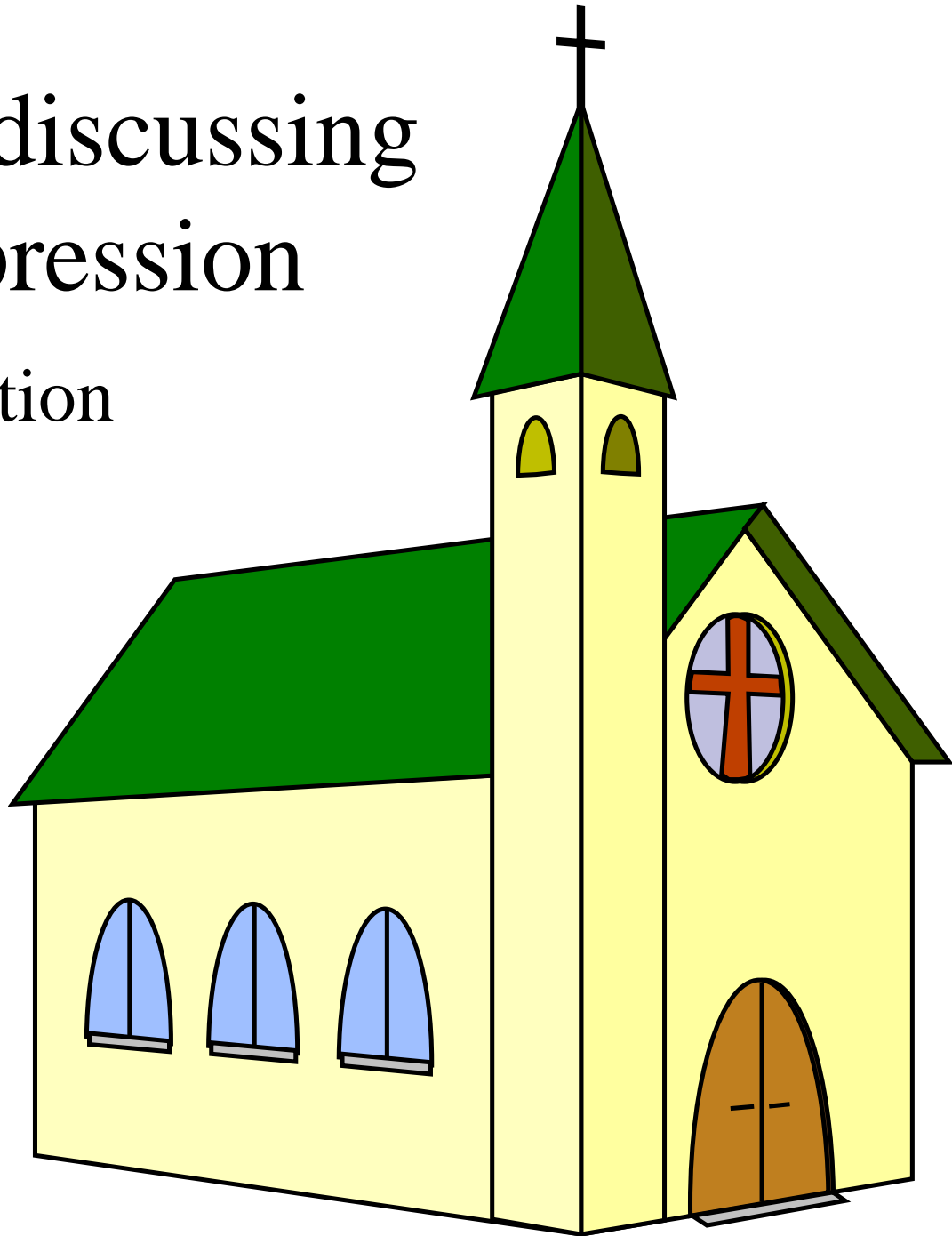




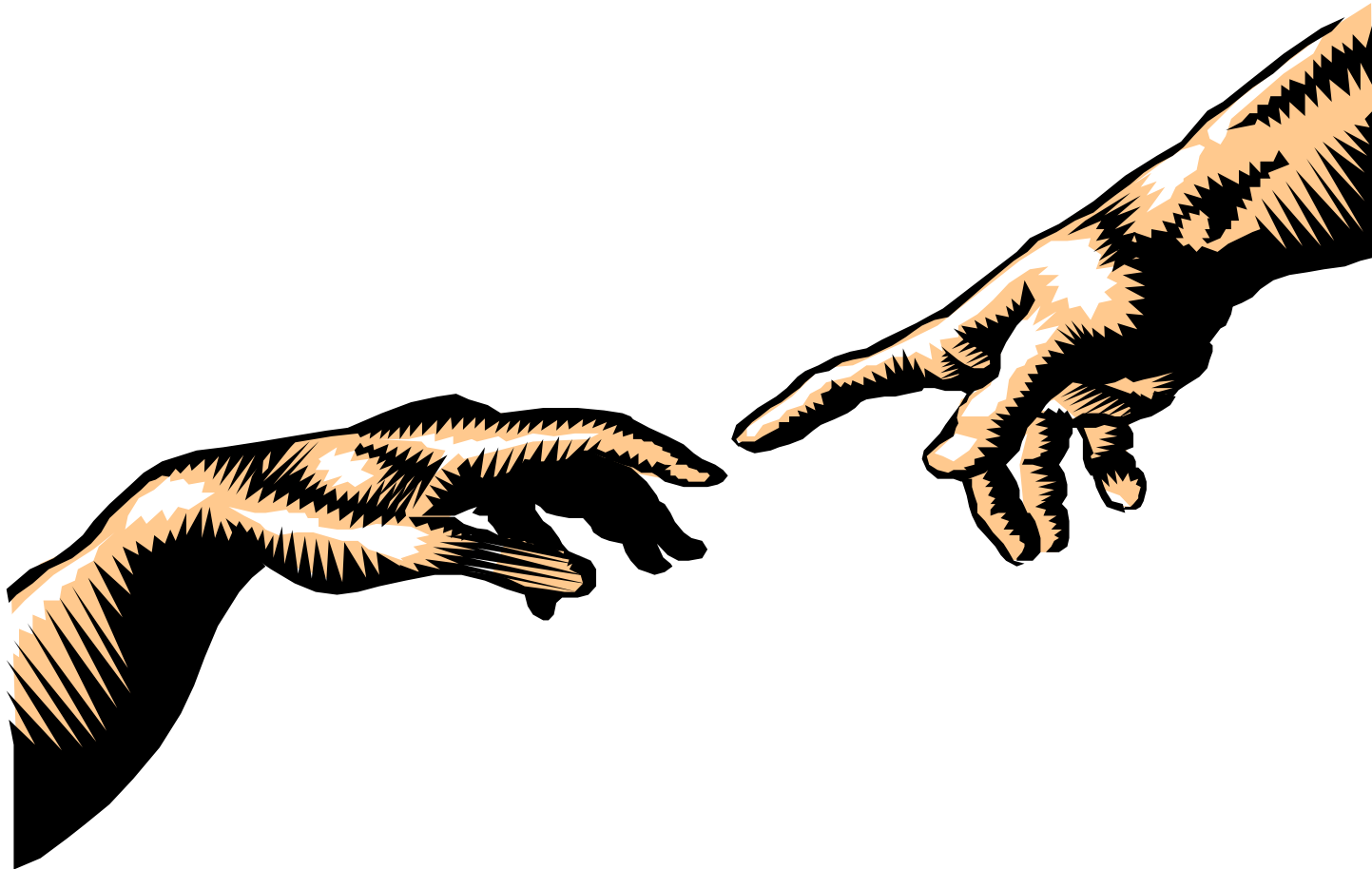
# Song of Solomon

# Issues when discussing sexual expression

- Privileged generation
- Sex education
- Platonic churches

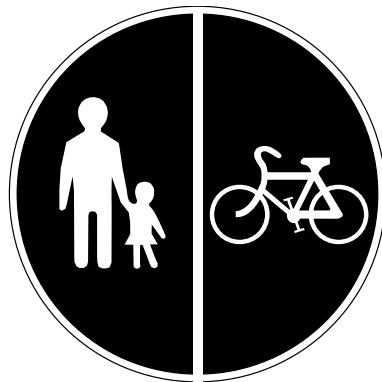


The Church has been afraid to discuss  
What God was not ashamed to create



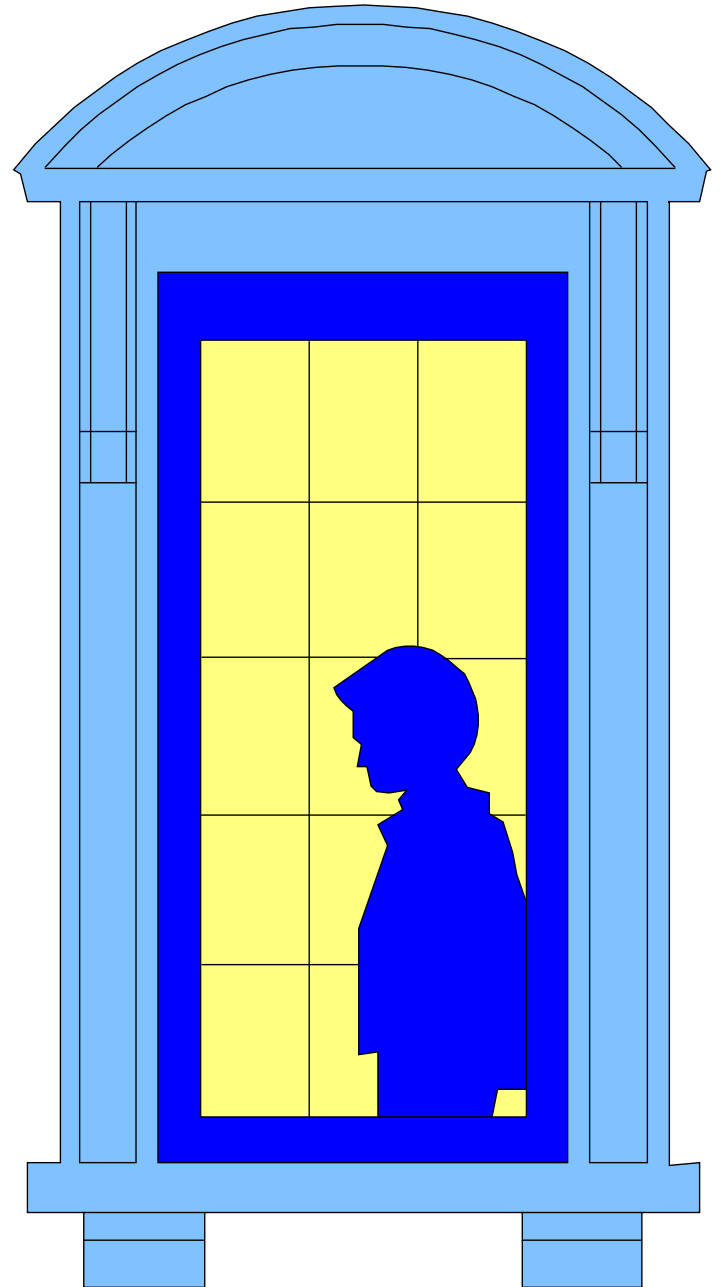
# Cultural distortion

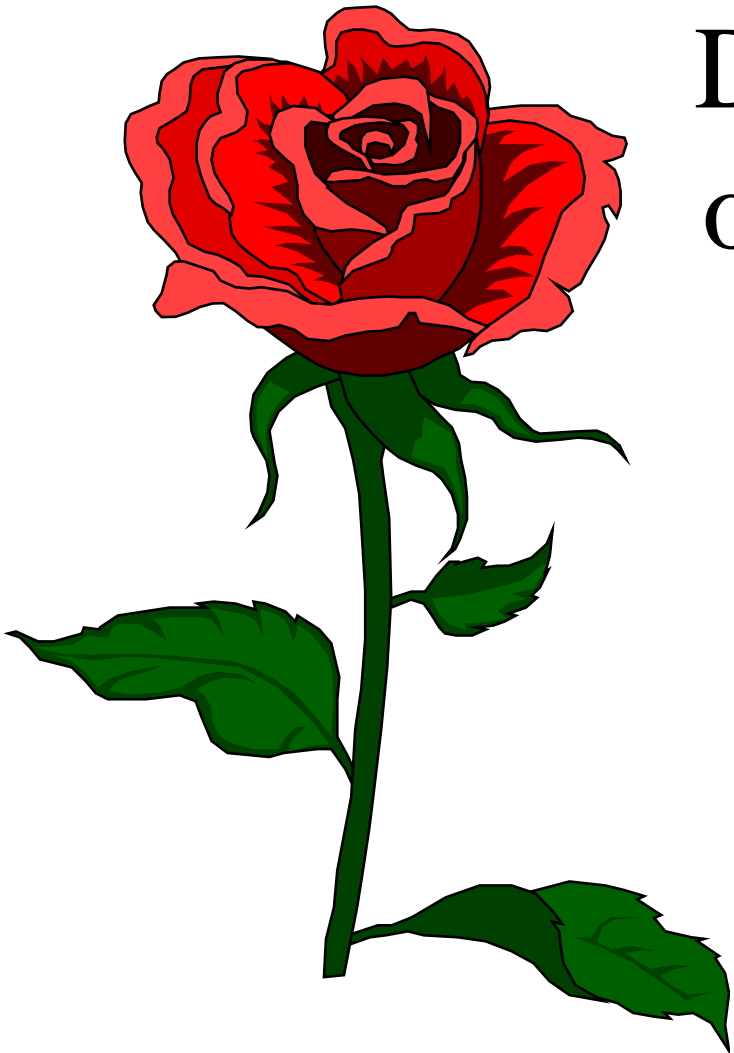
- Media
- Parental



# Risks involved

- Voyeurism
- Guilt

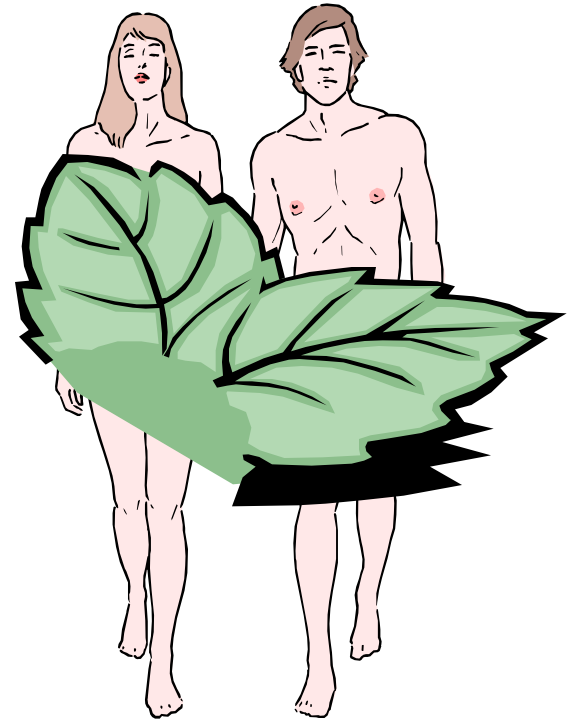




# Discovering the Beauty of Marital Sexual Love

# 3 Principles based on Genesis 1 & 2

- Marriage and sex are of divine origin
- People are created to be male and female
- Marriage and sex were given before the fall, and are not sin





# Background of book

Author: Solomon

Place: Probably  
Jerusalem

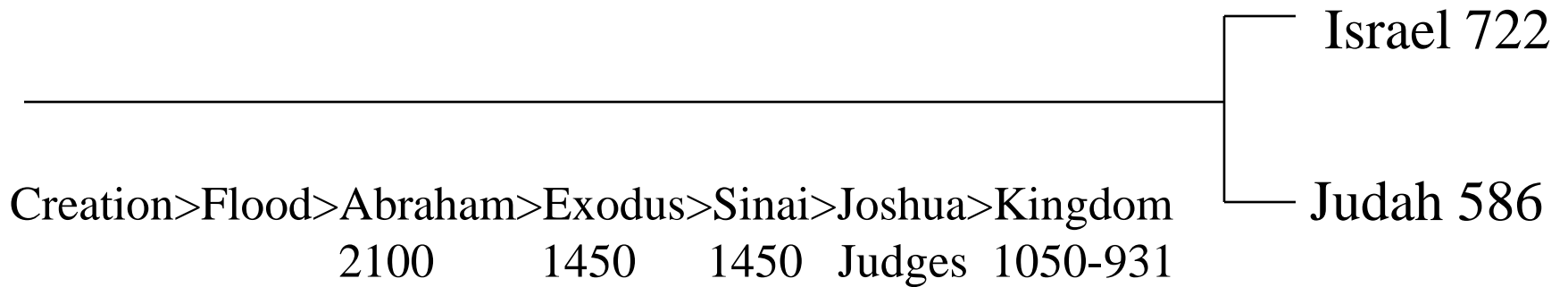
Song of Solomon

Song of Songs

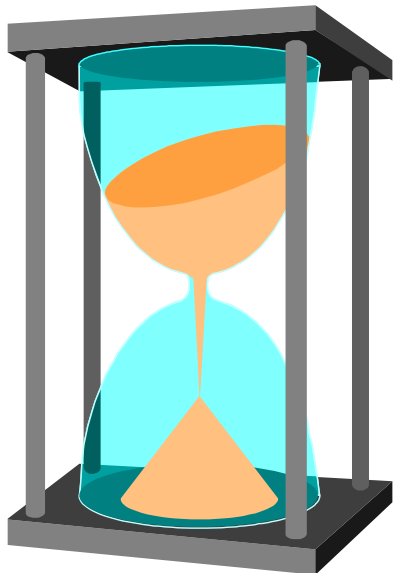
Canticles



# Time of Writing of the Book



Genesis 1-11	Gen. 12-50	Exodus	Joshua	1 Sammuel	1,2 Kings
		Leviticus	Judges	2 Sammuel	2 Chronicles
		Numbers	Ruth	1 Chronicles	
		Deuteronomy		1 Kings	
				Psalms	
				Proverbs	
				Ecclesiastes	
				<b>Song of Solomon</b>	



# Outline

Song of Solomon

Beginning of Love  
Glorious Ideal

Wedding Day  
Beginning  
Palace

Reflections on Courtship  
(A Parenthesis)  
Lebanon

Wedding Day  
Continued  
Palace

Shulamith  
in Palace  
1:1-18

Springtime  
Visit  
2:8-11

Wedding  
Procession  
3:6-11

Banquet  
Table  
1:15-2:7

Little  
Foxes  
2:15-17

Wedding  
Night  
4:1-5:1

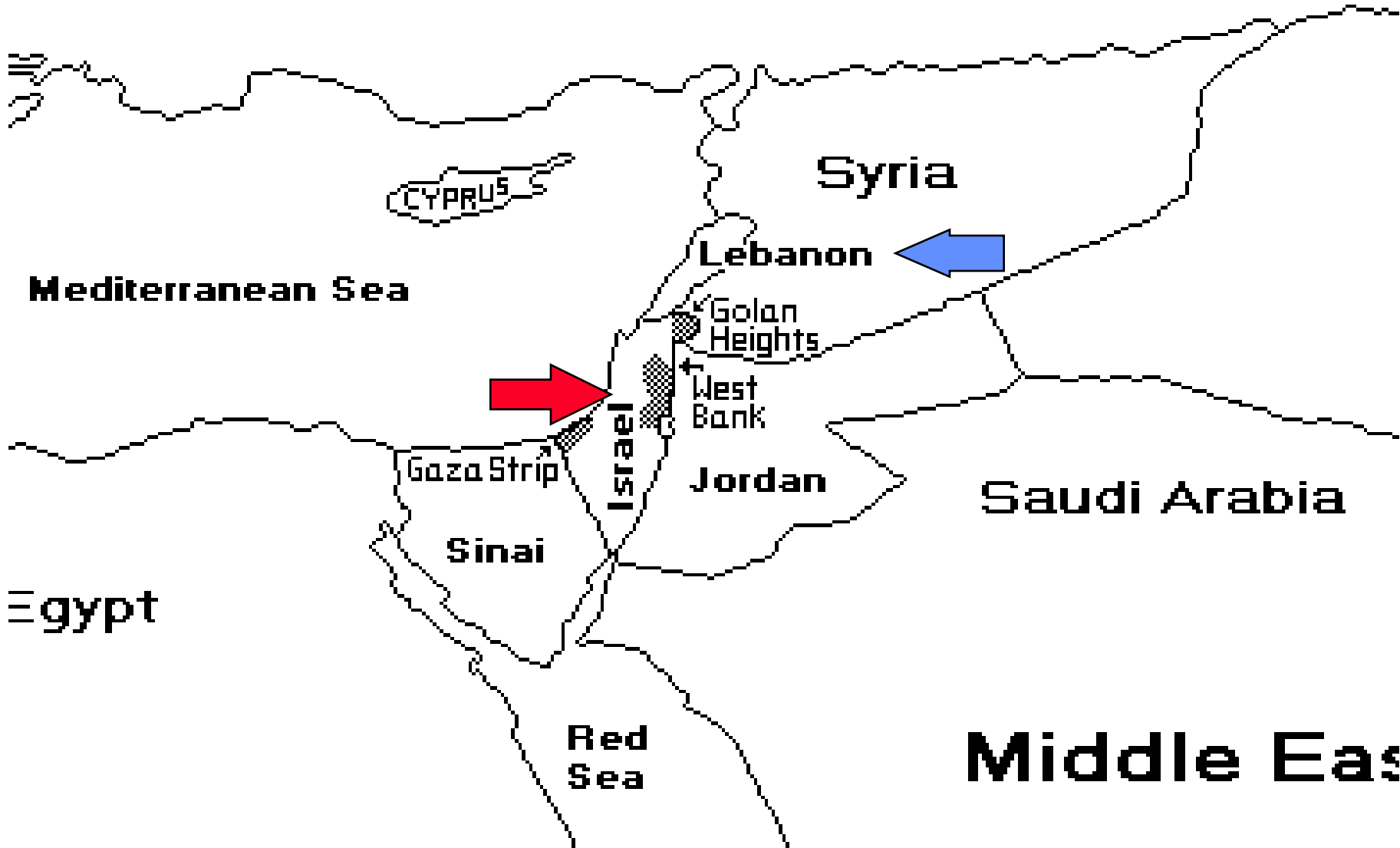
Dream of  
Counting the Cost  
3:1-5

# Song Chronologically

- Reflections on Courtship
  - Springtime visit 2:8-11
  - Little Foxes 2:15-17
  - Counting the Cost 3:1-5
- Wedding Day
  - Procession 3:6-11
  - Shulamith in Palace 1:1-4
  - Bridal Chamber 1:5-2:7
  - Wedding Night 4:1-5:1



Turkey



CYPRUS

Syria

Lebanon

Mediterranean Sea

Golan Heights

West Bank

Gaza Strip

Jordan

Saudi Arabia

Sinai

Israel

Egypt

Red Sea

Middle East

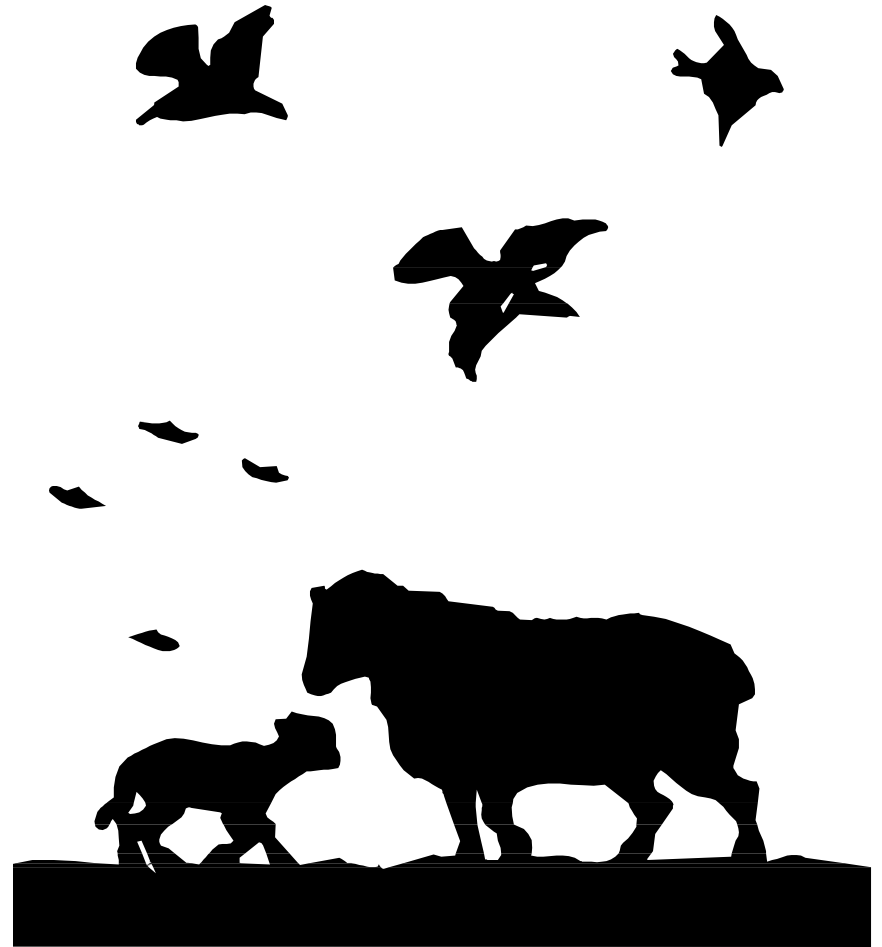
# Methods of Interpretation

- Allegorical
- Typical
- Literal



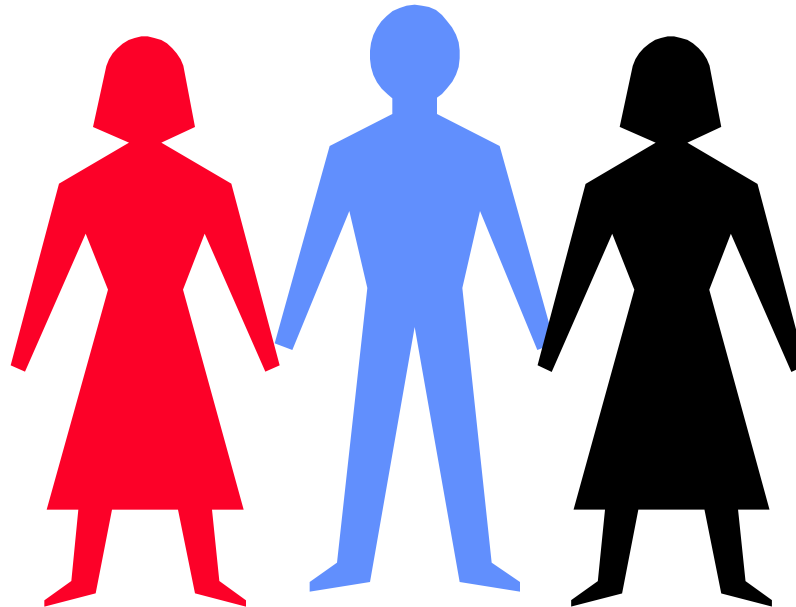
# Method of Interpretation: Literal

- Three Person View
- Two Person View



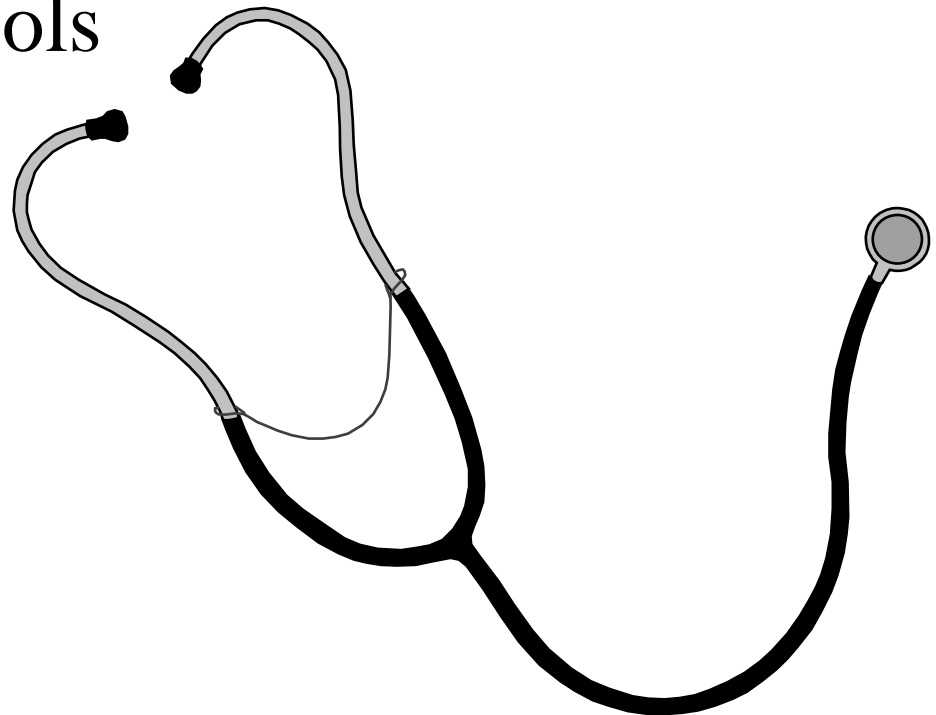
# Two Person View

- Old polygamist in retrospect
- Young man before polygamy
- Fictional: (How it should have been)



# Note on “Literal” interpretation:

- Does not imply no symbols
- Medical vs. slang vs. symbolic
- 1-100 scale vs. symbols





# Symbols of Romance

- Candlelight
- Roses
- Song
- Sunsets



# Symbols of Arousal

- Apples
- Wine
- Fruit
- Raisins



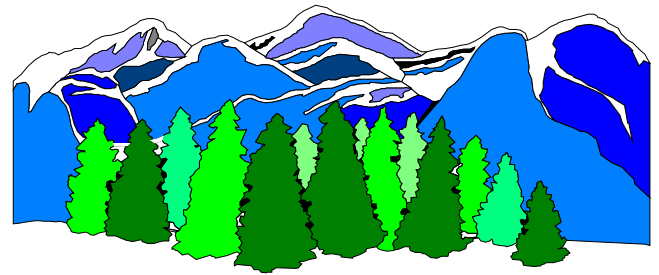
# Reflections on a Courtship

(2:8 - 3:5)

# Song 2:8-13 Springtime Visit

8 Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes,  
leaping across 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, peering  
through the lattice.



# Song 2:8-13 Springtime Visit

10 My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me.

11 See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

12 Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.



# Song 2:8-13 Springtime Visit

13 The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."



# Springtime visit

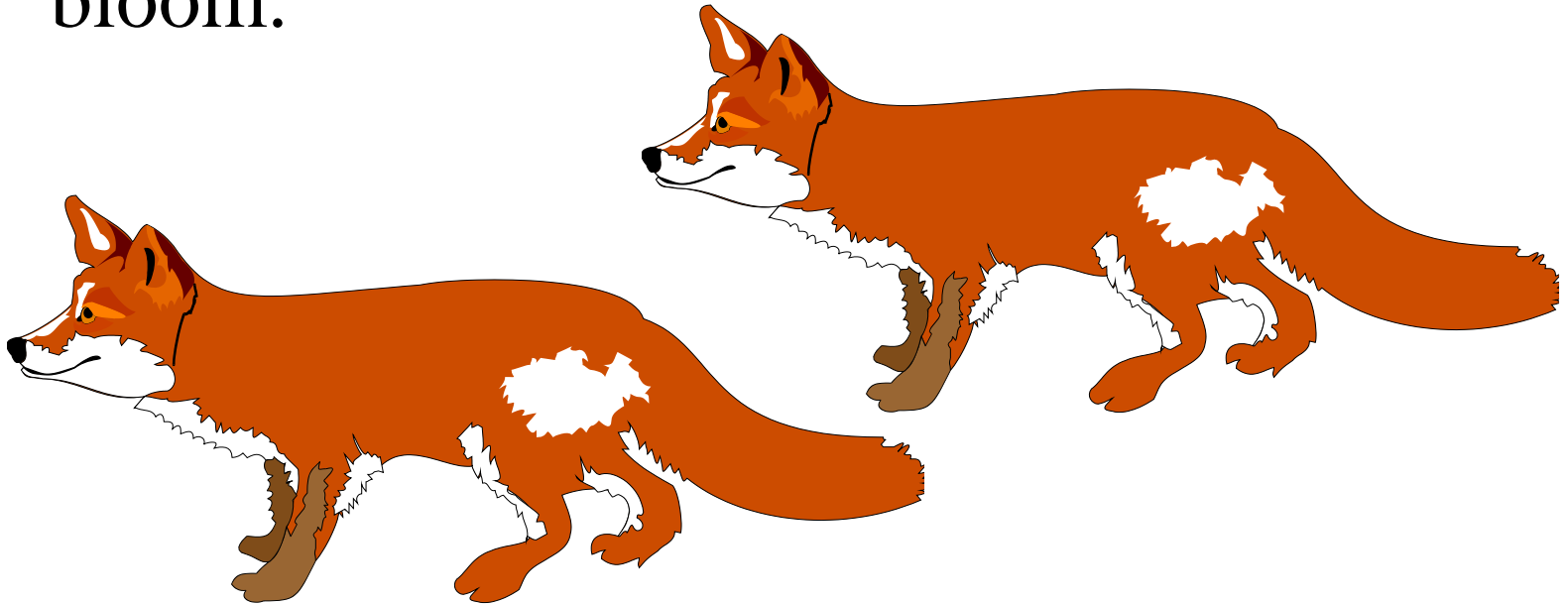
- Solomon's approach
- Walk in fields



# Song 2:15

## Solomon's Comparison

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





# Solomon's Comparison in Song 2:15

## Vineyard

- little foxes
- destroy vines

## Relationship

little problems  
destroy love

# Relationship Issues

- Little problems
- Sexual problems are usually interpersonal not physical problems



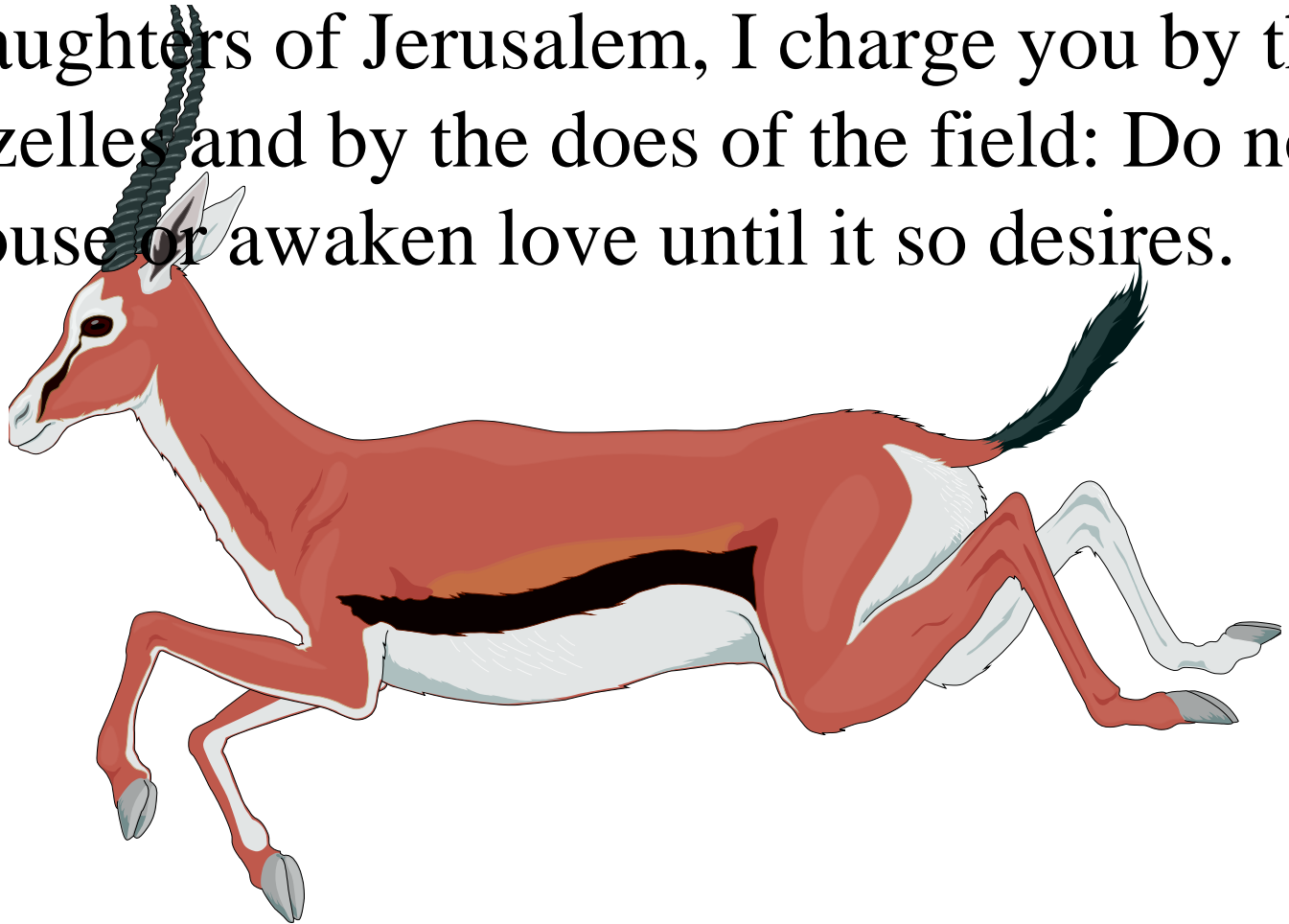
# Song 3:1-2 Shulamith's Dream

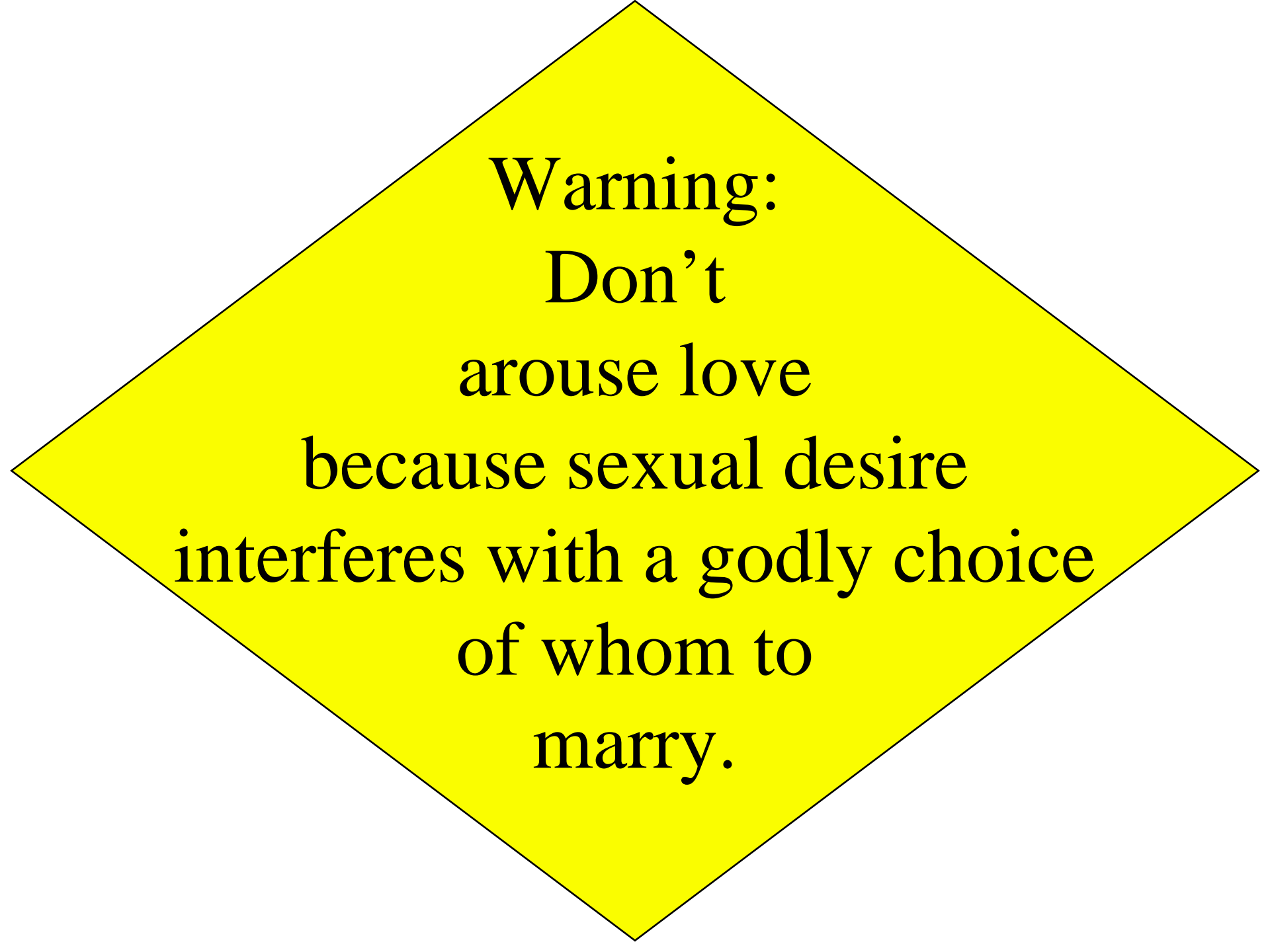
- 1 All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him.
- 2 I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves. So I looked for him but did not find him.



# Song 3:5 Shulamith's Warning

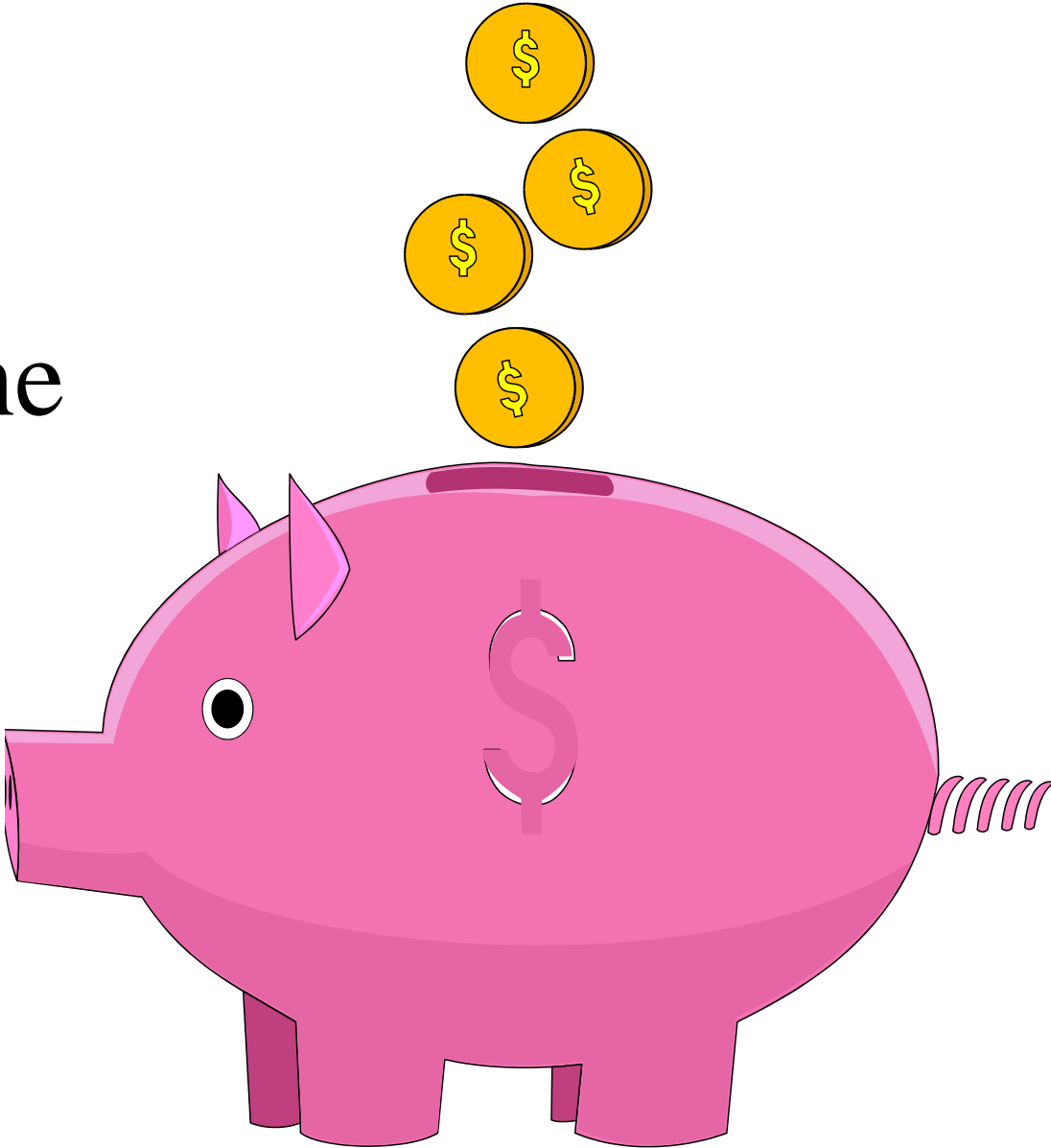
5 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.





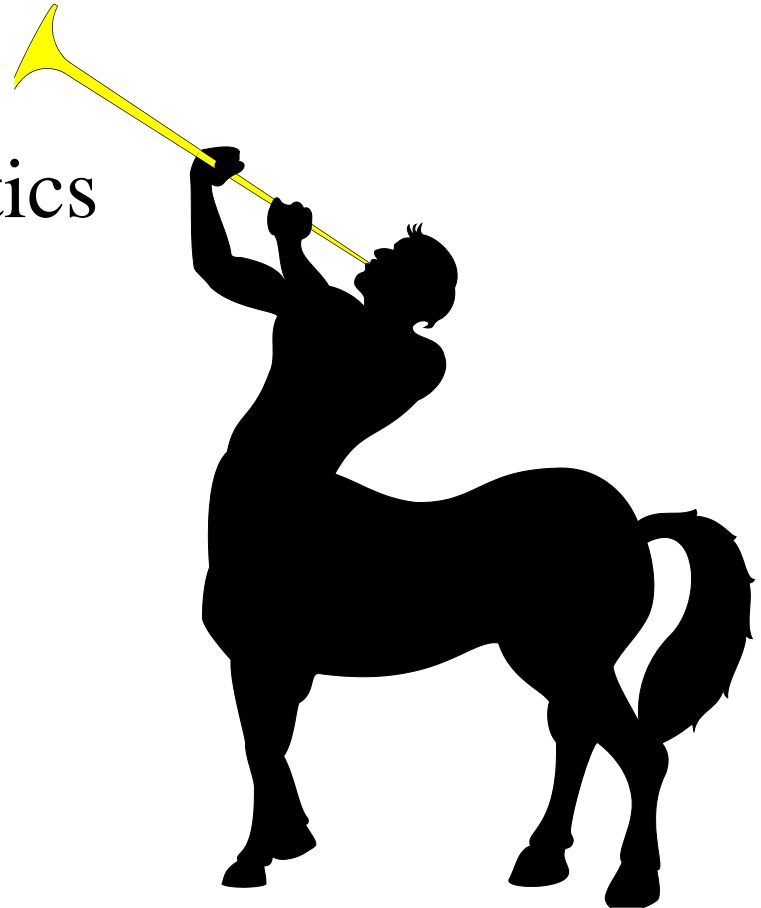
Warning:  
Don't  
arouse love  
because sexual desire  
interferes with a godly choice  
of whom to  
marry.

# Counting the Cost



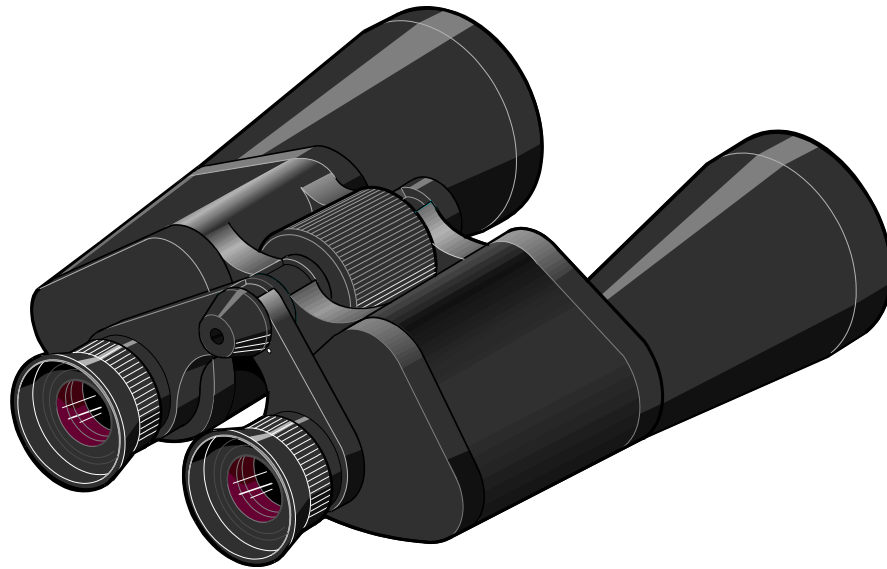
# Marry a Real Person

- Composite Fantasy
- Specific Characteristics



# Make a Godly Choice

- Observations from Counseling
- Emotional vs. Rational involvement





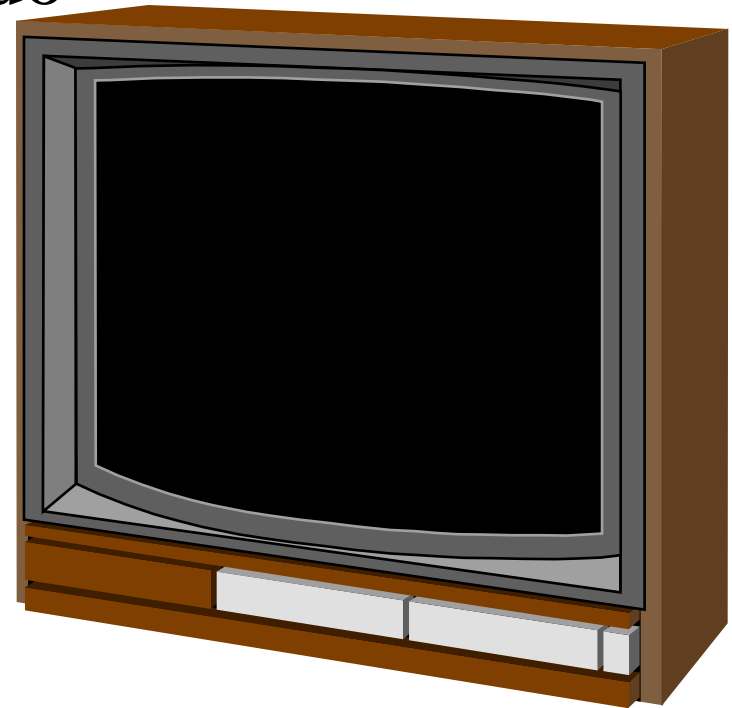
# How much is too much?

- Intercourse and alternatives
- Petting Problems
  - False intimacy
  - Exploitive
  - Relationship stops growing



# Petting Reasons

- To Express Love
- To have something to do
- Everyone is doing it



# Conceptualizing Sexual Intimacy

Affection

Petting

Intercourse

# Conceptualizing Sexual Intimacy

(Affection      Petting)  
Premarital

(Intercourse)  
Marital

# Conceptualizing Sexual Intimacy

(Affection      Petting)  
Premarital

(Intercourse)  
Marital

(Affection)  
Premarital

(Foreplay      Intercourse)  
Marital



# Conceptualizing Sexual Intimacy

(Affection      Petting)  
Premarital

(Intercourse)  
Marital

(Affection)  
Premarital

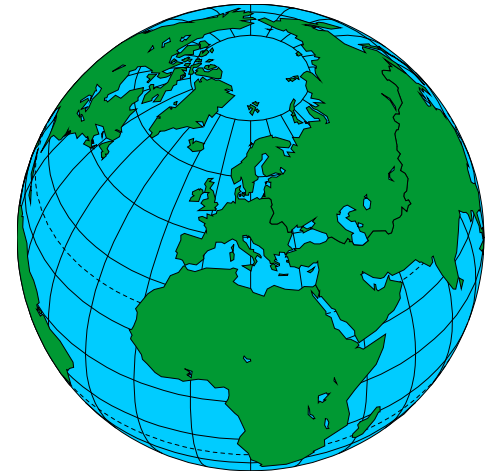
(Foreplay      Intercourse)  
Marital



# Practical applications

# Know Each Other's Person not their Body.

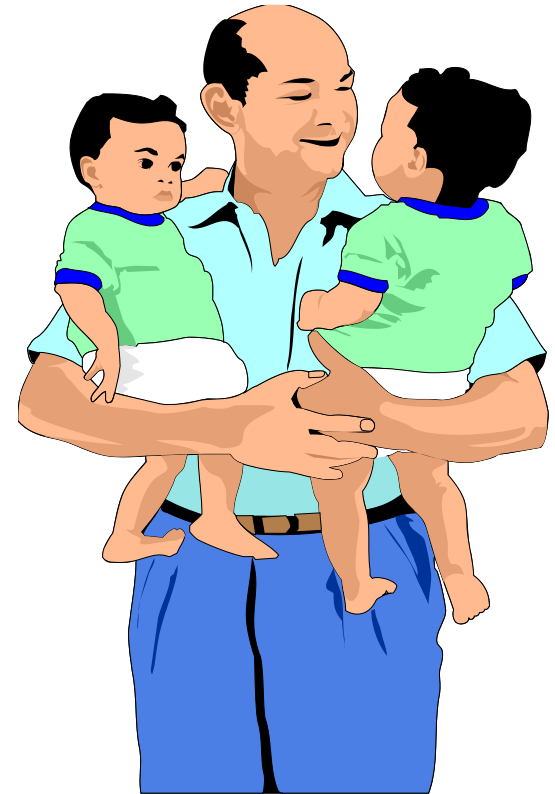
- Worldview
- Handling disagreements
- Priority of relationship
- Financial responsibility
- Roles





# Resolve Little Problems

- Background
- Goals
- Children
- Inlaws
- Sex
- Money/debts



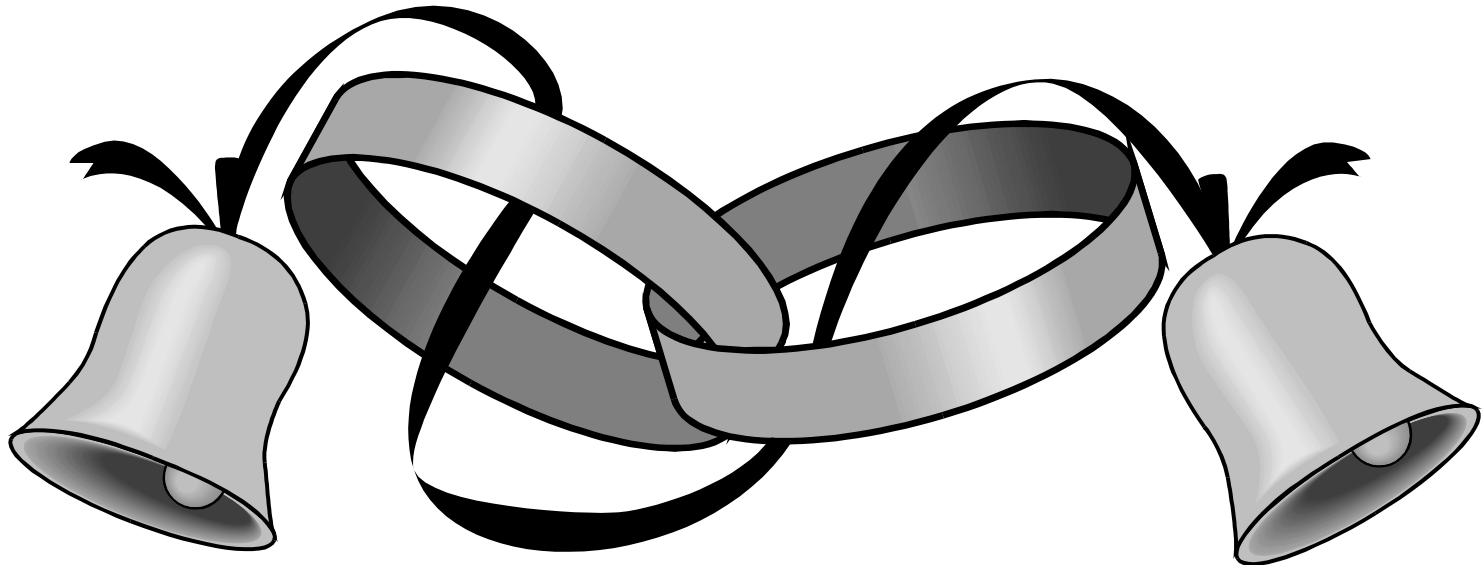
# Count the Cost of this Person

- Absorb imperfections
- Embrace Lifestyle
- Change Personal Style



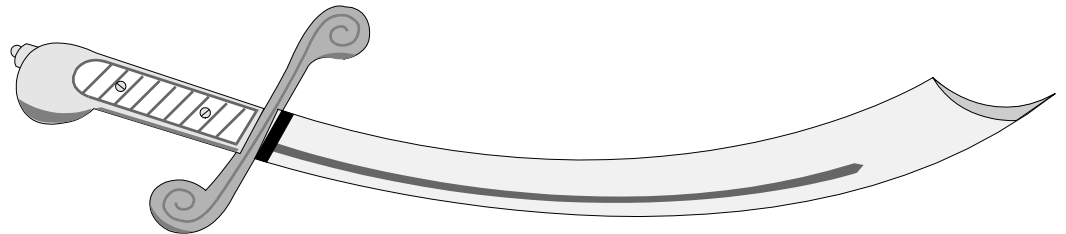
# The Wedding Day

- The Procession (3:6-11)
- [Shulamith in the Palace (1:2-4a)]



# Song 3:6-11 The Procession

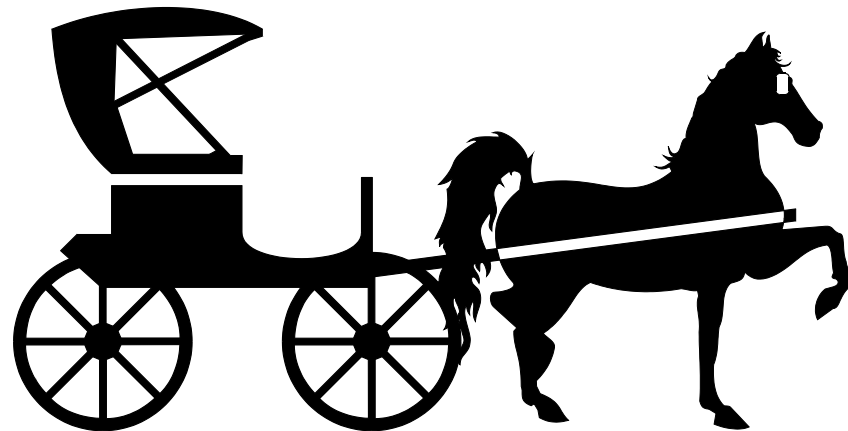
- 6 Who is this coming up from the desert like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?
- 7 Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel,
- 8 all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.



# Song 3:6-11 The Procession

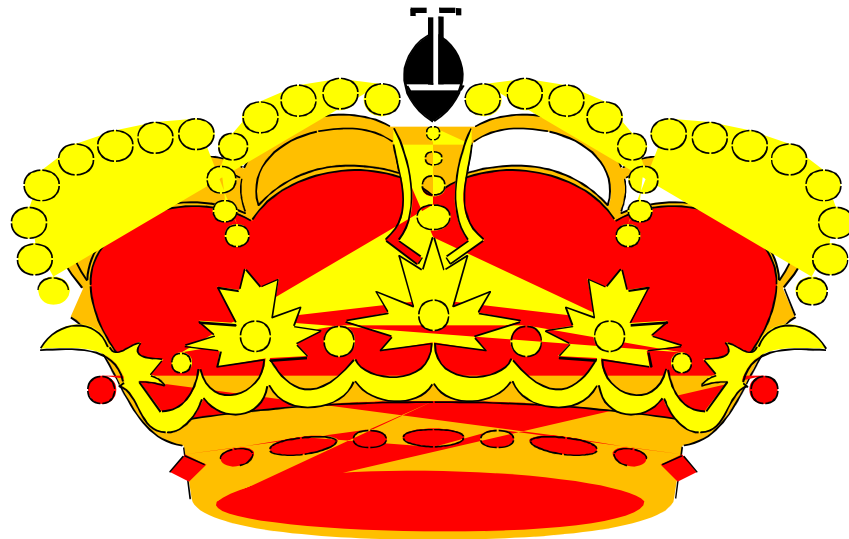
9 King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon.

10 Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior lovingly inlaid by the daughters of Jerusalem.



# Song 3:6-11 The Procession

11 Come out, you daughters of Zion, and look at King Solomon wearing the crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced.



# The Procession (3:6-11)



- Solomon was sensitive to his brides romantic needs
- Solomon was actively involved in the process

# Song 1:1-4

## Shulamith's Anticipations

- 1 Solomon's Song of Songs.
- 2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth - for your love is more delightful than wine.



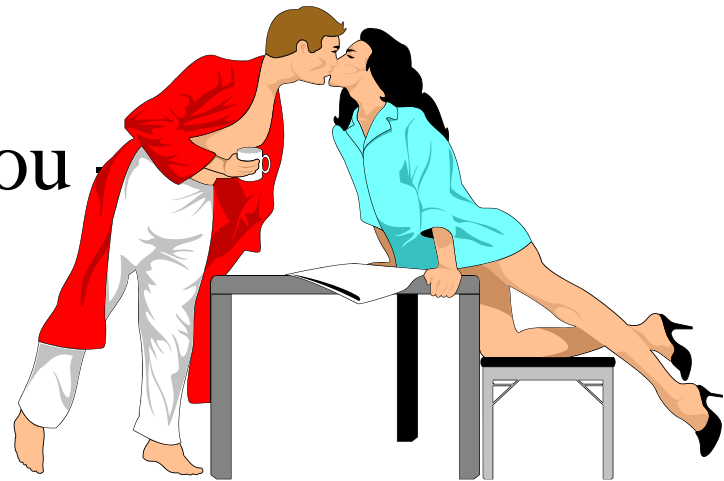


# Song 1:1-4a

## Shulamith's Anticipations

3 Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you!

4 Take me away with you  
let us hurry!  
Let the king bring me  
into his chambers.



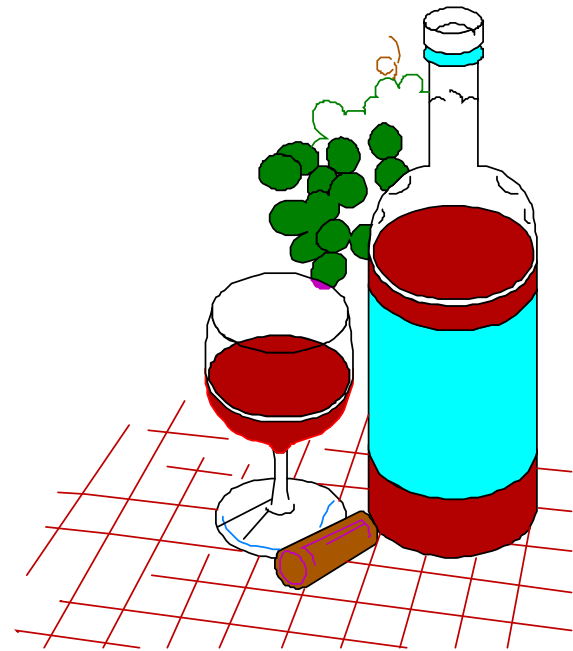
# Shulamith in the Palace (1:2-4a)

- Honeymoon better than wedding
- Anticipate kisses
- Enjoys aftershave
- Anticipates being alone
- “Friends”



# Song 1:4b “The Friends?”

We rejoice and delight in you; we will praise  
your love more than wine.



# Song 1:4-6 Shulamith's Insecurity



4c How right they are to adore you!

5 Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem,  
dark like the tents of Kedar, like the tent curtains  
of Solomon.

6 Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I  
am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were  
angry with me and made me take care of the  
vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected.

# In the Bridal Chamber (1:46-2:7)

- Solomon reassures his wife about her body
- Solomon reassure his wife about his availability
- Solomon promises that the romance will continue after marriage
- Romantic gifts



Song 1:9a

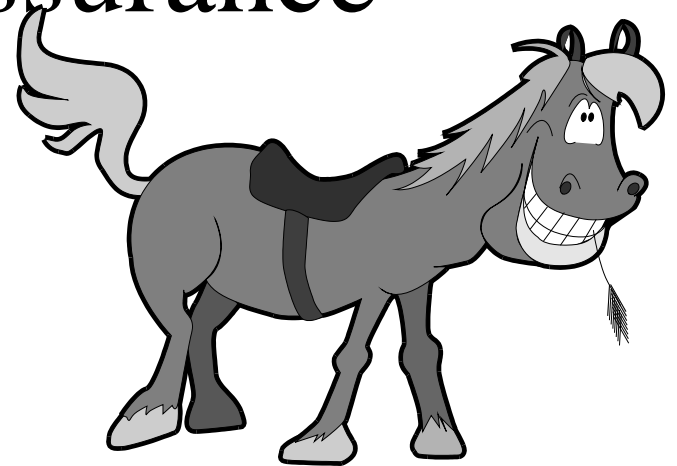
## Solomon's Reassurance

9 I liken you, my darling,

# Song 1:9a

## Solomon's Reassurance

9 I liken you, my darling,

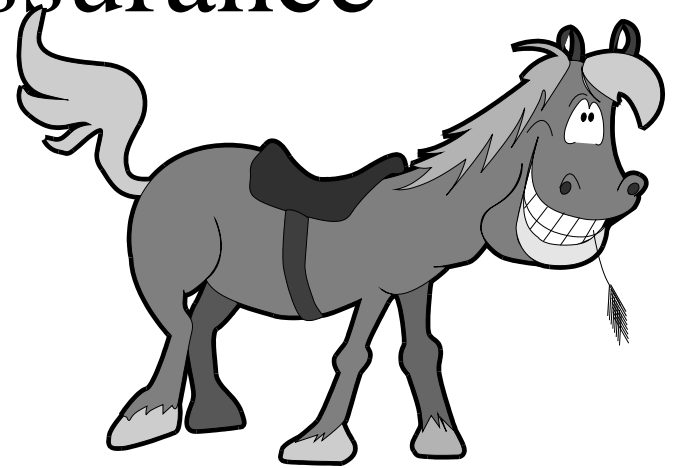


to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of  
Pharaoh.

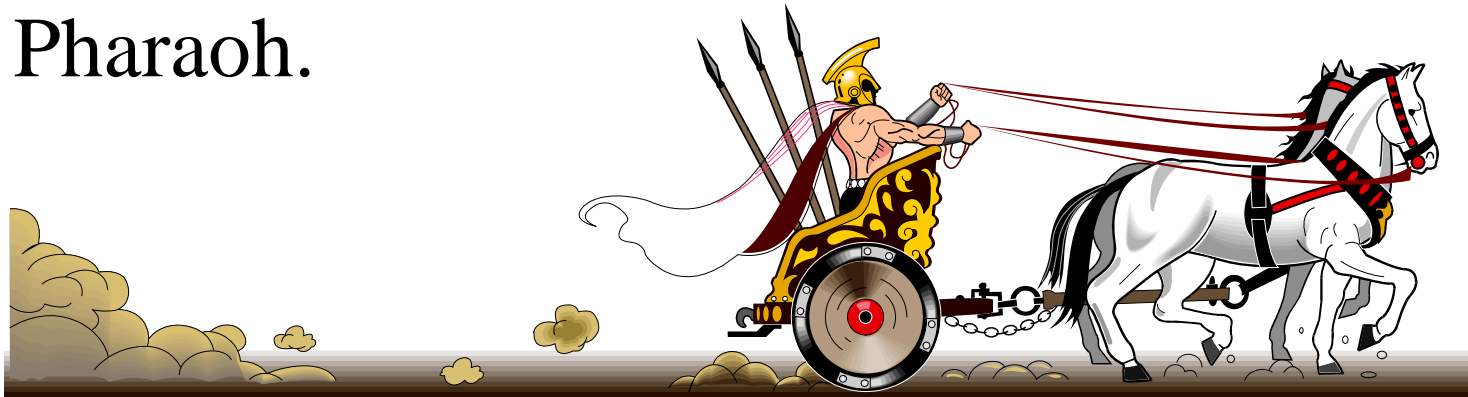
# Song 1:9a

## Solomon's Reassurance

9 I liken you, my darling,



to a mare harnessed to one of the chariots of Pharaoh.

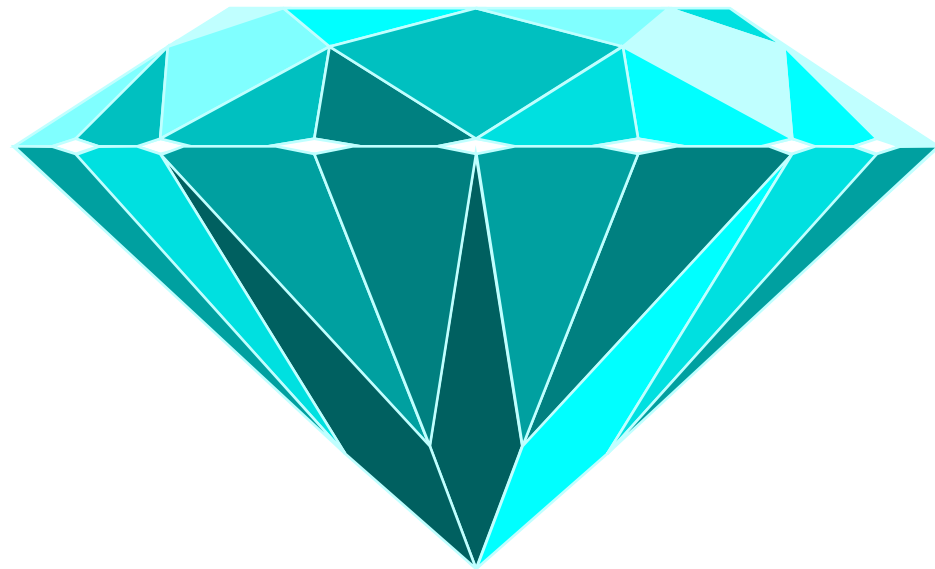




# Song 1:1-10

10 Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings,  
your neck with strings of jewels.

11 We will make you earrings of gold,  
studded with silver.



# Romance 101

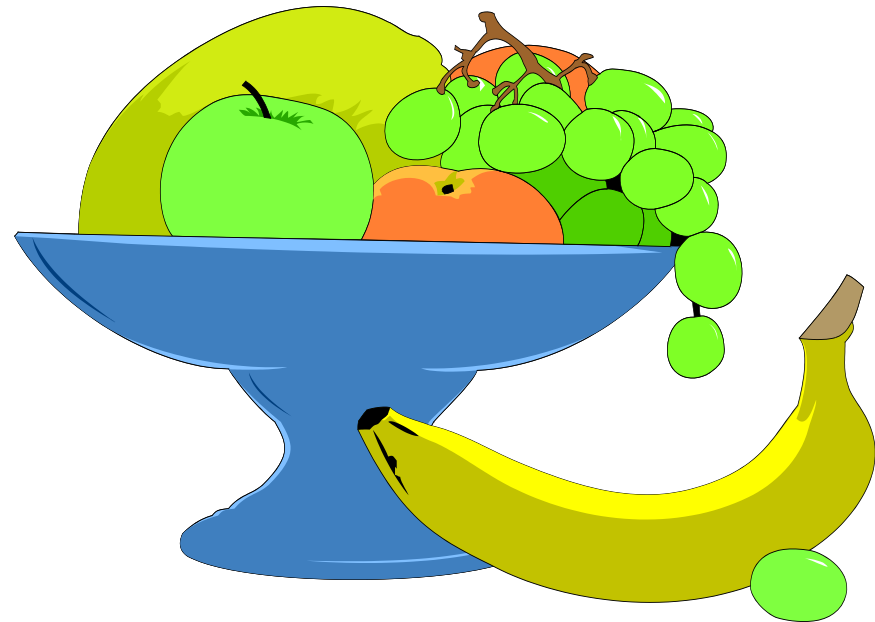
A gift has romance value when the gift:

- says “I Love You”.
- is not expected.
- is not necessary.



# Romantic Gifts

- Perfume
- Basket of fruit
- Scented soap for the bath
- Bubble bath
- Bath oil



# Romantic Gifts

- Scented candles
- Wild flowers you pick your self
- Mushy card
- Matching coffee cups
- Negligee
- Poem you wrote yourself



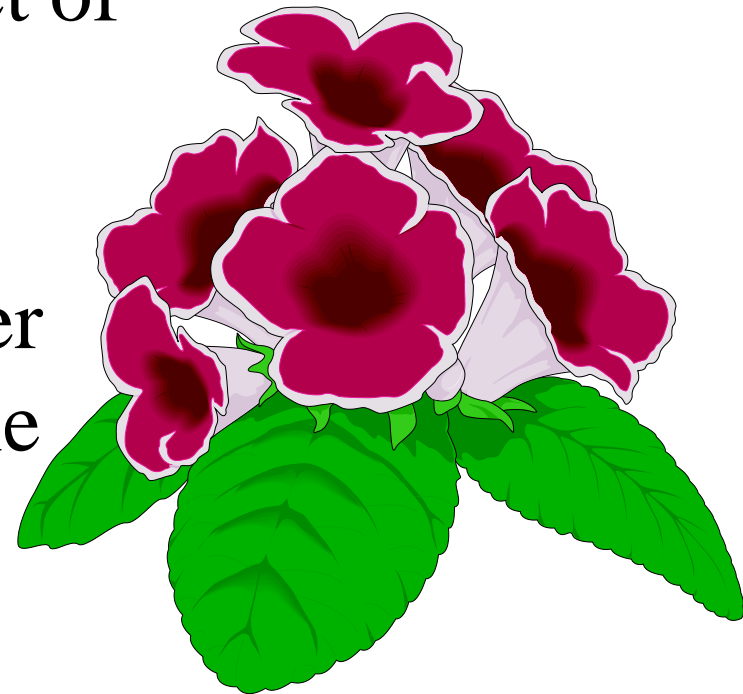
# Song 1:12-14

## Shulamith Remembers

12 While the king was at his table,  
my perfume spread its fragrance.

13 My lover is to me a sachet of  
myrrh resting between my  
breasts.

14 My lover is to me a cluster  
of henna blossoms from the  
vineyards of En Gedi.



# Song 1:15-17 Lovers Talking

15 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh,  
how beautiful! Your eyes are doves.

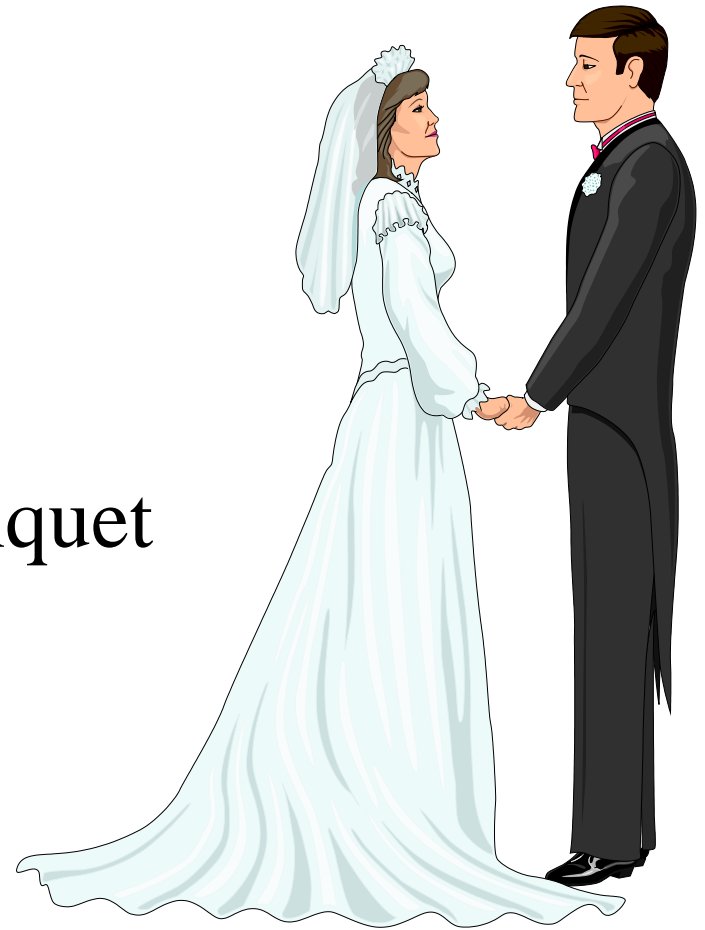
16 How handsome you are, my lover! Oh,  
how charming! And our bed is verdant.

17 The beams of our house are cedars;  
our rafters are firs.



# In the Bridal Chamber

- Insecurities
- Reassurance
- Gifts
- Reflection on Bridal Banquet
- Bedroom Atmosphere



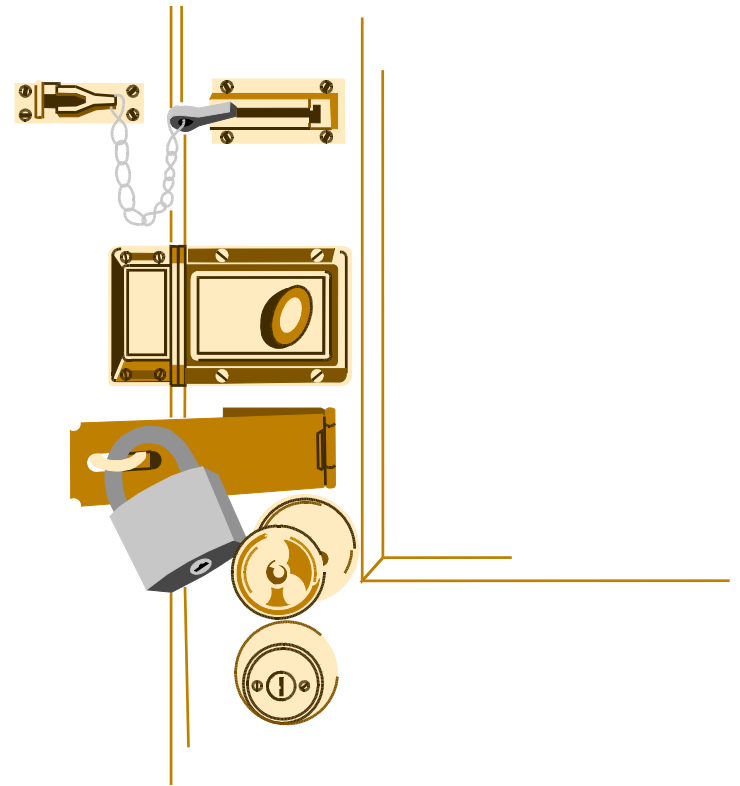
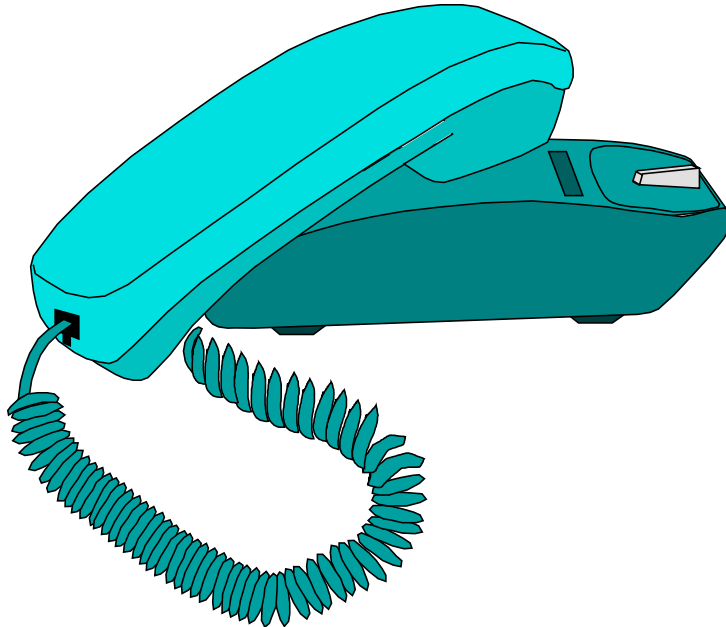
# Suggestions for Bedroom Atmosphere

- Privacy
- Sight
- Sound
- Smell
- Touch



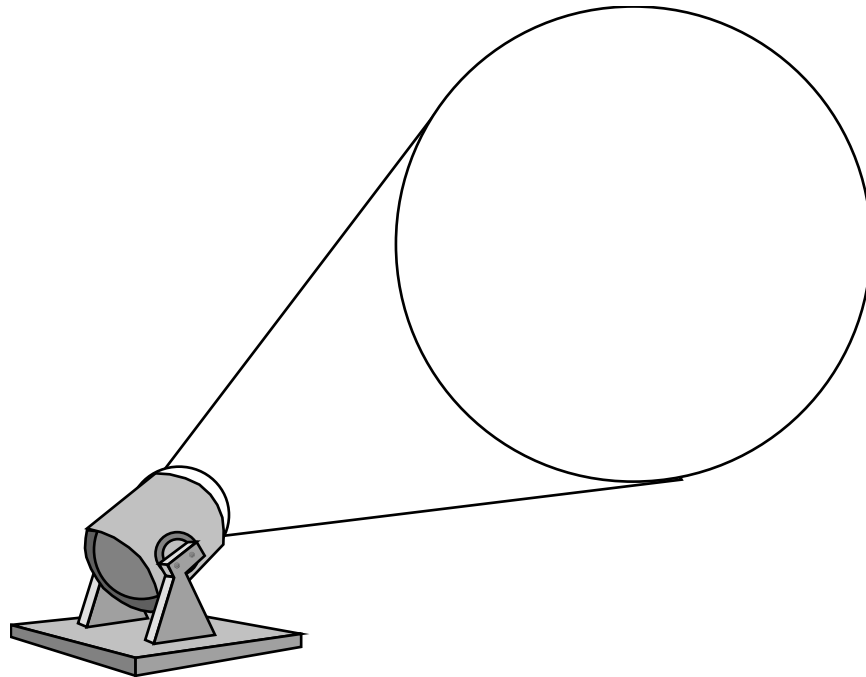
# Bedroom Atmosphere: Privacy

- Master bedroom isolated
- Lock on door
- Phone ringer off



# Bedroom Atmosphere: Sight

- Dimmer Switch



# Bedroom Atmosphere: Sight

- Colored light
- Candles
- Plants
- Wood beamed ceiling
- Mirror tiles
- Four-poster canopy bed
- Black sheets



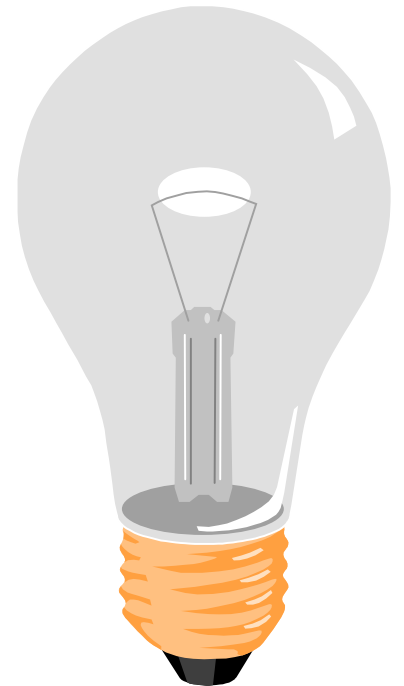
# Bedroom Atmosphere: Sound

- Stereo
- Radio
- Should turn off automatically



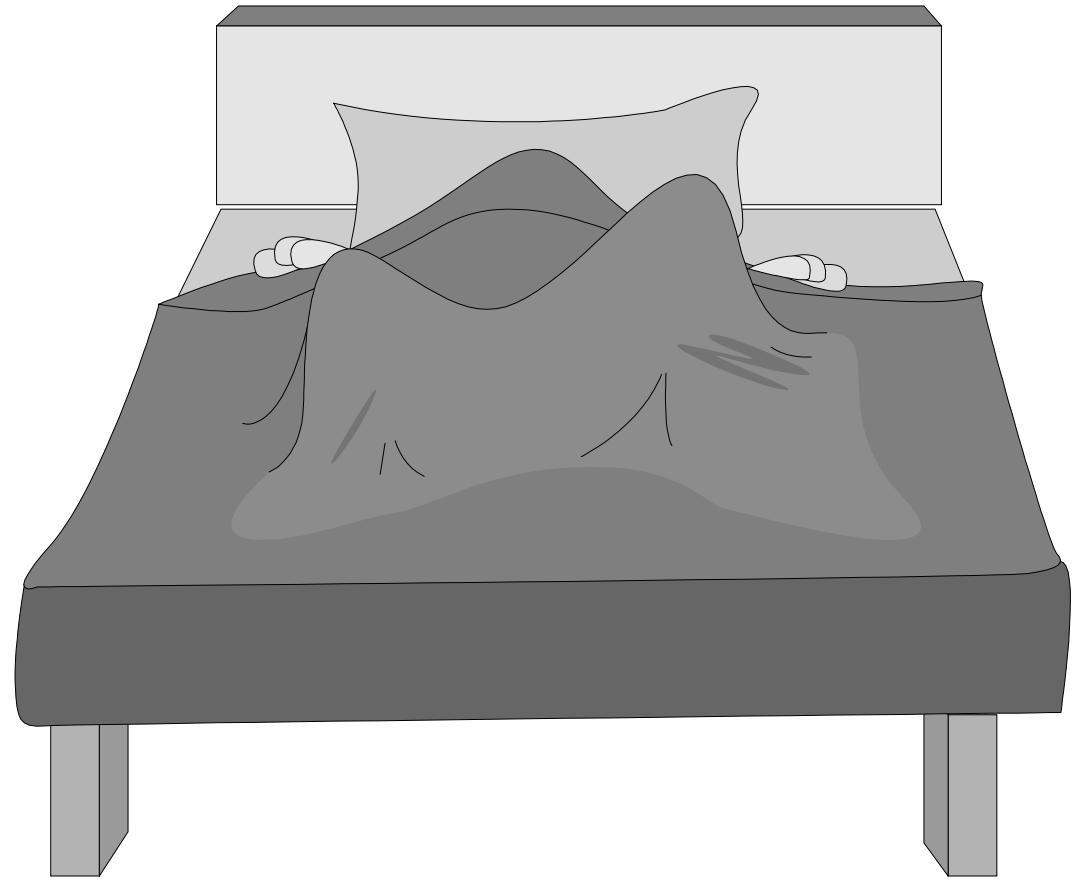
# Bedroom Atmosphere: Smell

- Incense
- Scented Candles
- Perfume on incandescent light bulb
- Perfume or powdered sheets



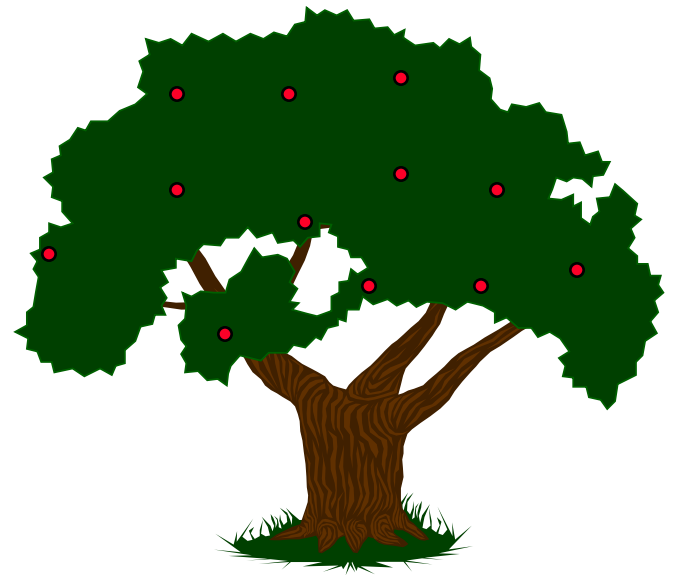
# Bedroom Atmosphere: Touch

- Satin sheets
- Fur bedspread
- Waterbeds



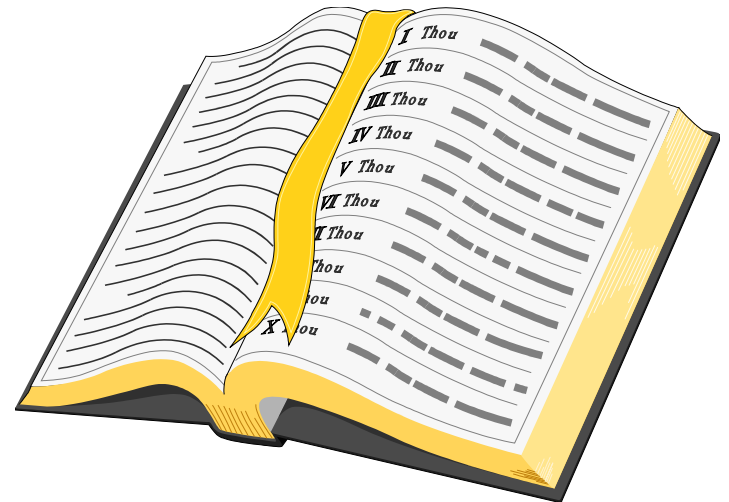
# Song 2:3 Loveplay

3 Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my lover among the young men. I delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to my taste.



# Principle of Form and Freedom

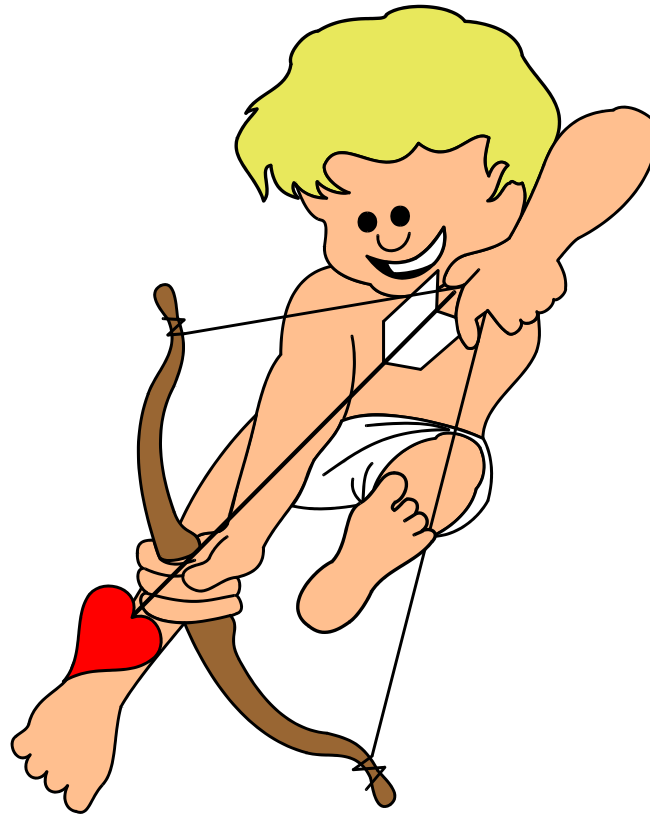
- Where the Scriptures speak
- They are binding and absolute
- Where the Scriptures are silent
- There is freedom.





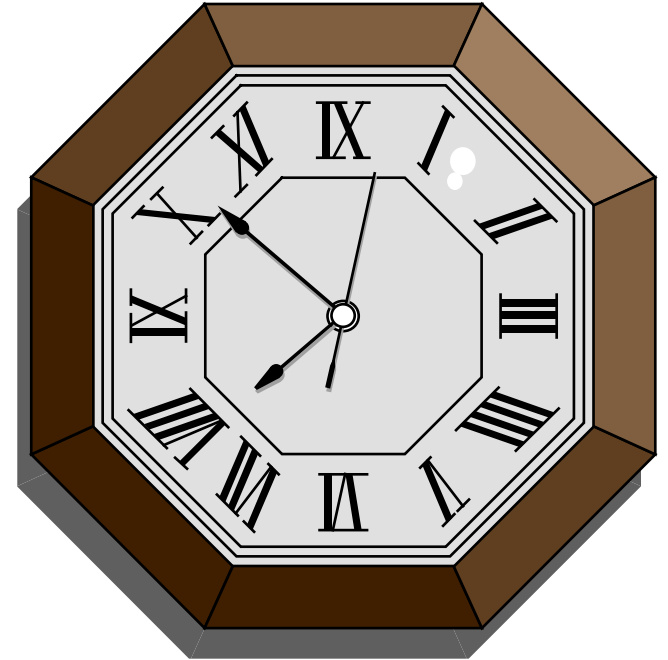
# Possible Freedoms for Marital Sexuality

- When
- Where
- How
- Who



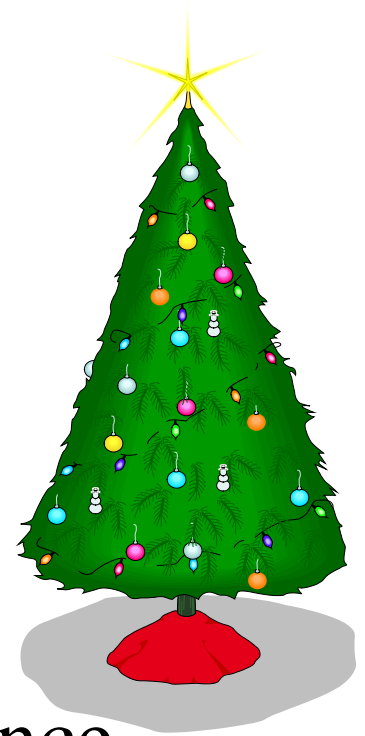
# Freedom of When

- Evening
- Middle of the night
- Morning
- Afternoon Delight
- Vacations
- Saturday Afternoons with the kids at the park with a baby-sitter



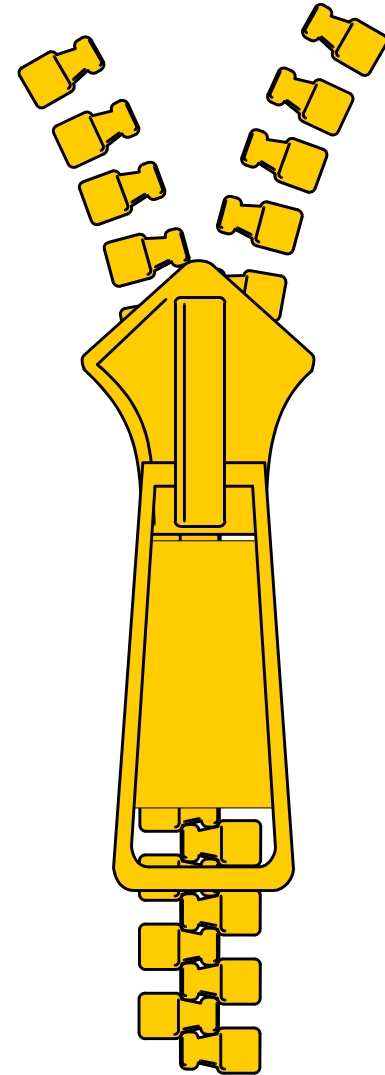
# Freedom of Where

- Every room (except closets)
- Before a roaring fire
- Under the Christmas tree
- Motel and home by midnight
- Kids at slumber parties
- Anywhere: privacy, security, romance



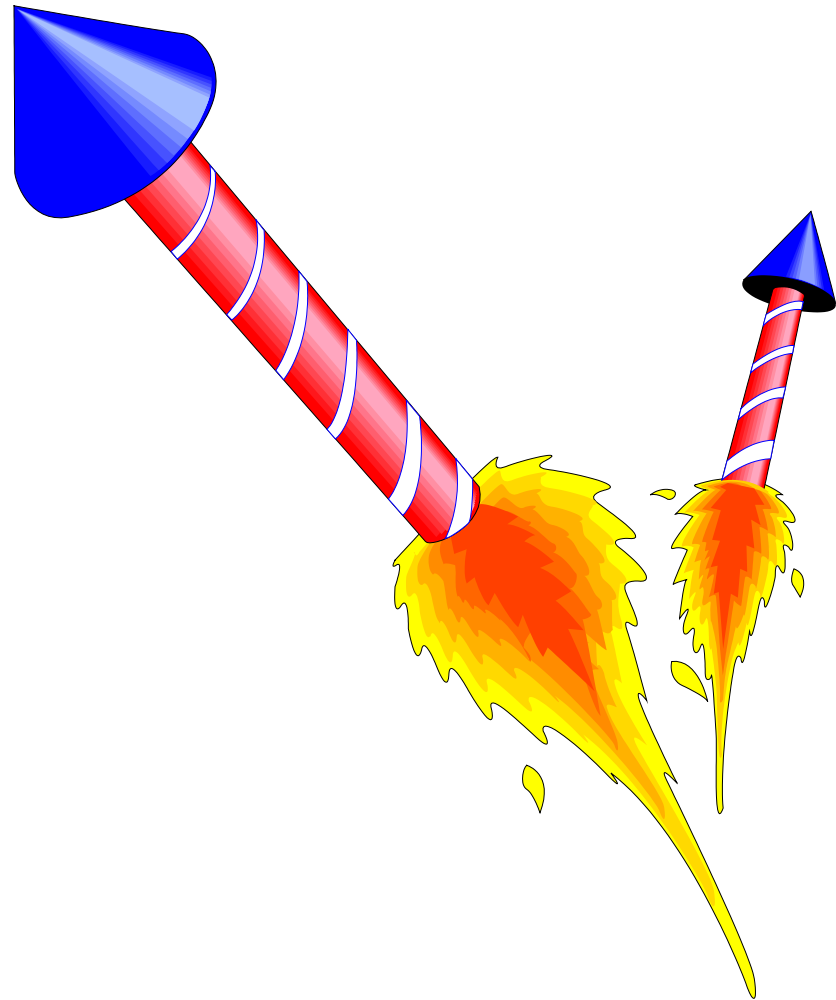
# Freedom of How

- Positions
- With and without clothes
- Alternatives



# Freedom of Who

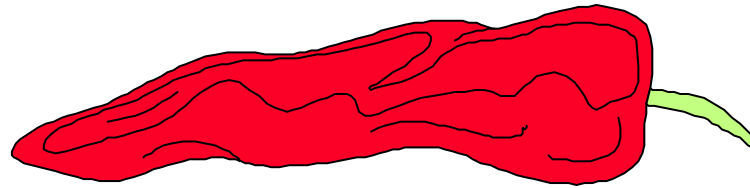
- Joyful
- Playful
- Sacred
- Celebration



Wahoo!

Variety is the spice of life

Variety is the spice of life



Too much spice and all you get is  
indigestion.

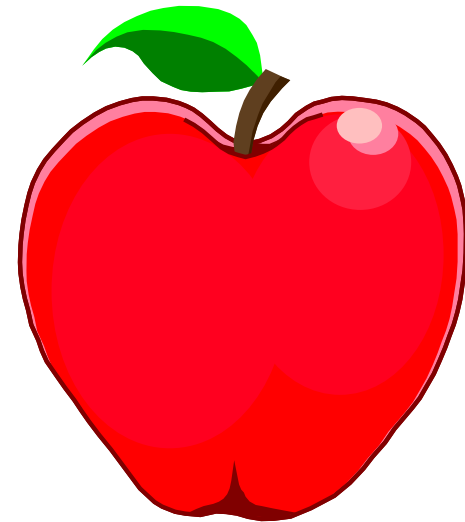
# Biblical Limits of Marital Sexual Love

- Unselfish love 1 Co. 13:4-6
- Mutual Agreement Phil. 2:1-4
- Mutual Submission Eph. 5:21
- No physical harm 1 Co. 6:19-20
- No fear 1 Jn. 4:18
- No guilt Romans 14:23



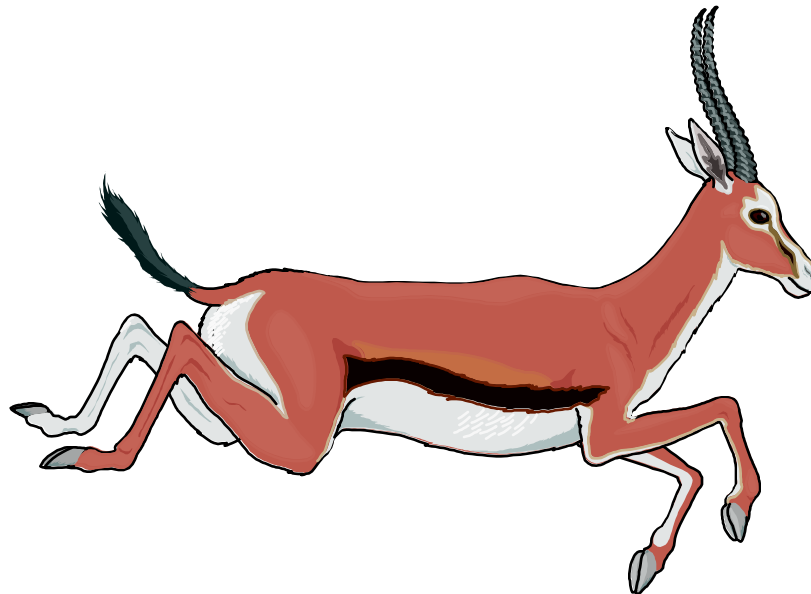
# Song 2:4-6 The Lovemaking

- 4 He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.
- 5 Strengthen me with raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am faint with love.
- 6 His left arm is under my head, and his right arm embraces me.



# Song 2:7 Shulamith's Warning

7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.



# Warning

Because **marital** love  
can be so good,  
Don't spoil it with  
extramarital  
experiences.

# Song 4:1-3 Solomon's Description

1 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful!

Your **eyes** behind your veil are doves.

Your **hair** is like  
a flock of goats  
descending from  
Mount Gilead.



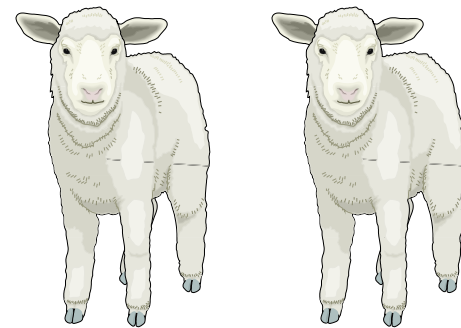
# Song 4:1-3

## Solomon's Description

Your **teeth** are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone.

Your **lips** are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely.

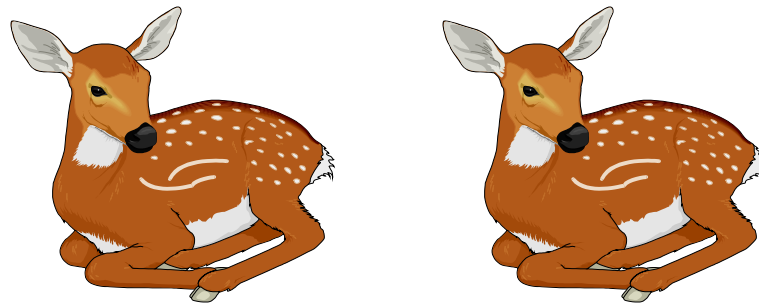
Your **temples** behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate.



# Song 4:4-7

## Solomon's Description

- 4 Your **neck** is like the tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors.
- 5 Your two **breasts** are like two fawns, like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies.



# Song 4:4-7

## Solomon's Description

- 6 Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the **mountain** of myrrh and to the hill of incense.
- 7 All beautiful you are, my darling; there is no flaw in you.



# Song 4:12

## Solomon's Description

12 You are a garden locked up, my sister, my  
bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed  
fountain.





# Song 4:16 Shulamith's Invitation

16 Awake, north wind, and come, south  
wind!

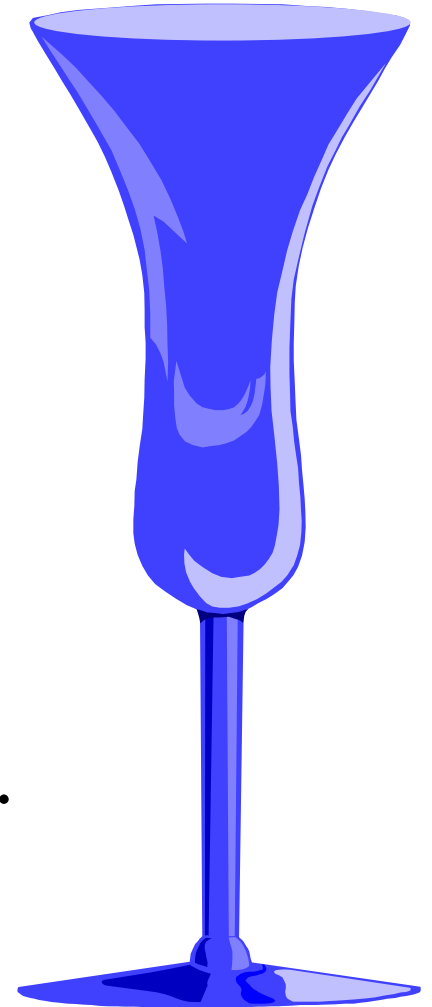
Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may  
spread abroad.

Let my lover come into his garden and taste  
its choice fruits.



# Song 5:1 Consumation

- I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
- I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.
- I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey;
- I have drunk my wine and my milk.



# “Blessing”

- Eat, O friends, and drink;
- drink your fill, O lovers.
- God’s Blessing

Love is the very flame of the  
Lord



Song of  
Songs  
8:6

# Creative Sexuality From A Christian Perspective

# Basis for most sexual problems in marriage.

- **interpersonal problems**

Two reasons sexual arousal is limited to marriage.

- **interfere with choosing mate possibly spoil / worth waiting for**

# Basic rule on the freedom of sexual expression.

- **Where the scriptures speak they are absolute where they are silent there is freedom.**



# God's response to the love making.

- **Approval/blessing**

# Specific limits on sexual behavior

- **unselfish love**
- **mutual agreement**
- **mutual submission**
- **no physical harm**
- **no fear**
- **no guilt**
- **modesty**
- **fantasy limited to spouse**