

Growing Healthy Love

Song of Solomon 2

Context: In chapter one, Solomon and the Shulammitte woman express their love for one another and begin strong. Now their relationship must grow and develop.

Main Point: Healthy relationships value God's design, are safe for both partners, and take a lot of work.

To grow healthy love...

1. _____ **an atmosphere of protection (vs. 2:1-3)**
 - A. Solomon is complimentary and protective towards the Shulammitte woman, and she compares him to a rare apple tree.
 - B. She feels completely safe and accepted around Solomon, opening up her heart and life to him.
 - C. Are you a protective apple tree or a "cactus" to your mate? Would the people you have dated say that you are abrasive or sheltering?

2. _____ **awaken love before it pleases (vs. 2:4-14)**
 - A. In verse six, though not clear in English, most all commentaries agree that the Shulammitte is expressing an intense desire to have sex with Solomon.
 - B. Verse seven is a Godly reaction to the desire for sex and balances it with a strong desire to remain obedient to God and stay pure before marriage.
 - C. Are you careful to guard your relationship from sexual immorality? Do you possess a strong desire for obedience to God through purity?

3. _____ **your relationship from foxes (vs. 2:15-17)**
 - A. The foxes are anything that threatens the relationship. It can be lust, miscommunication, lack of time, pride, social media, selfishness, pornography, open sin, etc.
 - B. In any relationship the "vineyard" has to constantly be developed and maintained.
 - C. How diligent are you to protecting your relationship from the foxes? What are you doing this week to cultivate the vineyard of your relationship?