



# Pointes to Ponder

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

The little foxes invading the vines and carrying away luscious fruit represent those unsuspected, insignificant, seemingly small causes that nibble away at many clusters of joy and peace from our homes, churches, and lives. These supposedly "little things" are the very things that often have the ability to impact our attitudes, our characters, and our futures. Let's consider a few "little foxes" that ruin many "vines."

## Fault-finding

Fault-finding is a little fox that many people allow to run quite freely among their homes and churches. As we look back over our life's years, we should ask ourselves how much real good has ever been accomplished by nagging, back-biting and fault-finding (Proverbs 25:23). How much of it is well-timed, well-spoken and motivated by Godly love? Most fault-finding does nothing more than give selfish expression to an irritable state of being.

## Irritability

How about the little fox called irritability? As the days turn into weeks and weeks into months of this virus event, it may be increasingly tempting to be irritable. The fruit of the Spirit includes temperance or self-control (Galatians 5:23). Men who are like grouchy bears and women who resemble wildcats in their temperaments are indeed poor examples. But the solution to be self-controlled is not clamming up or shutting down either. Simply repressing the sin brings no relief.

## Repression

Another little fox we will call repression. The most bitter tears are those shed over graves for words left unsaid and deeds undone. Our friendships and relationships would be so much more fulfilling if our thoughts of love were manifested into deeds. Too many of us repress the best and noblest intentions within ourselves. Let's say the kind things that arise in our hearts and do the loving deeds the Holy Spirit prompts us to do now. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you (Luke 6:31).

## Self-centeredness

How can we become the disciples we are commanded to become (Matthew 28:19-20) if we make ourselves frozen islands? Self-centeredness is a little fox that has destroyed more marriages, homes, and friendships than can be counted. Maybe it is time to turn all those little foxes into "firs" to help provide warmth in our homes, churches, and our lives especially for such a time as this. And yes, I do know how to spell "furs." It just didn't fit my acronym! Be blessed as you stay safe and well!