



WISDOM'S INSTRUCTION ABOUT SEXUALITY 5:1-23

Once again, the chapter opens with an exhortation that the son **pay attention** and **listen** to his father's words of *wisdom* [verse 1]. The reason to enforce this is stated: "*That (in order) thou mayest regard (consider) discretion (the ability to properly behave), and that thy lips may keep knowledge*" [verse 2]. This chapter illustrates the long-range consequences of sin, and a wise individual can see the long-range view of sin.

I. A WARNING AGAINST SEXUAL SINS [verses 3-14]

Society suffers from being over-stimulated sexually and under-informed about sex. Today's society is obsessed with sex, they are sex-crazed! The advertising and entertainment industries use sexual stimulation as a major motivator in advancing their various causes. There should be no doubt that sexual impurity is in the forefront of society and this world is engulfed with a cloud of moral filth. The danger of a sexually saturated society is the message that a person can act on their sexual impulses, violating God's moral law as set forth in God's Word, and escape the consequences that God has established [Hebrews 13:4]. **God has designed that sex be enjoyed only within the realm of marriage and with the person to whom one is married.** One of the designs of marriage is to prevent sexual impurity or a defiled bed [I Corinthians 7:2, 8-9]. ANY SEXUAL UNION PRIOR TO THE MARRIAGE BED IS SIN AND ANYTHING THAT WOULD PROMOTE OR STIMULATE SUCH UNION IS SIN! Such sin is referred to as "*fornication*" [I Thessalonians 4:3-5] which is "*sexual intercourse between unmarried persons*" **God's design is chastity in marriage**, and therefore the command "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" [Matthew 5:27]. "*Adultery*" being "*sexuality between a married person and someone other than their spouse*" **SEXUAL EXPRESSION IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN OUTSIDE THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP! God has ordained the marriage union as the only acceptable realm where sexual needs are to be met! ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY BEFORE OR OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS SELFISH GRATIFICATION AND SIN!**

I. A Warning Against The Appeal Of Sexual Impurity [verses 3-6].

In this chapter, a father is instructing his son about wise living, and because it is a father talking to his son, the warning is about the "*adulteress*" The principles we find here apply to all kinds of sexual temptation, not just the young man's temptation. So the "*adulteress*" represents any source of sexual temptation.

☞ "*For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb (she promises pleasure), and her mouth is smoother than oil*" [verse 3]. This speaks of her fair speeches, her enticing and flattering words. **WHAT THE TEMPTATION PROMISES IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN WHAT IT REALLY DELIVERS!**

☞ “*But* (contrary to what she says) *her end* (the result of compliance with her) *is bitter* (acidic) *as wormwood, sharp* (excruciating, agonizing), *as a two-edged sword. Her feet* (ways) *go down to death* (death is a separation), *her steps take hold on hell*” [verses 4-5]. This speaks of the destructiveness of her ways! NEVER IS THE BEGINNING AS SWEET AS THE END IS BITTER!

☞ “*Lest* (to avoid the risk of) *thou shouldst ponder* (contemplate) *the path of life, her ways are moveable* (she appears in different forms), *that thou canst not know them*” [verse 6].

2. An Exhortation Concerning Wisdom In The Light Of The Deceitfulness Of Sexual Temptation [verse 7].

This same truth is presented in Proverbs 2:10, 11, 16; 6:20, 24; 7:1-5, and in Psalm 17:4; 119:9, 11.

3. A Warning Concerning An Approach Toward Sexual Temptation [verse 8].

☞ “*Remove thy way far from her*” KEEP AT THE GREATEST DISTANCE FROM SEXUAL TEMPTATION! Remove the way of your mind from her, the way of your walk, and the way of conversation from her! Do not look at her, do not converse with her. DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN A POSITION OF BEING ENSNARED BY HER!

☞ “*And come not nigh the door of her house*” AVOID HER! Do not go in the way of temptation, be fearful of temptation. AVOID QUESTIONABLE SITUATIONS! The instruction of “*wisdom*” says STEER CLEAR OF SEXUAL TEMPTATION!

This same truth is taught in Proverbs 6:27-29. Paul exhorted young Timothy “*Flee* (run away from, make a hasty retreat from) *youthful lusts*” DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE OR FEED LUST!

4. The Consequences Of Flirting With Sexual Temptation [verses 9-14].

The father lists several consequences his son can expect if he gives in to the temptation. Giving in to sexual sin drains strength [6:32-33], costs money, cuts lives short, and fills one with regrets [verses 12-14]. SUCH IS THE PICTURE OF SIN! The lesson is that sin does not satisfy, but leads to more sin, enslaves, degrades, humiliates, and steals away joy [Hebrews 11:25]. REMEMBER THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING [Galatians 6:7-8]. BE FEARFUL OF TEMPTATION [Matthew 6:13].

II. REMEDIES AGAINST SEXUAL SIN

1. Build A Good Marriage [verses 15-20].

The father, instructing his son, uses the metaphor of water to describe sexuality. He encourages his son to STAY WITHIN THE SEXUAL BOUNDARIES OF MARRIAGE! These verses are summarized in **verses 18-19**.

☞ *“Let thy fountain be blessed”* [verse 18]. MAKE YOUR WIFE HAPPY BY KEEPING TO HER AND FROM OTHERS! This is done by behaving in a **loving** and **respectful** manner to her. Husbands are to love their wives [Ephesians 5:25], and the older women are to teach the younger wives to love their husbands [Titus 2:4]. The love of husband and wife is a love of **priority**, a **sacrificial** love, a **purifying** love, and a **caring** love. This mutual love between husband and wife is a love that shows itself in **appreciation**, in **caring**, in **provision**, in **sharing**, in **esteem**, in **help**, in **consideration**, in **co-operation**, in **commitment**, in **communication**, and in **pleasing** one another! It is a love that delights in the company of one another! THIS MUTUAL LOVE KEEPS FROM THE TEMPTATION OF SEXUAL IMPURITY!

☞ *“rejoice (be glad) with the wife of thy youth”* [verse 18]. Husbands and wives are to express a **joy** and **pleasure** in one another. A MUTUAL REJOICING IN ONE ANOTHER WILL KEEP FROM THE TEMPTATION OF SEXUAL IMPURITY!

☞ *“Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe (always to appear lovely), let her breasts satisfy thee at all times (she is his source of satisfaction, husbands and wives must be each other’s satisfaction), and be thou ravished (enchanted, captivated) always with her love”* [verse 19]. Husbands and wives are to delight in loving one another, and being loved by one another. A MUTUAL CAPTIVATION WILL KEEP FROM THE TEMPTATION OF SEXUAL IMPURITY!

In **verse 20** the question is asked why one would be so foolish to leave the wholesome fountain for the poisoned and forbidden waters?

2. Remember That Everything Is Observed By The Lord [verse 21].

This truth is taught in II Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 11:4; Jeremiah 32:19; Amos 9:8].

3. Remember That Our Sinful Choices Have The Potential Of Ensnaring Us For The Rest Of Our Lives [verses 22-23]. This is what *Paul* taught in Romans 6:16.

This chapter condemns sexual immorality and stresses the importance of the boundaries of marriage and contains instruction that will save one’s life. The warnings, directions, and exhortations in this chapter are for both male and female in all societies.
