


Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 5:1-23

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.
7 And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.
8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house,
9 lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless,
10 lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,
11 and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed,
12 and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!

13 I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.
14 I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."
15 Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.
16 Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?
17 Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.
18 Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.
20 Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?
21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.
22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 5:1-23


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A passage like Proverbs 5 can be approached in different ways. One is to quickly skim through it thinking one would never fall into this trap of sin. It can also be approached with remorse over past behavior, or with the gospel in mind. It's the latter I'll do my best to walk you through.

To help us further, read Luke 15:11-32, widely known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Proverbs 5:1-6 paints a picture of a loving father who desires what is best for his son, but at the same time, is well aware of the subtle enticement of sexual sin in the world. Sexual sin, whether it be in the mind or acted upon, bases its powerful allure by offering a taste of God's good design for sexual pleasure, but in a distorted way (verse. 3-4). Just like a carnivorous plant draws its victims by the promise of something desirable, it ends with the unsuspecting fool caught inside its trappings. When the younger son was asking for his part of the inheritance, I can imagine the brokenhearted father pleading one last time with his son to reconsider the path he was about to take, but alas, sin had already claimed this battle.

In verses 7-11, we see how giving oneself to sexual immorality brings painful and long lasting consequences. At this point one might feel like the victim of the carnivorous plant, trapped by sin. For some, this can often take the form of excusing a sinful behavior or lifestyle. For many others however, the weight of the burdens this sin has left continues to be crushing and unbearable. A quick glance at verses 12-14 remind us of how the prodigal son remembers the goodness of his father. He acknowledges his current condition and goes back to his home.

The next few verses (vv. 15-19), offer a beautiful picture of sexual intimacy according to God's unmatched design. This can only be found within the confines of a lifelong commitment between one woman and one man as they both rely on a loving and faithful God. The last verses serve as a reminder to be vigilant. It is no news that we live in a fallen world and sin still offers a very strong allure over our lives. Going back to the passage in Luke, the son was not only forgiven and accepted, but also restored. My beloved, God's love goes far beyond forgiveness of sin. If we really think about it, compared to a life without Christ, our current state is actually far better, because we now can enjoy a relationship with our loving Father.



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Questions:

1. What are some ways sexual sin has been used to try to gain a foothold in your life?
2. What are practical steps you can take to avoid giving into sexual temptation?
3. Is there something in your life (past or present) that's too much to bear on your own? I encourage you to reach out to pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com