

The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

[Part 8]

Godly wisdom about marriage –

This chapter five uncovers the corruption under the surface of the seductress. [v1-6]

Next warns of the price of infidelity. [v7-14]

Finally enlarges on the lasting delights of faithful marriage, over against the pathetic alternative. [v15-23].

Proverbs 5:1-2 [NIV] *“My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.”*

As Solomon approaches a new subject he again reminds his pupil of the need for close attention to what he was about to say.

“Lips” Hebrew “*sepheth*” meaning language, controlled words.

“Knowledge” Hebrew “*daath*” meaning awareness.

The lips are **not** merely contrasting with the honeyed lips of the adulteress [v3] but are to be a protection against them.

For a person who thinks before they speak will **not** be taken in by seductive talk.

Proverbs 5:3-4 [NIV] *“For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.”*

This adulteress is a prostitute.

Within Proverbs are many warnings against illicit sex for several reasons, physical and spiritual.

A prostitute’s charm is used as an example of any temptation to do wrong or to leave the pursuit of Godly wisdom.

Sexual immorality of any kind was and still is extremely dangerous.

It destroys family life.

It erodes a person’s ability to experience true love.

It degrades human beings and turns them into objects.

It can lead to disease.

It can result in unwanted children.

It is against the commands of God as it degrades the ultimate relationship between Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the true Christian Church. [**Revelation 19:7-9**]

Every person should be on guard against those who use flattery and smooth speech that could lead them into sin.

“*In the end*” Proverbs and Ecclesiastes will **not** allow us to forget this time of judgement. [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14]

This can be a warning or encouragement, since nothing can be judged by its first stages.

This illustration is an example of an attractive promise that turns out disgusting, honey turns to bitter gall [poisonous wormwood].

Smooth words become a murderous weapon.

Proverbs 5:5 [NIV] “*Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.*”

“*Death*” Hebrew “*mâveth*” meaning violent death, ruin or pestilence.

“*Grave*” Hebrew word “*sheol*” meaning the world of the dead.

In the New Testament people can be “*spiritual*” dead while they still remain physically alive. [Romans 8:6; John 5:24; 1 John 3:14]

At the end of our physical life, it will be too late to ask for Godly wisdom that is being given to us in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Psalms.

When any physical desire is fully activated, people do **not** want advice, they want physical satisfaction.

The best time to learn the dangers and foolishness of going after forbidden sex is long before the temptation comes.

Resistance is easier if the decision has already been made.

Do **not** wait to see what happens.

Prepare for temptation by deciding now how you are going to react when you face it.

Always avoid a situation where you are **not** in full control.

Such as a mind that is dulled by drink or drugs, or where the majority around you are indulging in forbidden sex which will put added peer-pressure on you to give in and join them.

Proverbs 5:6 [NIV] “*She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.*”

A prostitute is totally blinded to the real purpose of sex, and is only using it as a means to gain money or physical pleasure.

God designed sex for –

Genesis 1:27-28 – giving life to new human beings within the union of marriage.

Genesis 2:24-25 – for an intimate relationship within marriage as husband and wife.

“*Crooked*” Hebrew “*nûwa*” meaning to stagger to and fro or wander up and down prompted only by present circumstances making her life totally unpredictable.

Proverbs 5:7-8 [NIV] “*Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,*”

Simple but effective advice. Avoid going to places where there is the temptation for forbidden sex.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 [NIV] *“Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”*

Applying this to forbidden sex is **not** to join in a foolish argument with those who say it’s okay.

This may mean to break with that group of friends.

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

Even the thought of forbidden sex must be avoided, or repeated fantasies in our mind about forbidden sex. That is any sex outside of a marriage between a man and a woman, actual or imagined.

Proverbs 5:9-14 [NIV] *“lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man’s house. At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, ‘How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors. I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly.’”*

The price of forbidden sex is enlarged in these verses.

This is possibly the result of blackmail where the person wakes up to find that they have lost control of their wealth.

They have been exploited by the circle of people with whom they had **no** real family ties.

The person is then condemned by their conscience for **not** having taken the advice they had been offered. [v11-13]

To cap it all, their public life is utterly ruined, as people become aware of what they had done.

Proverbs 5:15-23 [Living Bible] *“... Be faithful and true to your own wife. Why should you beget children with women of the street? Why share your children with those outside of your home? Let your manhood be a blessing, rejoice in the wife of your youth. Let her charms and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight. Why delight yourself with prostitutes, embracing what isn’t yours? For God is closely watching you, and He weighs carefully everything you do. The wicked man is doomed by his own sins, they are ropes that catch and hold him. He shall die because he will not listen to the truth, he has let himself be led away into incredible folly.”*

I feel that this “free” translation of the Hebrew gives us a clear picture of the benefits of a faithful lifelong marriage and true family life.

The personal love of a husband and wife is presented in frankly erotic language, delighting in the imagery to be found in the **Song of Solomon 4:5-12**.

The arguments of commonsense are undergirded with an appeal to God’s judgement and the inner weakness of human wisdom that led to this, doubting that God knows what is best for us.

God never intended faithfulness in marriage to be boring, lifeless, pleasureless and dull. Sex is a gift that God has given to marriage of a man and woman for their mutual enjoyment.

Real happiness in marriage comes when each partner commits themselves to making the union pleasurable for the other. The real danger is doubting that God knows what is best and cares for us.

Ephesians 4:17-19 [NIV] *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”*

The New Testament thoughts on the subject we have just studied.

Romans 1:18-32 [NIV] *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is for ever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them.”*

This is a very explicit description of a world where the knowledge and wisdom of God has been ignored. Note that one of the curses is unlawful sex outside of the marriage of a man and woman. Such ignorance and rebellion leads to many other kinds of wickedness, pain and eventual eternal death.