

**Listen: Wisdom is calling!**

KSBC August 30, 2009

The 12 Year Old Talk for All Ages (2)

Proverbs 5:1-23

Intro. We are looking over the shoulder of a wise Father as he speaks to his son about sexual matters. He is answering the question that is of interest to more than just the teenage boys and girls among us. The question is simply, why are we sexual beings? Why do the teenage boy and girl have the changing feelings, physical developments and urges that they experience in this area?

The answers to this question are absolutely key to aligning our sexual thinking, behaviors and past experiences with God's ways. Knowing why God made you a sexual being is necessary for you to be healed and move on from the pain and shame of sexual sin. Controlling your sexuality by steering it aggressively toward God's purposes is the only hope you have of remaining free from the guilt and bitter consequences of sexual sin.

It is difficult to imagine another good gift from God that has been as abused and misused as sexuality. Our hope is in Christ Jesus. Through his death and resurrection, both the power and penalty of sin has been broken. Our union with him assures us of help and healing in this difficult area of our lives.

Let's **review a bit** before we pick up our study at verse 7 of Proverbs 5 . . .

Four of the first seven chapters of Proverbs include extended speeches from the father to the son intended to prepare the son to channel his developing sexual desires away from the dangers of sexual sin and toward the delights of marital love. **The punch line of these speeches** is not simply strong appeals and reasons to stay away from something wrong that looks and feels incredibly appealing, but it is the amazing description and pictures of sexual delight within the covenant of marriage that draw the imagination of the young man toward God's design. The hook is set after the sexual delights of the married, not the unmarried and supposedly free, are taught. Then the wise Dad says, after looking at marital sexual intimacy, who would ever not wait, protect, fight, guard and do all kinds of seemingly anti-world things to channel their sexual passions toward marriage(5:20)?

**Proverbs 5:1-23**

The wise father's 'sex talk' can be broken down to three basic components or message themes:

- Be aware of the seductive appeal of sexual sin. 1-6
- Control your sexual desires away from sexual sin. 7-14
- Guide your sexual desires toward the delights of marital love. 15-20

**1. Be aware of the seductive appeal of sexual sin. 1-6**

Note the clear warning and appeal to the son by the father . . . the son will face strong and repeated attempts of persuasion in various forms to reject wisdom – God's way – to follow the way of sexual sin. Wisdom appeals to us today in a relentlessly sex charged world to be aware

of how diligent and committed the seductress of sexual sin is to make it easy to enter into her company and turn down her street. Listen to wisdom's lessons . . .

- **Appreciate the truth about marital love. 1-2**

The beginning point of preparedness to do battle with sexual temptation is appreciating the truth about God's design for sex within marriage. The clear implication of 'your lips' guarding or preserving knowledge is that the young person can talk the truth back to the temptress.

The truth about sex from the Bible can be expressed in the following talking points. The purpose of sexual desire and passion is to drive us toward our created mission of knowing and glorifying God. Sexual desire and passion drives or directs us in the following ways:

- Sexual union reflects God's oneness Gen. 1:26-27; 2:24-25
- Sexual intimacy is a metaphor to help us understand intimacy with God Hos. 2
- Sexual pleasure provokes worship of God as the giver of joy Prov.5:18
- Sexual faithfulness helps unravel the mystery of Christ's love for the church Eph.5:31-32
- Sexual reproduction glorifies God by multiplying and filling the earth Gen1:28
- Sexual participation expresses God-like love to your spouse. 1Cor. 7 other focused

- **Understand the power of sexual marketing. 3**

The father interjects into his appeal vivid and arresting word pictures to warn of the power of sexual persuasion. In the back room, gathered around the idea board, the marketing demons are focused on one question that drives their entire campaign – how can we make it easy for people to enter into the company of the seductive woman – sexual sin?

Two specific components of the power or attractiveness of sexual sin should be noted:

- Persuasive language 3 read 7:10-21
- Direct demographic appeal 1-3

- **Remember sexual sin never delivers on its promises. 4-6**

'In the end' is a sobering reminder that there is always an 'afterwards.' The results of sexual sin are very real but often hidden in the appeal and ignored because of passion. Sexual sin degrades sex into a mere urge that must find an outlet. The results can be staggering.

- Promised sweetness becomes bitterness and pain. 4
- Promised life turns toward death. 5
- Promised stability becomes aimless wandering. 6

## 2. Control your sexual desires away from sexual sin. 7-14

Note the repeated emphasis of warning and consequence. Stay away – the paths of sexual sin are crooked (v.6). The smart Dad practices the ‘put off – put on’ principle in his coaching his children toward God’s ways.

### **Don’t go near sexual sin** 7-8

- Deal with heart issues radically. Matt. 5:27-30
- Run with the right crowd. 2Timothy 2:22
- Honor God with your body. 1Cor. 6:18-20

### **Because if you do (go near sexual sin) . . .**

- You will be exploited by others. 9-10
- You will be condemned by your conscience. 11-13
- You will end up on the brink of public ruin. 14

Jesus wants the rose story

## 3. Guide your sexual desires toward the delights of marital love. 15-20

Note the clear direction toward God’s purposes for sexuality. The Dad uses figurative language that is intended to stimulate involvement and imagination. Sexual delight in marriage is talked about in such a way as to protect its sanctity and holiness.

- **Sexual delight is reserved for the privacy of marriage.** 15-17

Once the figurative terms are understood, the concept of not mixing the public and private becomes clear.

- **Sexual delight is found exclusively with your wife/husband.** **18-20**

The terms for sexual delight within marriage are piled up for effect and emphasis.

- **Sexual delight is experienced in full view of your Lord God.** **21-23**

Our sexuality is ultimately connected to our God who sees and judges all things.

## Conclusion

God tells us with regard to our sexuality . . .

1. Run from sexual sin and temptation.
2. Repent of your sexual sin and consequences to Jesus.
3. Rejoice in appropriate expressions of your sexuality in God's full view.

## Study Questions

1. What questions, concerns or observations do you have from this study?
2. Share a personal observation from this past week where you noticed or were aware of sexual sin promising something that it cannot deliver.
3. Find and read one of the other speeches in the early chapters of Proverbs where the father addresses this same subject. Notice any similarities? Any contrasts?
4. Review the three passages connected with point #2 about staying away from sexual sin. Read each passage, summarize the principle taught and explain what obedience to that principle may look like in your life.
5. What appeals to you about the 'Jesus wants the rose' story (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-zR3h2UsR4>)? What is the truth that the passing the rose around is trying to illustrate? How do you strike a balance between mercy and judgment with sexual sinners in your life?
6. What is the only appropriate and God honoring option for sexual expression for the son in Proverbs 5? If sexual intimacy inside marriage is the only option, how can a single person direct their sexuality in such a way that they will know God better through it?
7. Remember that 'led astray' (5:23) and 'captivate' (5:19-20) are the same term with some translations using the term 'intoxicated.' What does it mean to be intoxicated, captivated or led astray by the delights of sexual intimacy with your spouse? How can that model of sexuality be communicated and defended in our homes?
8. What are some principles to maintaining, growing and guarding sexual delight within marriage?
9. What are your thoughts or reactions to the clear statement that God sees and knows you in all aspects and behaviors of your sexuality?
10. What do you want to use, do or remember as a result of this study?