



the bosom of a foreigner? For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths” (Proverbs 5:20-21). Even if we wait until nobody else is home or delete our search history, God sees everything we do. In this context, that fact should terrify us. If we are not careful we **“will die for lack of instruction”** (Proverbs 5:23).

with the appropriate place for the sexual relationship. Remember, earlier in the chapter Solomon talked about how the adulteress initially seemed sweet and smooth, but was ultimately bitter and sharp. Look now at the result of sex in it’s proper place: **“blessed... rejoice... satisfy... exhilarated...”** Sexual sin leads to guilt and sorrow; a proper sexual relationship leads to joy and satisfaction.

The text ends with another rhetorical question and some observations— **“For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress and embrace**

Conclusion

The fifth chapter of Proverbs provides some excellent insight into the results of sexual sin, how to avoid sexual sin, and the proper place for a sexual relationship. Those who find themselves struggling with sins of this nature would do well to study the wisdom provided here by a father to his son.

Always keep the big picture in the forefront of your mind. The temptation seems so sweet, but the end is unbearably bitter. If we can keep this in our mind, perhaps it will help us to avoid sexual sin. If you struggle with sexual sin, *don’t get near it!* We ought to do everything we can to avoid situations that will cause us to be trapped. In doing so, we will save ourselves from giving time and money into this sinful pursuit and from the guilt it will place on us. *Recognize the beauty of marriage.* This is where God has always intended for sex to take place. In contrast to sexual sin, sex within marriage provides stability, satisfaction, and joy. Let’s strive together to live lives that are completely devoted to glorifying God!



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ISSUE

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BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 8,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Avoiding Sexual Sin: Proverbs Five

By Andrew Dow

Unfortunately, I believe many Christians grow up with the misconception that sex is evil. I say this is unfortunate because sex is not evil. The sexual relationship between a man and a woman was created by God and established from the beginning of the world (cf. Genesis 2:24-25). Sex is good, but it has been misused to accomplish the wicked desires of mankind. While we must understand that sex is a gift from God, we must not fail to see the danger of sexual sin. I’m sure we have all seen Christians struggle with the fight for sexual purity. This is something which men and women wrestle with on a daily basis and, thus, needs to be addressed.

Proverbs five is a father’s heartfelt warning to his son in hopes that he will avoid the pitfalls of sexual sin. The father warns his son about the “adulteress,” however, we must recognize that the adulteress is not necessarily a literal woman. Rather, this is a personification of sexual sin. Therefore, application must be made concerning adultery, unlawful lust, pornography, and other such sins. This article will take the time to examine the wisdom found in Proverbs five concerning how to avoid sexual sin.

The Big Picture – Proverbs 5:1-6

Perhaps the most difficult thing about overcoming sexual sin is our inability to see the big picture. We begin to live in the moment and succeed in removing all possible consequences from our minds. Solomon

begins this discussion by showing his son that the big picture is something which would be valuable for us all to keep in our minds before temptation has a chance to attack.

Solomon begins by observing that, **“The lips of an adulteress drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech”** (Proverbs 5:3, NASU). For many men and women there is nothing more enticing than seductive flirtation, dramatic advertisements, or pornography. The very idea of such things seems daring and, thus, desirable. We want these things because they appear sweet and smooth. Unfortunately, this is often the only side of sexual sin we allow ourselves to see.



“But in the end,” Solomon continues, **“she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword”** (Proverbs 5:4). The Holy Spirit reveals for us how the story truly ends. Even though sexual sin appears to be sweet as honey, it is ultimately bitter. Wormwood is a plant known for its bitter taste, “and is always used metaphorically of bitterness and sorrow” (J. Trever, “Wormwood,” IDB 4:878-79). In fact, when the Old Testament was translated into Greek, “wormwood” was always rendered by “various words meaning ‘bitterness’” (ibid). Just as the sweetness turns into bitterness, the smooth oil of temptation’s speech turns into a sharp, two-edged sword. What may appear pleasurable ends in dissatisfaction.

The contrast demonstrated in verses three through four should be enough to help us see the big picture concerning sexual sin, but Solomon does not stop here. He goes on to describe the adulteress, **“Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it”** (Proverbs 5:5-6). You see, giving into the temptation of sexual sin does not just leave a bitter taste in your mouth or an ache in your heart. When you follow the proverbial adulteress, you follow her all the way to the grave. The death spoken of here can have application to both physical and spiritual death. We are well aware of the dangers associated with sexually transmitted diseases. In addition to that, some have found their lives taken from them simply by falling into the wrong crowd. However, we cannot ignore the ultimate, spiritual death that sin brings with it. To fall into the trap of sexual sin is to fall into an unstable environment. This is in extreme contrast to the stability that God provides!

Don't Go Near – Proverbs 5:7-14

Having painted for us the overall picture of sexual sin, the author hones in on some very practical advice. After begging for his son’s intense attention, Solomon writes, **“Keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house”** (Proverbs 5:8). This verse should be committed to the memory of anyone who struggles with sexual temptation. Do you find yourself

needing to search Google images? Do you *conveniently* find yourself walking past Victoria’s Secret? Perhaps you flip through the TV channels secretly hoping to see something that will excite you? The inspired author says, **“Do not go near the door of her house!”** Why do we put ourselves in situations that we know will cause us to sin? Brothers and sisters, the best way to avoid sexual sin is to avoid the situations that cause us to be tempted!

The text explains that if you put yourself in these compromising situations, **“you will give your vigor to others and your years to the cruel one; and strangers will be filled with your strength and your hard-earned goods will go to the house of an alien”** (Proverbs 5:9-10). Solomon warns his son not to give what is his to a stranger. This may refer to giving ourselves intimately to a stranger as well as giving away things such as our time, resources, and money. For example, “The porn industry generates \$13 billion each year in the US” (www.covenanteyes.com/pornstats). In order to make a comparison, in 2013 Major League Baseball generated only around \$8.5 billion. The time and money thrown into this worldly pleasure is alarming. We can avoid giving our **“hard-earned goods”** to strangers if we avoid tempting situations altogether.

Solomon ends this section with a warning concerning the guilt associated with sexual sin. The story is a common one; an individual puts himself in a position to be tempted, he give into sin (losing his **“hard-earned goods”** in the process), and finally he experiences unbearable guilt. The author writes, **“You groan at your final end, when your flesh and your body are consumed; and you say, ‘How have I hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof!’”** (Proverbs 5:11-12). The end of the process is amazement that you let yourself go so far! *“I only intended to watch videos on YouTube,”* you may say to yourself, *“how did I end up sinning against God?”* The way to avoid all of this is not easy, but it is simple: avoid ANY situation that will tempt you sexually.

The Beauty of Marriage – Proverbs 5:15-23

This chapter is truly wonderful because it is not merely a list of things to avoid, but it ends with a wonderful explanation of where sex can be enjoyed. **“Drink water from your own cistern and fresh water from your own well. Should your springs be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be yours alone and not for strangers with you”** (Proverbs 5:15-17). This is simply an illustrative way to say, be satisfied with what is yours. Notice how the rhetorical question is answered: **“Let them be... not for strangers.”** When we allow ourselves to fall into the trap of sexual sin we are giving away to strangers something that should be retained for a very specific person: our husband or wife.

“Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love” (Proverbs 5:18-19). Here we are provided