

An aerial photograph of a snow-covered mountain peak, showing the intricate patterns of snow and ice on the slopes. The text is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Real Marriage: An Intimate Friendship

Think about this carefully and honestly: as soon as you marry a X  
real man, you're going to have to learn to let go of certain expecta-  
tions. A real man will be a sinner. A real man *will* have rough edges.  
A real man comes with real weaknesses and with gaps in his knowl-  
edge or ability. If you don't want to be married to a real man — or if  
you're going to resent the unpleasant fact that your husband is real,  
not perfect — then don't get married. When you marry a real person,  
you're going to be sinned against; you're going to be disappointed;  
you're going to be frustrated. That's real life. *REAL Relationships*

My wife and I once met a woman married to a marvelous handy-  
man of our who can fix anything. If he builds a tree house

## Song of Solomon's Threefold Purpose:

1. **Historical:** The Song aims to teach the sanctity and beauty of marriage as God intended it.
2. **Doctrinal:** It affirms monogamous love as God's ideal for mankind and reveals the intense union between lover and beloved.
3. **Christological:** Solomon's love for his bride is a most beautiful illustration of Christ's love for His Church.

- *Norman Geisler*

## He

<sup>14</sup>My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

<sup>15</sup>Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

## She

<sup>16</sup>My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. <sup>17</sup>Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

Song of Solomon 2:14-17 (NIV)



*Little Foxes Are the Little Sins of Marriage*

A marriage full of **Attention**, **Affirmation**, and **Affection** keeps out little foxes.

# Real Marriage Requires Attention

<sup>14</sup> My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. <sup>15</sup> Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

Song of Solomon 2:14-15 (NIV)

# Real Marriage Requires Attention

## Attention is Multi-Faceted:

1. Listen to Words Spoken and Unspoken
2. Observe Our Spouse's Countenance
3. Discern What's Important to Them In A Given Moment
4. Be Sensitive to the Pressures They're Facing

# Real Marriage Requires Affirmation

<sup>14</sup> My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; **for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.** <sup>15</sup> Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

<sup>16</sup> **My beloved is mine and I am his;** he browses among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 2:14-16 (NIV)





# Real Marriage Requires Affirmation

**Affirmation** means that you're verbally and visually supportive and generous.

# Real Marriage Requires Affection

<sup>15</sup> Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. <sup>16</sup> My beloved is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. <sup>17</sup> **Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.**

Song of Solomon 2:15-17 (NIV)

# Real Marriage Requires Affection

“Our culture says that feelings of love are the basis for actions of love, and of course that can be true. But it is truer to say that actions of love can lead consistently to feelings of love.” - Tim Keller

# Real Marriage Requires Affection

## The Fix:

1. **Resentment** has to be replaced with **refocus**.
2. **Contention** has to be replaced with **encouragement**.
3. **Distance** has to be replaced with **tenderness**.