

JUST A MOMENT ON THE LIPS...

Proverbs 5

We must be aware of the dangers of temptation (1-14).

- *The allure of temptation seems sweet and desirable, but it ends in bitterness, pain and death (1-6).*
- *The consequences of yielding to temptation are great. (7-14)*
  - *We forfeit our honor (9)*
  - *We forfeit our strength (10)*
  - *We lament our choice to not heed the wisdom of God (11-13)*
  - *We are left in ruin in this world (14)*

Solomon begins by urging his son to pay attention to wisdom because the consequences of ignoring it are severe. The forbidden woman's words may seem sweet, but her end is bitter and destructive. Her path leads away from life rather than toward it, yet the person caught in temptation often sees only the immediate pleasure and fails to consider the destination. Solomon then warns his son to keep far from her door (v. 8), emphasizing that resisting temptation requires more than good intentions; it requires deliberate choices to avoid situations that invite sin. The cost of yielding is far greater than the momentary pleasure: honor, strength, wealth, and peace can be lost, leaving a person grieving the wisdom they rejected. Temptation deceives us by emphasizing what we might gain while hiding what we stand to lose. Wisdom teaches us to consider sin's end before we take its first step.

1. Why is temptation often easier to recognize in hindsight than in the moment? What does temptation promise that it cannot truly deliver?
2. Use the Blue Letter Bible to look up the words "honor" and "strength" to see what all they mean. How does our choice to yield to temptation cause us to forfeit these things?
3. Solomon warns his son not to go near her door, why is setting practical boundaries so important in overcoming temptations?
4. Is there an area where you are entertaining temptations rather than turning away from it? What would obedience to God look like in that area?

We must focus on the joy of faithfulness (15-20).

- *The exclusivity of faithfulness brings us joy (15-17).*
- *Rejoice in what the Lord has blessed you with, doing so brings delight. (18-20).*

After warning about the destruction of unfaithfulness, Solomon presents the positive alternative: enjoy the good gifts God has provided within His design for marriage. The picture of drinking water from one's own cistern emphasizes the exclusivity of the marriage relationship. Intimacy is not something to pursue outside God's boundaries but something to cherish within the covenant He established. Solomon moves from the warning to rejoice in the wife of one's youth, describing her love as a source of satisfaction and delight. His question in verse 20 challenges the



desire to seek satisfaction in what God has forbidden when He has provided a good gift to be enjoyed faithfully. Faithfulness is not merely the absence of adultery; it is the active pursuit of love, contentment, and delight in the relationship God has given. Rather than allowing desire to pull us toward forbidden pleasures, we cultivate gratitude for God's provision and honor His design.

1. How does gratitude for what God has provided help guard against the desire for what He has forbidden?
2. What is the difference between merely avoiding unfaithfulness and actively cultivating faithfulness in marriage? What intentional choices can strengthen faithfulness, purity, and contentment in your relationship?

We must remember the presence of the Lord (21-23).

- *Nothing we do is hidden: He sees and ponders every path (21)*
- *Forgetting His presence leaves the wicked caught in their own sins (22-23)*
- *Remembering His presence guides the righteous on His path (Proverbs 10:9, 11:3)*

Solomon concludes by reminding his son that no path is hidden from the Lord. God sees a person's ways and weighs their paths, meaning our choices are never outside His knowledge or accountability. The person who pursues sin may believe he can conceal his actions or escape their consequences, but sin itself becomes a snare. The wicked are caught in the very iniquities they pursue, and their refusal to receive correction leads to destruction. Verse 23 identifies the deeper problem: a lack of discipline and a refusal to follow wisdom. This warning reaches beyond sexual sin to every area in which we choose our own desires over God's authority. By contrast, Proverbs 10:9 teaches that the one who walks in integrity walks securely, and Proverbs 11:3 shows that integrity guides the upright. The awareness of God's presence should shape our decisions before temptation confronts us, reminding us that we live before the Lord, not merely before the eyes of others. Wisdom chooses the path of integrity because it seeks to honor God, even when no one else is watching.

1. How would remembering that God sees and considers every path change the way you respond to temptation?
2. Why do people sometimes act as though their private choices have no consequences before God? Why do they sometimes think their private choices have no effect on others?
3. Read Proverbs 10:9 and 11:3. How do integrity and uprightness protect us from the destructive path?
4. What is one area of your life where you need to become more intentional about living in light of God's presence? What step will you take to do that this week?