

Addressing Sexual Sin (Proverbs 5)

Sexual sin goes against who God created humans to be. The Bible teaches us this lesson in [Proverbs 5](#) as it warns a young married man against the adulteress. You may not be young, or married, or a man, but the wisdom of this text applies to you as much as to anyone else. As the passage unfolds, it presents to us steps we'll need to take to avoid sexual sin.

1. Flee from Temptation-The author begins with an exhortation to listen: My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil. (Proverbs 5:1-3)

Sexual sin is often attractive. It has a certain charm that invites and allures with seductive and smooth speech. It is also addictive: "The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin" (Proverbs 5:22). Like any appetite, the more we feed sexual sin the more it grows. The more we commit it, the more we will feel we need it, the easier it will be to do it, and the harder it will become to stop. **So, we need to flee.** Now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house. (Proverbs 5:7-8)

Fleeing sexual sin means doing all we can to avoid it. For some of us, that will mean restricting what we look at online, or not watching certain TV shows, or being more careful about what social situations we place ourselves in, or breaking up with someone (even if they mean the world to us), or changing our job. If any of this seems like an overreaction, listen again to how it all ends: "He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray" (Proverbs 5:23). Sexual sin is attractive and addictive, and this is a lethal combination. Any action and sacrifice is worth it.

2. Consider the Future-The writer wants us to see what it all comes to in the end: "At the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed" (Proverbs 5:11). **Sexual sin has consequences.** We may talk about these things as a "fling" or "one night stand," but the fact is, such sins are not so easily containable.

Do not go near the door of her house lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and

your labors go to the house of a foreigner. (Proverbs 5:8-10). Sexual sin seems so attractive now, but fast-forward to the end and it all looks very different: "You say, 'How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors'" (Proverbs 5:12-13). The wise consider their end before they get there.

3. Uphold Your Marriage

The young man being addressed needs to see how overwhelmingly positive a thing it is to enjoy sexual fulfillment within marriage.

Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. (Proverbs 5:15-19)

The Bible is not at all embarrassed by the enjoyment of sex in marriage. Some of the imagery here leaves little to the imagination. Cistern and well are both images of female sexuality, as the fountain is of male sexuality. We shouldn't be surprised to see such imagery in the Bible. God is the one who designed human sexuality, intending for the husband and wife to enjoy their sexual union.

So we must work at our sex lives. And, it probably goes without saying, investment in a healthy sex life is not likely to happen without investment in the marriage relationship as a whole for the married. Honor the marriage bed by living lives of purity.

What about those who are single? Listening to this can be painful. We hear about sexual satisfaction, and it is hard to hear. But you must endure in following the Bible's teaching about sexual purity until marriage. And uphold the marriage we have together with Christ.

God sees our sin. But he also sees us striving to be pure and godly. He knows when we are battling; he knows what we are going through. It may well be that no one really seems to understand the kind of struggle you face or really knows the pain you go through as you fight temptation. But Jesus does. He draws near to us, as we draw near to him. Talk to the Father. He hears our prayers. As we fight for purity, he fights for us and with us.

If you desire prayer, contact us through our website and submit your prayer request. We would love to pray for you and believe God with you for whatever you are desiring spiritually for your life.

God Bless!