

WORSHIP SERVICE - 8.7.2022

THE FOLLY OF SEXUAL SIN

I. INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 5:1-6

- 1 My son, be attentive to my wisdom;
incline your ear to my understanding,
- 2 that you may keep discretion,
and your lips may guard knowledge.
- 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
- 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
- 6 she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

II. WARNINGS AGAINST SEXUAL SIN

- Again, parents, it is your responsibility to transmit wisdom, scriptural teaching, and life instruction to your children.
- We must convey a biblical worldview and biblical sexual ethics to our children.
- Parents, you must be the experts on sex so that your children are able to come to you with questions.
- The world is not holding back from teaching your kids about its sexual ethics and we cannot remain silent.
- Our children need to understand God's design for men and women, His design for marriage, how beautiful the gift of sex is in marriage, and the consequences when they chose to live outside of God's design.
- This talk Solomon has with his son, warning him against the adulteress and sexual sin, is repeated several times. It's that important.

KEEP DISCRETION

- The aim of this lesson is found in v2 that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.
- "Keep discretion"—Discretion means to judge wisely and objectively. It's knowing what to do and when to do it.
- Those who keep discretion are those who consider the consequences of their actions before they take any action.

- “Lips guard knowledge”—this phrase has to do with the speech. The one who guards knowledge is the one who only speaks what comes from the knowledge of God, from wisdom. Their lips speak truth.
- Joseph is a great example of this (Gen. 39).
- We looked at one of the key verses of Proverbs last week, 4:23, Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life.
- The heart is the command center, it directs all of your being. So wisdom must work its way down to your heart, so that out of your heart, your life is directed in wisdom’s path.
- Because this matter of sexual temptation and sin is a heart issue, we need to pay attention to how we think about and speak about sex.

THE FORBIDDEN WOMAN

- Now here is the motivation for why Solomon is telling his son to keep discretion and guard knowledge.
- If he doesn’t, he will not stand a chance against the forbidden woman.
- 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,
- Who is the forbidden woman? She is the adulteress; the strange or foreign woman. She is forbidden because she belongs to someone else. She is also the prostitute and the promiscuous woman.
- The father is teaching him the way temptation will come. He is warning his son about this kind of woman.
- If Solomon were talking to his daughter, he would warn her about the immoral man.
- Note also, Solomon isn’t shifting the blame of sexual sin just on the adulteress. The son isn’t an innocent bystander as if everything is happening to him and he is an unwilling participant.
- It’s important to understand at this point that the teaching in view has to do with all manner of sexual sin, not just adultery.
- The warning to the son and the warning to us concerns any sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage—a heterosexual union between one man and one woman. Any sexual activity outside of that destroys you, your marriage, or your future marriage.
- This includes not only adultery, but fornication, lust, pornography, cohabitation, one night stands, and homosexuality.

THE WAY OF TEMPTATION: WORDS

- 3 For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,
- The first way that the young man may be tempted and drawn into sexual sin is through the words of the seductress.
- She has honey lips and smooth speech. She is charming. She is flirtatious. She uses words to allure and pull men away from their marriage vows. She’s a sweet-talker and tells a man exactly what he wants to hear.
- The forbidden woman offers rival words to that of the father’s wisdom.
- Proverbs 7:21 With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.
- Her words lure in the foolish young man.
- Temptation calls out to each one of us and knows exactly what to tell us.
- The son has a decision to make, will he listen to the father’s wisdom or will he listen to the flattering words that appeal to his flesh?
- We all have the same decision to make. Who’s counsel will we listen to?
- Not only are beautiful lips attractive, but the charming and seductive words that come out of those lips can draw a man in.
- Men are suckers for the flattering talk of a woman.
- Sexual sin and unfaithfulness starts with communication. Initially, that communication may seem innocent at first, but can eventually lead you into greater sexual sin.
- For some, it may not be the seductive communication of another person but it may be the messages they are bombarded with by worldly culture.
- Maybe for some women it’s communication in their own heads concerning their husbands, *“My husband isn’t as romantic with me as I want or need him to be.”*

- Young women have to be warned about the flattering lips of the immoral man.
- Guys can have honey lips and smooth talk. They can spot an insecure woman a mile away and feed them whatever line they have to in order to get them to have sex.
- Men, watch out for the flattering lips of a woman who is not your wife.
- Women, watch out for the flattering lips of a man who is not your husband.
- Sexual sins starts with words. Be on guard. We are being warned.

III. CONSIDER THE END OF SEXUAL SIN

- *“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”*
- Sin always over promises and under delivers.
- 4 but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
- The sweetness turns to bitterness and the smoothness turns into a sharp sword that cuts.
- The promise of pleasure turns into a nightmare.
- Proverbs 22:14a The mouth of forbidden women is a deep pit.
- Look at the imagery Solomon is using to portray to his son the destructiveness of ignoring the father’s wisdom and chasing after sinful pleasure.
- Her honey lips become like the bitter herb wormwood. She doesn’t stay sweet for long.
- Her smooth lips become a devouring mouth. She cuts her victims to pieces.
- 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;
- Proverbs 2:18-19 for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; 19 none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.
- Sexual sin is deadly! Every step is a descent into death.
- Look where her feet are pointed—the path to Sheol, the grave.
- Every step with the forbidden woman is taking you down that path and away from the path of life.
- 6 she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.
- She does not consider the consequences of her actions.
- She wanders aimlessly in moral darkness.
- Those who follow after her, aren’t pondering the path of life either.
- When you give into sexual temptation you are stumbling about in darkness.
- In order to avoid this end, we need to consider the end.
- How do we do that? Reverse engineer the outcome of being with the forbidden woman, of giving into sexual sin.
- Where will our actions lead us if we follow through with our carnal impulses?
- The wise person keeps discretion. The wise person ponders the consequences of their actions before they take action.
- Consider what happens if you continue that flirtatious relationship with a co-worker or friend?
- Consider what you are taking into your heart through the messaging of the world via entertainment and music and how it is effecting your view on sexual ethics?
- Consider how your secret, personal communication with someone other than your spouse may be creating emotional attachments that can lead to something else?
- If David would have pondered the path of life, considered the consequences of his actions, he would have been spared massive heartache and pain.

CONCLUSION

- 1 Cor. 10:12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- None of us can say that we are exempt from sexual temptation. Don't let your guard down with sexual temptation.
 - 1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
 - You are not being tempted in a unique way that no one has ever experienced. That's the lie we believe when we are struggling with a certain temptation and we think we are the only one going through this. You're not!
 - But here's the good news! "God is faithful..."
 - If you are in Christ, the means by which you can overcome all temptation is available to you.
 - "He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability" - that means if we are in Christ, we don't blindly obey our sinful urges.
 - You will not be tempted by something that is beyond your ability to withstand, no matter how fierce the temptation.
 - "But with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." - Grace and power are available to us to endure every temptation.
 - Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - When you are struggling with temptation, look to Jesus, who can sympathize with our weakness. He was tempted by Satan himself, yet he resisted every temptation to be our faithful Mediator.
 - And now, we can confidently come to the throne of grace, when we are struggling with temptation and grace and mercy will flow from his throne to strengthen us.
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- If you are struggling with sexual sin you have to look to Christ. You have to find the source of overcoming in the one who overcame for us.
 - Additionally, you may need to confess your sin and struggle to a mature brother and sister who can pray for you, encourage you, and hold you accountable.
 - James 5:16a Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
 - You may need to take practical steps by deleting social media apps, curbing your media consumption, stop going to lunch with the co-worker of the opposite sex, change your workout time to avoid that flirtatious person, stop reading romance novels that make you fantasize about being with a different person, put filtering software on your computer.
 - Ponder the path of life. Consider the consequences of giving in to sexual sin.
 - But above all else, consider Christ. Who purchased our salvation and our freedom from sin so that we would no longer be slaves to our sinful desires.