

## Proverbs 5 – The Way to Avoid Danger

If we had started the study by listing the top ten areas where wisdom is needed in our culture, sex would likely be somewhere near the top. We live in a sex saturated culture, but our culture's view on sex tends to be contrary to that of scripture.

Our culture proudly emphasizes everything about sex except for God's plan. And, truth be told, the message given to us might seem good and right, but what seems good and right in the world leads us away from God's wisdom, not toward it. God has given us the wisdom we need. In fact, scripture has a lot to say about God's design for sexual intimacy.

After warning his sons of the danger of seduction and adultery, Solomon gave his wisdom about how to avoid these dangers – find pleasure in his wife and be lost in her love forever. God wants both wives and husbands to enjoy each other, and when the Bible speaks romantically, it always assumes monogamy and marriage. This is true romance: to love and enjoy your husband or wife all the days of your life.

Solomon loved his wife, and it was evident in his words and actions. However, 1 Kings 11 tells us that Solomon did not avoid danger. This wise man very foolishly took many women as his wives and that sin turned his heart away from the Lord. *<sup>1</sup>King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. <sup>2</sup>They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. <sup>3</sup>He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. <sup>4</sup>As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.*

There were consequences. God did not tell Solomon how to live, and then step back and become an observer. Solomon's foolish actions grieved God, and He tore the kingdom out of Solomon's hands. It is impossible to hide any sin from the Lord. He is all-seeing and all-knowing. He wants better for us than a life bound by the seduction of the world.

### Warning Against Adultery

We have the opportunity to hear from the wisest man who lived and who also made some of the biggest mistakes in the area of sexual relations. Sexual sin is so seductive and dangerous because it can start out small and in many cases is seemingly innocent. The problem is that at times we have difficulty seeing the harm in the behavior. Sexual sin is appealing; it promises pleasure and happiness. Sexual sin may cause you to walk away from God or at least redefine God as someone who is okay with your sin. Sexual sin may cost you your family, your reputation, and the respect of your children.

*5 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, <sup>2</sup> that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup> but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. <sup>5</sup> Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. <sup>6</sup> She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.*

### Don't Fall Into Sexual Sin

Solomon knows all too well how easy it is to fall into sexual sin. He had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. 1 Kings 11:3. Solomon warns his son not to fall for the forbidden or immoral woman. As parents, we need to be the expert on sex with your children. We should not abdicate that responsibility to TV, school officials, the Internet or our children's peers just because we are uncomfortable with the discussion. Sex is a powerful gift from God, and we need to proclaim the beauty of sex in marriage.

Solomon warns his son that the lips of the immoral woman may "drip with honey"; here speech is smoother than oil. Solomon is not absolving his son of responsibility nor is Solomon focusing solely on women who prey on men. If Solomon were talking to a daughter, he would talk about an immoral man. Solomon is warning his son about any sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage. Any sexual activity that is not with your heterosexual wife or heterosexual husband is sin and will destroy you, your marriage, or your future marriage.

### Words of Communication

Solomon says that this woman is a charmer with her words and yes, men can do this too. Communication is the first way you are drawn into sexual sin. (Proverb 6:24) Alluring words can pull you away from your marriage vows. This is true because we are susceptible to and drawn to flattery and we love compliments. The communication may be innocent enough in the beginning: maybe the person laughs at your jokes; an interaction on Facebook makes you feel important; the person may seem to understand you better than your husband or wife. If any of these situations are occurring in your life you should hear the theme music from "Jaws" in the background. RUN!!! Repeated emailing, texting, calling, or meeting up with someone of the opposite sex who is not your spouse is a major issue. You are creating emotional intimacy.

The lies of culture enter your ear and heart. We are told that "infidelity is hotter than monogamy"; "follow your heart"; "do what makes you happy." Be careful that the things that you read and listen to do not cause you to be dissatisfied in your relationship by suggesting that your spouse is not the ideal.

### LOOKS

Looks can draw us into unfaithfulness. Attraction draws you into sexual sin. Solomon warns his son in Proverbs 6:25 – *do not lust in your heart for her beauty.* Lust starts in

the heart before the act. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 5 <sup>27</sup> *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* Men are creatures of sight, so be on guard about what you look at. Christian sisters can help by dressing modestly. But it takes both men and women to make this work. We need to be mindful of how we dress and what we say to one another.

### Sexual Sin Will Kill You

You will reap what you have sown. Anyone can see these consequences, even non-believers. Solomon says you will lose your money (alimony & child support). You may lose your health (STDs). Proverbs 6:20-35 that sexual sin may cost you your life (HIV/AIDS). He speaks practically about the cost of adultery. He says the price for a prostitute is like the cost of bread. Sexual sin may just cost your life as you know it. You lose the respect of your children or you lose your family. They are just a foretaste of hell because the wages of sexual sin is death. Romans 6:23.

*<sup>7</sup> Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. <sup>8</sup> Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup> lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, <sup>10</sup> lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. <sup>11</sup> At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. <sup>12</sup> You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! <sup>13</sup> I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. <sup>14</sup> And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God’s people.”*

*<sup>15</sup> Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. <sup>16</sup> Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? <sup>17</sup> Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. <sup>18</sup> May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. <sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.*

### Sexual Sin Will Destroy You Eternally

We will be held accountable for it on judgment day. God sees all. It will not go unnoticed. Even if by chance we avoid all of the consequences in this life, we will not avoid judgment. So often we talk about sexual sin at the level of temporal consequences. (pregnancy; STDs) We are afraid to use the word hell because we do not want to seem old-fashioned. But we need to use this word because sexual sin will drag us there.

*<sup>20</sup> Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man’s wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman? <sup>21</sup> For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths. <sup>22</sup> The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. <sup>23</sup> For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.*

### How Do We Fight It?

Two ways to fight this sin: vertical and horizontal. Horizontally – be satisfied in your spouse; wait until you find the love of your life. The antidote to sexual sin is true intimacy with your spouse. True intimacy is found in exclusivity. If we are faithful and exclusive, over time intimacy will develop. 1 Corinthians 6 tells us to flee sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 7 says to enjoy sexual intimacy regularly in marriage. It is dangerous to withhold sex from one another. If you are not having sexual intimacy regularly in marriage, that is a danger sign. Sexual intimacy binds you together with your spouse in a way you are not bound with anyone else.

Drink water from your own cistern. Song 4:1-7 - *How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes behind your veil are doves. Your hair is like a flock of goats descending from the hills of Gilead. <sup>2</sup> Your teeth are like a flock of sheep just shorn, coming up from the washing. Each has its twin; not one of them is alone. <sup>3</sup> Your lips are like a scarlet ribbon; your mouth is lovely. Your temples behind your veil are like the halves of a pomegranate. <sup>4</sup> Your neck is like the tower of David, built with courses of stone; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. <sup>5</sup> Your breasts are like two fawns like twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the lilies. <sup>6</sup> Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, I will go to the mountain of myrrh and to the hill of incense. <sup>7</sup> You are altogether beautiful, my darling; there is no flaw in you.*

Be kind to one another. The best defense against committing adultery is a strong offense in marriage. If you are not married, know that every good and perfect gift comes from God. God gave sex as a good gift to be enjoyed in marriage. There is beauty in marriage.

You cannot walk in wisdom in terms of sexual ethics if you are not in a right relationship with Jesus. Your vertical relationship with Jesus will affect your horizontal relationship and vice versa. You must be in a one flesh union with Christ. Through believing the gospel, you become a part of Christ's bride – the church.

God created his world good and everything worked right, including relationships and sex. But sin broke our relationship with God and with each other, so nothing right now works as it was designed. Instead of intimacy and satisfaction, there is distrust, barriers and unfaithfulness. Sex is still a good, God-given gift, but it is not used properly because we are sinners. Fire can be both good and destructive. When it is in a fireplace it can warm a house so you do not freeze in the winter, but when it is outside the fireplace it will destroy the house. Like a fire, sex is very good in the right context (marriage) but very destructive in the wrong context.

We need to be in right relationship with God in order for our marriages to work properly. Solomon understands that your relationship with the Lord is directly connected with your relationship with your spouse. Solomon talks about your spiritual relationships and your practical relationships. Each relationship has a direct effect on the other. If your spiritual relations is off, it can destroy the practical, and vice versa! Solomon's heart was pulled

toward other women, and his heart was pulled towards idols. By the power of Christ's spirit and our new hearts, we can be transformed to live out God's plan for our lives, including sexually. That is good news indeed.