

**“Little Foxes”**

*Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom. - Song of Solomon 2:15*

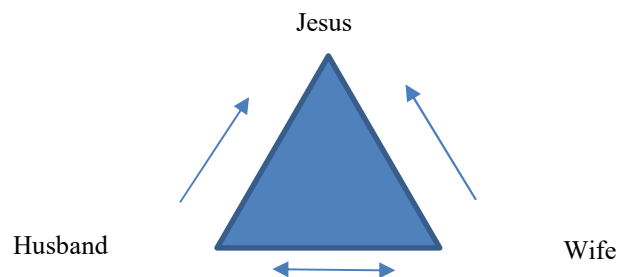
I grew up in a church tradition that classified sins by degrees of severity. Some were minor like a ‘little white lie’ whereas others were major like murder. All sin is an abomination before God and the Truth of God’s Word shows us the fallacy of this traditional teaching.

*For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it; As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - James 2:10; Romans 3:10, 23*

Regardless of our denominational background upbringing, we all tend to compromise with what we deem to be little sins. These are like the ‘little foxes that spoil the vineyards’ from our reference Scripture.

The Song of Solomon chronicles the love relationship between a man and a woman he is about to marry. It is analogous to the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church as His bride to be. This love relationship is fragile at first like the early blossoms in the vineyard. The little foxes are the sin compromises, albeit small and minor in our minds, which work to sully our love relationship.

*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her - Ephesians 5:22-25*



Note from the diagram above that the distance between the husband and wife (their relationship) gets shorter (stronger) as the distance between them and Jesus gets shorter. The little foxes that we allow in our lives hinder relationships between spouses and with our Lord, Jesus.

What petty things spoil your love relationship with your spouse? What will betray the trust between you? Is there selfishness? Pride and fault-finding? Unforgiveness?

*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these... - Galatians 5:19-21*

It is also important to note from our relationship triangle above the need for each spouse to have a strong relationship with Jesus to strengthen and balance their marriage relationship.

*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? - 2 Corinthians 6:14*

Recognize also from the diagram that there are three who participate in a strong marriage relationship.

*And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12*

The love we have for Jesus can grow cold if we allow the little foxes i.e., the small sins – the compromises on the Commandments and the Word of God – to separate us from Him.

Do we allow our love for the things of the world to interfere with our relationship with Jesus?

*For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. - 1 John 2:16*

Do we hear His leading and checking and yet ignore Him, thereby quenching the Spirit by giving in to the little foxes of what we know to be sin?

*Do not quench the Spirit... hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. – 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22*

Do we neglect to do or say what is right? It may be a small thing, but it is sin, nonetheless.

*So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. - James 4:17*

This Independence Day Holiday we celebrate our country's freedom from the tyranny of foreign rule. Let us take it one step further and celebrate our independence from the tyranny of sin, no matter how small or great.

*Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? - Romans 6:16*

May you be free from the little foxes that plague your relationship with Jesus and your spouse.

*So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. - John 8:36*