

Introduction

- I. Review of the Song of Solomon:
- II. The text is a snapshot of the relationship between them probably when they are betrothed.

The Keeper of the Vineyard

I. **The Idea**

- A. The vineyard symbolizes their relationship and Solomon is the keeper of the vineyard.
 1. He comes to her and speaks to her in love
 2. Solomon is pursuing the Shulamite declaring his love and showing her the time is right for them to be married and to be together intimately.
- B. The Shulamite brings up struggles for them using the figure of a vineyard (vs. 15).
 1. She speaks of the little foxes - these are nuisance pests in a garden.
 2. Seeing the reality of these nuisances, she requests that he tend to the vineyard.

II. **The Significance**

- A. Christ's love for the church. Christ is the keeper of His vineyard, the church.
 1. He does everything to establish with us a bond of love and friendship.
 2. The prophet Isaiah speaks of this in Isaiah 5:1-7
- B. In the words of the Shulamite, we have expressed the desire of the church.
 1. The church is watching and waiting for Christ's return.
 2. While she waits, we do two things:

III. **The Application** for marriage.

- A. There is a word for young men and young women to wait to have sex until married.
- B. The calling of the husband to pursue his wife, but not for himself, but for her good.