

Guarding Your Marriage
Proverbs 5
August 30, 2015

Introduction

God created us to be sexual beings. However, He created that relationship only in the boundaries of marriage between 1 man and 1 woman. He created the intimacy between man and woman as a picture between the intimacy between Christ and the Church (**Ephesians 5:23-32**). It is a holy union. To God the marriage between man and woman at creation was very good (**Genesis 1:27-2:25**).

However, sin corrupted us. Instead of two perfect people in perfect union, we now have two very imperfect people in a very imperfect union. The draws of sexual sins are very strong, and the Bible does not soften the insane strength of its desires. God repeatedly warns us to watch and avoid these sins. It is no surprise that Solomon in his teaching to his sons that he talks about adultery and that they should avoid it. It is a most fitting warning for us all!

I. Beware the Adulteress (1-6)

- Pay attention (1-2)
 - 9th time Solomon has said this
 - Repeated emphasis
 - He knows the dangers that are out there
 - He wants his sons to be aware and know how to guard against those dangers
 - He also wants his son to know the goodness of God's wisdom
- Beware (3)
 - Solomon is giving his son very specific warnings against a specific sin
 - Why?
 - Sexual temptation is one of the most powerful desires for the human body
 - Paul says that sexual sins are sins against the body

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

- This is a sin that has devastating effects on the body
- The Adulteress (3-6)
 - This is applicable to both males and females
 - Solomon using Adulteress because he is talking to his son
 - Watch out for a person who seeks sexual gratification
 - The seduction (3)
 - The initial contact is not sexual
 - Honeyed lips and oily words

Note: Solomon is playing with words for a reason. He tells his son in 2b that his lips are to preserve knowledge, which means that his lips tell the truth and be uplifting. However, the adulteress' lips are completely opposite. Her lips tell lies and used to build a false foundation that will be destroyed in an instant.

- Flattery—not true words
 - Words to build up a male's ego
 - The deception (4)

- Her intentions are opposite of what she says
- Once taken into her snare, there is nothing left than bitterness and regret (bitter as gall and two-edged sword)
- The destruction (**5-6**)
 - The act itself can be a point of no return
 - Her ways are unstable—she is not committed to you so why do you expect commitment from her?

II. Consequences of Adultery (7-14)

- Do not go near her (**7-8**)
 - One of many Scriptural warnings to avoid sexual sins

2 Timothy 2:22 *Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

Genesis 39:12 *She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.*

Proverbs 6:27 *Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?*

- Physical consequences (**9-10**)
 - Who are others and strangers?
 - Jealous husband

Proverbs 6:34 *for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.*

- They have much power over the adulterer
 - Forced labor (give strength to others)
 - Paying money to keep adulteress happy
 - Severe consequences
- Guilt for life (**11-14**)
 - Ultimate consequence—constant regret
 - Conscience condemns you
 - Adultery destroys relationships in family, society, church, and God
 - It becomes public knowledge
 - Sins done in secret will be unveiled

2 Samuel 12:11-12 *This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'*

Numbers 32:23b *you may be sure that your sin will find you out.*

- Utter ruin = death (law for adultery is death by stoning)

III. Faithfulness in Marriage (15-19)

- Stay with your spouse
 - Cistern / well
 - In Israel having your own well was a blessed thing—no sharing with others
 - Clean and pure water
 - Solomon is giving us a picture of marriage
 - Find your satisfaction in your wife alone (speaking to his son)
 - Your streams overflow
 - Male procreation—spreading his seeds indiscriminately
 - Graphic picture of street children of harlotry
 - Do not let children be only your own, not of immoral strangers
- Martial happiness
 - Enjoy your spouse
 - It is a command from God
 - God gives us pleasures in marriage and He is not ashamed of it!
 - Marriage is not just a duty—for making babies, but it is a pleasing gift from God
 - God delights in the intimacy shared by husband and wife

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

- Focus on your spouse and find the good things in her
 - Loving doe, graceful deer

IV. Final Warning (20-23)

- Do not be looking for another woman (from Solomon to his son)
- God sees all that you do

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

- Adultery carries devastating physical and spiritual consequences

Romans 1:18, 24 *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

Application

Why does adultery happen?

- Focusing on the negative things about your spouse
- Start to compare another with his/her spouse---elevating the other as “perfect”
- Complete selfishness—“I deserve” someone or something better
- All these happen long before the act itself

How to prevent adultery

- Always think of your spouse as God's gift to you

Proverbs 19:14 *Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

- Be thankful to God that He has given you him/her
- Recognize that the spouse is a very flawed human being
- Give grace to every "non-perfect" moments your spouse makes
- Capture every evil thoughts in captivity to Christ

2 Corinthians 10:5 *casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

- Focus on the goodness of your spouse

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

- Tell your spouse how much you enjoy him or her (frequently)
- Enjoy him or her! S/he will be your delight!