

## June 18 Answers

- 1) As Solomon's song ends, the girl reflects on the days when she was younger and under the care of her brothers. They wondered how to help prepare her for marriage, and they decided that if she kept her **virginity**, standing firm like a **wall** against sexual temptation, they would praise her. But if she was **promiscuous** and given over to immorality, they would take steps to stop her (Song 8:8–9). In Song of Songs 8:10, she testifies that she kept her virginity and thus found favor in Solomon's eyes. This teaches us the importance of moral **purity** before marriage. If we honor God's boundaries for **sex**, we will enjoy the fruit of that commitment in a **loving, giving** relationship. A certain phrase is repeated throughout the Song: "I adjure you that you not **stir up** or **awaken** love until it pleases" (Song 8:4). People are often in a hurry to develop intimate relationships based on the **feelings** of the moment, but feelings aren't enough to support a lasting relationship. This verse warns us not to stir up the passion of **love** before we know with certainty the relationship is worthy of lifelong **commitment**.