattice.

¹⁰ *My beloved speaks and says to me,*
[Man:] *"Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come away,*
¹¹ *for look, the winter rains are past;*
the spring rains have come and gone.
¹² *The blossoms appear on the earth,*
the time of singing has come,
and the sound of the dove is heard in our land.
¹³ *The fig tree ripens its figs,*
and the vines are in blossom, emitting fragrance.
Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come away.

¹⁴ *O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the crannies of the cliff,*
let me see your form,
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet, and your form is lovely."

Woman:

¹⁵ *"Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards,*
for our vineyards are in blossom.

¹⁶ *My beloved is mine, and I am his*
- he who grazes among the lilies.

¹⁷ *Until the day comes to life and the shadows flee, turn around, my beloved,*
like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of Bethel."

- i) “Come Away, my Love!”
- ii) “Not Yet, my Love!”
- iii) The Wisdom of Delaying Sex Until Marriage
- iv) Rules & Reasons
- v) Singleness as Vineyard Tending
- vi) Hope Deferred
- vii) Hope Fulfilled

Additional Resources:

Iain Duguid, *The Song of Songs* (Tyndale OT Commentary: Downer’s Grove, IL, InterVarsity 2015).

Iain Duguid, *The Song of Songs* (Reformed Expository Commentary: Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2016).

A longer audio lecture entitled “Interpreting the Song of Songs” can be found here:
http://media2.wts.edu/media/audio/duguid_9-18-13.mp3

The full series of sermons on the Song can be found at Christarp.com