

## JOYS OF MARITAL LOVE

Thursday, November 20

Reading: Proverbs 5:15-23

**Proverbs 5:18** *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.*

From discussing the dangers of adultery, Solomon now turns to the joys of marital love. In this poetic picture, the wife is pictured as a private well and water refers to sexual relations. The language in these verses is very frank and sensual (5:15).

“God never intended marriage to become boring, lifeless, and dull. Sex is a gift God gives to married people for their mutual enjoyment. Real happiness comes when we decide to find pleasure in the spouse God has given us and to commit ourselves to meeting his or her needs.”<sup>1</sup>

God designed sex to bind a husband and wife together and make them “one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). That is why sex outside of marriage has no lasting satisfaction. There is no commitment! In the bonds of marriage, a husband and wife should “rejoice” in each other and “satisfy” each other’s desires. To be “intoxicated” was used of a drunk staggering down the street. To be intoxicated with love gives the picture of being stimulated and “crazy in love” with your spouse. The words “always” and “ever” remind us that sex in marriage is to be consistent (5:18-19). As one commentator said, “Make it fun and frequent!”<sup>2</sup>

Solomon concludes by giving some other reasons for being faithful to your spouse. First, his question implies the foolishness of trying to satisfy your desires outside of the marriage bed (5:16-17, 20). Second, God is watching (5:21). The word “examine” means to weigh out, guard, or watch carefully. Third, sex outside of marriage is a trap (5:22). It can never satisfy and always leaves you wanting more. Finally, it leads to death (5:23). The word translated “led astray” in this verse is that same Hebrew word for “intoxicated” in verse nineteen. If a person is not intoxicated with their own spouse and receive God’s blessing, they will be intoxicated with their own folly and bring God’s judgment.

In our society, sex outside of marriage does not make waves. The media actually encourages and ‘glorifies’ it! There is no need for a committed, loving relationship. The world views sex as merely something to indulge in and be played with – something to satisfy our carnal desires without the responsibility. But this is a distortion of the wonderful gift God gave to married couples.

“God designed marriage and sanctified it, and only within this covenant relationship can we find real love and fulfillment. Don’t let God’s best for you be wasted on the illusion of greener pastures somewhere else. Instead, rejoice with your spouse as you give yourselves to God and to each other.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Life Application Study Bible: Proverbs 5:18-20 note, p. 1010

<sup>2</sup> R. Kent Hughes. Proverbs: Wisdom that Works (Preaching the Word series), p. 95

<sup>3</sup> Life Application Study Bible: Proverbs 5:15-21 note, p 1010