

Spiritual Adultery
Proverbs 6:20-35
September 27, 2015

I. Solomon and Adultery

- Solomon repeats himself about adultery
 - **Chapter 5, 6, 7**
 - It seems that Solomon is repeatedly warning his son about the dangers of adultery
 - This is a good goal because sometimes we forget to warn our children enough
 - However, remember the theme of Proverbs
 - Why did Solomon write or gather these proverbs?
 - Fear of YHWH—how to live in fear of YHWH
- Going deeper
 - Solomon is actually using adultery as a specific sin to teach his son about the fear of YHWH
 - **Chapter 5**
 - Protection from sexual temptress (who is not specifically said to be married)
 - How? From his teaching and the son's healthy and active marriage
 - **Chapter 6**
 - Protection from a married woman who is enticing the son
 - How? From the teaching of the word of God
 - Protection from: the jealous husband and from the scorn of society
 - **Chapter 7**
 - Clueless young man fallen for a smooth-talking lady (who is married)
 - This chapter is actually about temptation while using adultery as a specific sin

II. God's Word—Powerful Weapon (20-24)

- Solomon is pointing out that God's word is an effective protector and guide
 - It gives us life, light, and protection
- Solomon says that it is the son's responsibility to obey it
 - Obey it
 - Apply it to his life
- By keeping God's word in our life, it helps us to recognize temptation and to deny its power over us

III. Adultery Is Not All That (24-35)

- Warning signs (**24-25**)
 - Smooth words (**24b**)
 - Words that are flattering and appeals to pride
 - Your heart's desire (**25a**)
 - Lust = desire
 - What you think and desire—watch it

***Proverbs 4:23** Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.*

- Some desires are good

Genesis 2:9 *And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

- Some desires are bad

Genesis 3:6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

- This is a bad desire—warning against it
- Those desires are for those not your own

Exodus 20:17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

- To act on them is sin

James 1:14-15 *but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

- Your eyes (**24b**)

- She makes herself look attractive
- Some men would say “Free eyes, I can look whatever I want”
- Jesus tells us that this is sin

Matthew 5:27-28 *You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- It goes back to the heart...the desire
- Solomon is telling his son to control his desire so that he would not fall to temptation

Job 31:1 *I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?*

- Cost of committing adultery (**26-29**)

- Lesser cost to greater cost (**26**)
 - Prostitute cost = poverty (reduce you to loaf of bread)
 - Adultery cost = your life (or soul)
- Questions (**27-28**)
- Answers (**29**)
 - No one who commits adultery goes unharmed
 - Damage is usually catastrophic and deadly

- Its punishment (**30-35**)
 - Thief (**30-31**)
 - Society takes pity for the man who steals to survive
 - Yet the thief has to be punished pay whatever the law requires in full
 - Adultery (**32-33**)
 - Not so with adultery—society does not pity the adulterers
 - People are treated with scorn and shame when committing adultery
 - Therefore penalty is more severe—death
 - Jealous husband (**34-35**)
 - Angry husband who will not be satisfied by punishment
 - Death would satisfy him

***Leviticus 20:10** If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.*

- The lesson
 - Adultery is not beautiful or romantic
 - No two people who commit adultery with each other love each other
 - Love is a commitment to the spouse—full commitment
 - Love is a covenant, a promise

IV. The Missing Person

- Is this all that Solomon has to say about adultery?
- Consider the progression of **chapter 6**
 - Placing yourself as a security for someone else is bad
 - What is worse than that? Being a sluggard
 - What is worse than being a sluggard?
 - Making God your enemy by treating people hatefully
 - What is worse than that?
 - Adultery? It seems strange—does it fit?

***Proverbs 6:15** Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.*

- Yes, in between **verses 14 and 16**, Solomon talks about judgment
- This sentence is the hinge between the two sections
- **Verse 15** calls out for judgment but does not name the Judge
- **Verse 16** names the Judge, but does not call out for judgment
- In this section about adultery, the passage ends in judgment but does not mention YHWH once
- Remember the theme of Proverbs? Fear of YHWH
- Where is YHWH in this passage?
- I believe Solomon purposely does this to make us think
- What is worse than a man committing adultery with a woman?
- Adultery against YHWH
- Adultery against YHWH
 - OT examples
 - YHWH's relationship to Israel is a marriage contract

Ezekiel 16:8 *When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God.*

- God is a jealous God who desires Israel to worship only Him

Exodus 20:5 *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

- Israel was not faithful to God

Exodus 34:14-16 *(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.*

Hosea 1:2 *When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD."*

- Israel committed adultery by going after idols and other gods
- NT example

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 *I hope you will put up with a little of my foolishness; but you are already doing that. 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.*

- As a Christian, to commit adultery is to accept another gospel

Coram Deo

Solomon tells his son that to avoid adultery, he must listen to his father's and mother's words and obey them and apply them to his life. The word of God is what we use to fight adultery. Adultery is ugly and catastrophic and deadly. Adultery also applies to our relationship to God. When we turn from God and worship another or pursue a different gospel, we will be separated from God. What Solomon is aiming at for all of us to love God with all our heart, with all of our soul, and all of our strength.