

Proverbs 5 – Wisdom in Matters of Sexual Purity

The Father's Plea for Discernment (vv. 1–2)

*“My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding,
That you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge.”*

Solomon opens with a heartfelt appeal: *“Listen carefully.”* His concern is not just academic—it’s deeply personal and moral. He knows that his son will face real temptations, especially in the area of sexual purity. One of the most common and destructive pitfalls in youth—and in all of life—is ignoring sound instruction in this area. Those who treasure godly counsel and learn from the wisdom of others will be protected by it. Their words and their choices will reflect the discernment they’ve embraced.

Personal Application:

Are you cultivating a heart that listens to God’s wisdom in this area? Many moral failures begin with ignoring wise counsel. God’s Word is not a fence to keep us from joy—it’s a safeguard that protects us from long-term pain.

The Allure and Danger of Sexual Sin (vv. 3–6)

*“The lips of a strange woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;
But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.”*

The appeal of sexual temptation is real. It often comes cloaked in flattery, charm, and pleasure. But beneath the surface lies bitterness and destruction. Solomon is speaking here about the seductive and dangerous power of immorality. Her words are sweet, but her end is poison. Her path leads downward—toward spiritual ruin, emotional regret, and sometimes physical destruction.

Personal Application:

The pull of temptation often hides its true cost. What seems pleasurable for a moment can leave deep scars. God calls us to look beyond the surface and remember where these paths lead.

Guard Your Path (vv. 7–14)

“Remove your way far from her...lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel.”

Solomon doesn’t say *“Resist her at the door.”* He says *“Don’t go near it.”* Sin is deceptive. Playing with temptation is already a step toward giving it ground. The price? Lost reputation, wasted time, stolen wealth, and the pain of regret.

The one who gives in eventually mourns:

“How I hated instruction... I did not obey my teachers...”

The shame and sorrow that follow are avoidable—but only for those who choose to listen before it’s too late.

Personal Application:

Regret is often born not of ignorance but of ignored wisdom. Who are you listening to? And what boundaries have you set to protect your heart and body from temptation?

Delight in the Gift of Marriage (vv. 15–20)

“Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well.”

Rather than only warning against immorality, Solomon gives a beautiful picture of what is right: the joy and intimacy of marital love. God designed the sexual relationship to be enjoyed within the security and exclusivity of a lifelong covenant between a husband and wife. It is not shameful—it is sacred.

“Rejoice with the wife of your youth... be enraptured always with her love.”

The Bible affirms the beauty of physical intimacy within marriage. It is to be honored, nurtured, and guarded. Like a well-tended garden, it flourishes when cultivated rightly.

Personal Application:

In a world that often distorts or devalues marriage, we need to recover the beauty of God’s design. If you’re married, are you investing in that relationship? If you’re single, are you honoring marriage by how you treat others and steward your purity?

The Lord Sees All (vv. 21–23)

“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He ponders all his paths.”

Nothing is hidden from God. The decisions we make in secret are seen clearly by Him. He doesn’t watch to condemn us but to call us back to what is right and life-giving. Still, those who persist in sin will eventually be caught by it—bound by the very choices they thought would bring freedom.

“His own iniquities entrap the wicked, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.”

Personal Application:

Temptation offers freedom but delivers bondage. God sees your heart, your choices, and your struggles—not to shame you, but to lead you into the light. Don’t wait until regret forces change. Choose wisdom now.

Closing Reflection

Solomon’s message to his son is plain: *God’s design for sex and marriage is beautiful, but the consequences of ignoring it are severe.* His counsel isn’t outdated—it’s timeless. In a world full of seduction, confusion, and moral compromise, the Word of God remains the only reliable guide.

That’s why Paul told Timothy:

“Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse... but you must continue in the things you have learned... All Scripture... is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:13–17, NKJV)

Prayer of Personal Commitment

Lord, help me to love what You love and reject what leads to destruction. Strengthen me to walk in purity, to honor the covenant of marriage, and to guard my heart from temptation. Thank You for Your wisdom that preserves life and restores what's broken. May I never take lightly what You have made holy. In Jesus' name, Amen.