

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 connective, 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:*

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

<sup>9</sup> *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.*

<sup>10</sup> *My beloved speaks and says to me,*  
[*Man:*] *“Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come away,*  
<sup>11</sup> *for look, the winter rains are past;*  
*the spring rains have come and gone.*  
<sup>12</sup> *The blossoms appear on the earth,*  
*the time of singing has come,*  
*and the sound of the dove is heard in our land.*  
<sup>13</sup> *The fig tree ripens its figs,*  
*and the vines are in blossom, emitting fragrance.*  
*Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come away.*  
<sup>14</sup> *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:*

<sup>15</sup> *“Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards,*  
*for our vineyards are in blossom.*  
<sup>16</sup> *My beloved is mine, and I am his*  
*- he who grazes among the lilies.*  
<sup>17</sup> *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 Bether.”*

- 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](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](http://Christarp.com)