

Following God's Design

July 5, 2020

Proverbs 5:1-11, 15-18

In today's lesson, Solomon teaches his sons (and us) the proper way (God's design) to enjoy the gift of sexuality. Biblical teaching affirms that the Lord designed the marriage relationship and norms in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:18, 21-25). The exclusive nature is found in the ten commandments Exodus 20:14,17. Marriage formalizes the social relationship that comprise a family. It is good that we review God's design for marriage and sexuality in light of modern (flawed) concepts regarding sex.

Solomon knows the allure of sin's siren call. He warns his readers about the pit of sexual temptation. Solomon recognizes the peril of getting too close to sin, so he pleads that we not even approach the door.

Our culture has whole-heartedly rejected the warning of Proverbs and has instead plunged into the wasteland of sexual immorality. To the unmarried couple who negotiate barriers only to rush past them and negotiate new ones; to the married spouse excusing a flirtatious wink or touch in the workplace; to the one seeking digital concubines behind the false anonymity of a screen: to all these Solomon exclaims, "Flee!"

The dangers are too real and the pleasures too fleeting to trade God's good provision for something lesser. However glamorous the marketing of sin may seem, we should look past the gimmicks and see what wonderful treasures await down the path of God's design. We can trust that God's blessing for sexuality as he intended is the real deal. *[excerpts by Manny Prieto]*

See the Reality (Proverbs 5:1-6)

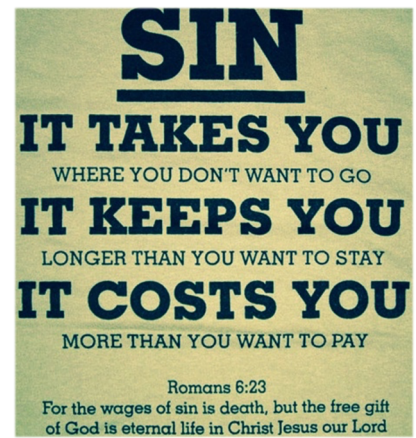
- Solomon is conveying wisdom to His son. ***"My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge."***
 - He urged his son to use his lips to pass on godly instruction to future generations.
- In contrast, the lips of those who reject God (*strange, foreign, forbidden*) are used to tempt us.
 - ***"lips of a strange woman"*** – they lure you with sweet talk (like honey) and smooth seducing words (like olive oil). Flattery is quite difficult to resist.
- In the beginning the promise of carnal pleasure is intriguing, but the end story is quite different.
 - The sexual encounter with the forbidden woman would have horrible consequences.
 - Her words would turn bitter (like wormwood).
- In fact, Solomon describes her as a ***"two-edged sword"*** – that slashes a person into pieces.
- Even worse the path (lifestyle) of promiscuous sex leads to death.
 - People who take the path of satisfying sexual urges without restraint place their feet on the road that leads to hell.
- In God's wisdom, marriage involves one woman and one man who devote themselves to each other for life.

- **What happens if you ignore the blueprint in building a house?**
- **What happens if you ignore God's design for marriage?**



Think Long Term (Proverbs 5:7-11)

- Solomon's appeal to his son is valuable to everyone in every generation who give themselves to seeking godly wisdom. We do well not to depart from God's wisdom by taking the first foolish step toward misery and regret. This is about Christians making the right choices about fidelity towards God and each other. Marriage is the nucleus of the family and provides the basis for proper relationships with others.
- Repeating his earlier command, Solomon instructs his son to keep his distance from the forbidden woman (adulteress, mistress, prostitute).
 - *The best way to keep from giving in to temptation would be to avoid even the slightest possibility of coming in contact with it.*
- *What happens to a person who chooses to do otherwise?*
 - Giving in to sexual immorality leads to loss of respect, honor, and dignity.
 - It also leads to the *transfer of your wealth* to others (**strangers**).
 - As time passes, sexual immorality leads to regret and physical pain:
 - **"Thy flesh and thy body consumed."**
- *Is their hope? What if I have given in to temptation?*
 - Yes, forgiveness is available through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Turn away from sin (repent).
- **How can we warn others about the consequences of sexual immorality in a society that thrives on sexual freedom of all forms?**



What The Bible Says About Sexual Sin

- Sexual sin begins in the mind (Matt. 5:28).
- Sexual temptation is powerful (1 Cor. 6:18).
- Sexual sin is destructive (Prov. 6:32).
- Forgiveness is available (John 8:10-11, 1 Cor. 6:11).

Enjoy God's Provision (Proverbs 5:15-18)

- Solomon skillfully uses waters to affirm the unique promise of sexual intimacy in marriage.
 - In Solomon's day, water was a precious treasure. The desert didn't produce much water.
 - Water gives life. Without it, nothing could survive.
- In a similar way, the health and survival of the marriage relationship depends on being faithful.
- Cisterns were used to collect rain water, making it available for a long time to come.
- Wells, when available could tap into underground streams and bring water to the surface.
 - **"Drink waters out of thine own cistern"** – enjoy what God has provided you.
 - Don't look elsewhere for satisfaction – **"Thou shalt not covet"** (Ex. 20:17).
- God made His commandment about adultery perfectly clear (Ex. 20:14). Adultery is a sin.
- Solomon offered another reason we should not engage in sexual immorality:
 - It's a foolish choice. As foolish as wasting life-sustaining water by pouring it into the street.
- Instead, Solomon brings to mind the blessing of marriage – newlyweds who can enjoy the path of life together and look forward to a lifetime of intimacy and fidelity. That's WISDOM!
- **"Let thy fountain be blessed"** – a never ending supply of water – endless joy together.
- **Who are your role models for marriage? Why?**

Biblical Truth: **God expects His people to show His wisdom through sexual purity.**

