

### The Peril of Adultery

#### Proverbs 5

**Proverbs 5** - *“My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lay hold of hell, lest you ponder her path of life. Her ways are unstable; you do not know them.*

*Therefore hear me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner. And you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed, and say: ‘How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised correction! I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! I was on the verge of total ruin, in the midst of the assembly and congregation.’*

*Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times, and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?*

*For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”*

#### Background Notes

Proverbs 5 is filled with warnings about sexual sin, so we may wonder why God chose Solomon to write this chapter in the Bible? Solomon was certainly no model for us to follow in the area of sexual behavior. The same question is asked about the Song of Solomon: why would God choose Solomon, of all people, to write about that Bible book about romance, marriage, and sex as God intended it to be?

Part of the answer to this question is: although King Solomon was certainly not a model in this area of life, he was certainly an authority when it came to experience in this area. Solomon had learned the hard way, so God used Solomon to give this wise counsel. As the word of God, this chapter serves as a warning against sexual sin and as a guideline for marital fidelity.

## Doctrinal Points

### 1. Believers will face sexual seduction.

The Bible teaches that our faith will be tested (James 1; 1 Peter 1), and that tests of our faith can come in all areas of life. Sex is one of these areas. Most men will be tested in this area - perhaps more than once. The question is, will you pass the test - or will you fail the test? If you pass the test, will you pass with an "A" - or squeak by with a "D"?

Proverbs 5 tells us that the temptress is a smooth, slick, and seductive sweet-talker. Her flattery ensnares many, so be warned! These attractive charmers live only for the moment (v6). In the end, there are very bitter consequences - wrecked marriages, dysfunctional and broken families, sexually transmitted diseases, guilt, scandal, and even early death.

What's the solution for standing firm and true against sexual seduction? The answer is in verses 1-2: **Walk in the way of wisdom**. Pay attention to wisdom, to the point where **wisdom characterizes your life**, and even your talk is filled with wisdom. This can only come through studying and knowing and obeying the word of God. This is essential for standing firm, because believers will face sexual temptation.

### 2. Believers should flee sexual sin.

The key for standing against sexual seduction is to **know** and to **obey** all that the Bible has to say about resisting temptation. Solomon tells his sons that wisdom's key to resisting sexual temptation is to **run** (v7-8)! **Flee!** Get away as quickly as you can! Don't stay around to see how strong you are. *"Flee youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22).*

If we're walking in the way of wisdom, we won't go anywhere near situations where we may be vulnerable! Put distance between yourself and temptation! *"Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house" (v7-8).*

So the Bible teaches – Run! Flee! Don't hang around! Don't even check out a situation where you could be vulnerable. Remember Joseph? When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, he didn't hang around to prove that he could resist the temptation. No! He ran from her as quickly as he could, even leaving his coat in her hands.

In the area of sexual temptation, the Lord Jesus said that **drastic action** must be taken to **separate** from the problem. He taught that if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out, and if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off (Matthew 5:29-30). What the Lord meant was: we should take **drastic action** to avoid any area of temptation.

In verses 9-14, we see the sad consequences of failure in the area of sexual sin: sinful dissipation of strength and energies (v9), legal fees and possibly blackmail (v10), heartbreak, guilt, remorse, and possibly disease (v11). Verse 14 may indicate possible public disgrace as well. Could all this disaster happen because you didn't listen to wise counsel

when you had the chance? *“How I hated instruction and my heart despised correction! If only I had obeyed the voice of my teachers, and listened to those who instructed me!”* (v12-13). Believers should flee sexual sin.

### 3. Believers can find sexual satisfaction.

*“Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times, and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?”* (v15-20).

It doesn't take much insight to interpret this figurative language. The cistern and well refers to one's own wife (v15). The springs and streams would be either sexual desires or children that result from sexual relationship (v16-17). In either case, the point is that **marital fidelity is the only true way to find sexual satisfaction**. And by the way, contrary to popular opinion in our culture, sex is not an essential for a completely fulfilled and satisfied life.

The quite explicit sexual language teaches us that God approves of sexual satisfaction, but only within the boundaries that He has set up for our own good: within the **marriage of one man and one woman (v18-20)**.

In verses 19-20, the word that's translated *“enraptured”* can also be translated exhilarated, delighted, ravished, captivated, even intoxicated. Sexual satisfaction in marriage is a safeguard against unfaithfulness (v20).

In Song of Solomon we find similar explicit sexual language between Solomon and his Shulamite wife, showing that God approves sexual satisfaction in marriage: *“You have ravished my heart, my lovely one, my bride; I am overcome by one glance of your eyes, by a single bead of your necklace. How sweet is your love, my darling, my bride. How much better it is than mere wine. The perfume of your love is more fragrant than all the richest spices. Your lips, my dear, are made of honey. Yes, honey and cream are under your tongue, and the scent of your garments is like the scent of the mountains and cedars of Lebanon.*

*“My darling bride is like a private garden, a spring that no one else can have, a fountain of my own. You are like a lovely orchard bearing precious fruit, with the rarest of perfumes; nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, and perfume from every other incense tree, as well as myrrh and aloes, and every other lovely spice. You are a garden fountain, a well of living water, refreshing as the streams from the Lebanon mountains.”*

*“Come, north wind, awaken; come, south wind, blow upon my garden and waft its lovely perfume to my beloved. Let him come into his garden and eat its choicest fruits”* (Song of Solomon 4:9-16 Living Bible). Believers can find sexual satisfaction in marriage.

### Practical Application

## **Let the Lord lead your love life!**

**Proverbs 5:21-23** – *“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He ponders all his paths. His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”*

The Bible tells us that the Lord watches everything we do, but did you realize that the Lord watches over our “love life” - whether single or married? In the context, that’s exactly what Proverbs 5:21 says. And Hebrews 4:13 reminds us: *“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.”*

So if the Lord already knows about your love life, why not let Him **lead** your love life? He knows your needs and He knows your desires, so why not let Him mold your needs and desires? Follow the instructions in His Word, and in that way you’ll have a fulfilled and godly love life.

However, if you choose to go your own lustful and self-indulgent and sinful way, you will reap what you have sown. You will become a slave to sexual sin (v22). And you must give account to the Lord for your actions. So don’t be foolish. Turn away from temptation, and allow the Lord to lead your love life.

Remember - because the Lord sees everything we do, when we walk in His Way of Wisdom, we bring joy to our Lord! So let **Him** lead in **every** aspect of your life!