

The Book of Proverbs

Chapter 5 Sexual Purity

Bitter Honey and Sweet Water 5:1—23

*Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.*
PROVERBS 5:18, 19

The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5—7

Conservative people love form and restraint and control, especially in sex.

Progressive people love freedom and openness and chokes, especially in sex.

God gave us our sexuality both to focus our romantic joy and to unleash our romantic joy as we procreate and replenish the Earth.

We thrive within both form and freedom.

The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5—7

“You shall not commit adultery.”

The Lord God spoke those words at Mount Sinai, and we call what He said the 7th commandment (**Ex. 20:14**).

It declares that sexual intimacy outside the bonds of marriage is wrong, even if “between consenting adults.”

This law specifically mentions adultery, but the commandment includes the sexual sins prohibited elsewhere in Scripture

(Lev. 18; Rom. 1:18—32; 1 Cor. 6:9—20; Eph. 5:1—14).

God invented sex and has every right to tell us how to use it properly.

The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5—7

Hearing the 7th commandment, many people in contemporary society smile nonchalantly and ask,

“What’s wrong with premarital or extramarital sex, or any other kind, for that matter? Many people indulge in these things and seem to get away with it. Furthermore, these activities are more acceptable today than they were in Solomon’s day; why make a big issue out of it?”

It’s true that some well-known people have indulged in sexual escapades and even bragged about it, including government officials, Hollywood stars, sports heroes, and (alas!) preachers, but that doesn’t make it right.

Many things that the law says are legal, the Bible says are evil.

There won’t be a jury of our peers sitting at the Judgement Seat of Christ nor at the White Throne Judgment (**Rev. 20:11—15; 21:27; 22:15**).

Jesus Raised the bar...

Mat_5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Mar_10:11 And He *said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; 12 and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

Mat_5:32; Luk 16:18

Mat_19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Bible itself raises topics we might otherwise avoid

Proverbs 5 divides into three parts.

- In the introduction (**vv. 1—6**), God, our Father, lovingly says, "It's time we had a talk."

The introduction opens up that conversation with us.

- In the body of the chapter (**vv. 7—19**), God says, "Here is what I want you to know." He is very down-to-earth.

The body of the chapter contrasts the two ways we can deploy our sexuality — either in folly and destruction or in wisdom and satisfaction.

- In the conclusion (**vv. 20—23**), God says, "Now you have a decision to make."

The conclusion calls us to surrender ourselves entirely to God and to his wisdom.

The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5—7

These three chapters of Proverbs give us three reasons why we should worry if we break God's laws of purity.

Because sexual sin is

eventually disappointing (**Prov. 5**),

gradually destructive (**ch. 6**), and

ultimately deadly (**ch. 7**).

That's why God says, "You shall not commit adultery" and that fornicators will have no part in His coming kingdom.

Proverbs 5

Sex is like fire.

In the fireplace it keeps us warm.

Outside the fireplace it burns the house down.

Proverbs 5 is saying,

Keep the fire in the marital fireplace, and stoke that fire as hot as you can."

Proverbs 5:1-6 It's Time We Had a Talk

God invented sex and has every right to tell us how to use it properly.

Thou shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14

This includes the sexual sins prohibited elsewhere in Scripture

(Lev 18; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-20; Eph 5:1-14).

Our Lord spoke of “fornications” (plural) in ***Matthew 15:19.***

The Council at Jerusalem mentioned “fornication,” and included the sexual sins condemned by the Law of Moses (***Acts 15:20; Lev 18.***)

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Proverbs 5:1-6 It's Time We Had a Talk

We typically think of

- adultery as improper sexual activity (thought or in deed) in violation of a marriage covenant and
- fornication as improper sexual activity whether married or not.

The words “adultery” and “fornication” are ***inclusive*** of the various forms of sexual sins.

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Sexual Sin Is Eventually Disappointing (Prv 5)

When married people honor and respect sex as God instructs them in His Word, they can experience increasing enjoyment and enrichment in their intimacy.

But when people break the rules, they experience disappointment and disillusionment and have to search for larger “doses” of sexual adventure in order to attain the imaginary pleasure level they’re seeking.

God created sex not only for reproduction, but also for enjoyment, and He didn’t put the “marriage wall” around sex to rob us of pleasure but to increase pleasure and protect it.

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The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5:1-6

Solomon explains the disappointments that come when people violate God’s loving laws of sexual purity.

Their experience goes from sweetness to bitterness (***v. 1-6.***) We’ve met “the strange woman” before (***2:16; NIV, “adulteress”***) She’ll be mentioned again (***5:20; 6:24; : 20:16; 22:14; 23:27; 27:13.***)

“strange” basically means “not related to.”

The “strange woman” is one to whom the man is not related by marriage, and therefore any sexual liaison with her is evil.

The beginning of this sinful alliance may be exciting and sweet, because the kisses and words from her lips drip like honey (***7:13—20,***)

but in the end, the “sweetness” turns to bitterness, and the honey becomes poison (***5:4.***)

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Proverbs 5:1-4 It's Time We Had a Talk

1] My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

2] That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

3] For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

4] But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

God is saying that a pure life should be led for the sake of the home later on.

A lot of the problems in our homes today don't begin there:

they began way back in the premarital sex life of the individual.

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Prov 5:1-2 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:1-2 NASB (1) My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding;

(2) That you may observe discretion

And your lips may reserve knowledge.

[discretion] Hebrew: **mezimmah** (OT:4209), used in a good sense of judgment and discretion (**Prov 1:4; 2:11; 3:21; 5:2**).

Translated "intents" (**Jer 30:24**)

"thought" (**Job 42:2; Ps 10:4; Jer 23:20**) and

"devices" in a wicked sense (**Job 21:27; Ps 10:2; 21:11; 37:7; Prov 12:2; 14:17; Jer 51:11**).

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Prov 5:1-2 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:1-2 ISV* (1) ¶ My son, pay attention to my wisdom, and listen closely to my insight, (2) ¶ so you may carefully practice [Lit. guard] discretion and your lips preserve knowledge.

Pro 5:1-2 NASB (1) My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding; (2) That you may observe discretion And your lips may reserve knowledge.

Pro 5:1-2 NASB (1) My son, give attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding; (2) That you may observe discretion And your lips may reserve knowledge.

Pro 5:1 NIV (1) My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, 2) that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

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Prov 5:3-4 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:3-4 ISV* (3) ¶ For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech [Lit. palate] is smoother than oil. (4) ¶ But in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, [Wormwood is a plant with an extremely bitter taste.] and as sharp as a double-edged sword.

Pro 5:3-4 KJV+ (3) For^{H3588} the lips^{H8193} of a strange woman^{H2114} drop^{H5197} as an honeycomb,^{H5317} and her mouth^{H2441} is smoother^{H2509} than oil.^{H4480 H8081} (4) But her end^{H319} is bitter^{H4751} as wormwood,^{H3939} sharp^{H2299} as a twoedged^{H6310} sword.^{H2719}

Pro 5:3-4 NASB (3) For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; (4) But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

Pro 5:3 NIV (3) For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; (4) but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.

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Prov 5:3-4 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:3-4 NASB (3) *For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; (4) But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.*

[**strange woman**] Two words are used of "strange" and "stranger":

zuvr (OT:2114) (used here) an apostate Israelite woman gone over to the idolatrous impurities of heathen religion; and

nokriy (OT:5237), foreign woman; not of Abraham's line but of similar character (**Gen 17:12**).

This wise father is saying to his son,

"You're going to be tempted. You're walking into a world of sexual foolishness. It will be offered to you as honey, and you will be attracted. But this honey will poison you

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Prov 5:3-4 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:3-4 NASB (3) *For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; (4) But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.*

Note the word "honey" in v 3 and the word "bitter" in v 4.

Honey is sweet.

Whatever leaves a bitter aftertaste in your mouth cannot be honey.

Don't be fooled. Don't judge by the appearances of the moment. The lasting impact tomorrow and thereafter reveals the truth about the present moment.

Her words may ooze 'honey' - seductive charm— whether via face-to-face, on the Internet, in a text message:

Her sweet talk and her flattery, telling you how awesome you are and how she's been looking for a man just like you, that "honey" will turn "bitter."

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The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5:5-6

The book of Proverbs emphasizes the importance of looking ahead to see where your actions will lead you (see **5:11; 14:12—14; 16:25; 19:20; 20:21; 23:17—18, 32; 24:14, 20; 25:8**).

The wise person checks on the destination before buying a ticket (**4:26**), but modern society thinks that people can violate God's laws and escape the consequences, certain that whatever has happened to others will never happen to them.

Sad to say, their ignorance and insolence can never neutralize the tragic aftermath that comes when people break the laws of God.

"O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:29).

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Prov 5:5 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:5 ISV* ¶ *Her feet go down to death; her steps lead to Sheol. [i.e. the realm of the dead]*

Pro 5:5 KJV+ (5) *Her feet^{H7272} go down^{H3381} to death,^{H4194} her steps^{H6806} take hold^{H8551} on hell.^{H7585}*

Pro 5:5 NASB (5) *Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol.*

Pro 5:5 NIV (5) *Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.*

[**death**] Hebrew: **maveth** (OT:4194), death to the body, or the separation of the soul from the body (**James 2:26**).

[**hell**] Hebrew: **She'owl** (OT:7585), the place of the soul, not of the body

More than your sexuality is at stake; "her feet go down to death," spiritually and literally.

Sexual integrity is life versus death.

Everything you care about is on the line!

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Prov 5:6 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:6 ISV* (6) ¶ You aren't thinking about *[Or She does not consider]* **where her life is headed; her steps wander, but you do not realize** *[Or she does not realize]* **it.**

Pro 5:6 KJV+ (6) Lest^{H6435} **thou shouldst ponder**^{H6424} **the path**^{H734} **of life,**^{H2416} **her ways**^{H4570} **are moveable,**^{H5128} **that thou canst not**^{H13808} **know**^{H3045} **them.**

Pro 5:6 NASB (6) She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

Pro 5:6 NIV (6) She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

If you are a woman these verses may seem unfair.

Men can be just as bad as women.”

The book of Proverbs warns us against evil men too (for example, **1:10—19**).

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Prov 5:6 Warning against Sexual Immorality

Pro 5:6 NASB (6) She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

When the sexually foolish man comes to his senses in **v13**, whom does he blame

If you think you are above sexual stupidity, you are setting yourself up to fall into it.

God wants to give us the wonderful gift of sexual wisdom.

His introduction, in **verses 1—6**, is a blunt warning.

In the body of the chapter he has a two-part message:

“Keep your hands off every other woman” (**vv. 7—14**),

“Keep your hands on your wife” (**vv. 15—19**).

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The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5:7-14

Temptation always includes hopeful promises; otherwise, people would never take the Devil's bait.

For a time, it seems like these promises have been fulfilled, and sinners bask in the sunshine of pleasant experiences and false assurances.

People who commit sexual sins think their problems are solved

“She understands me so much better than my wife does!”and that life will get better and better.

But disobedience to God's laws always brings sad consequences.

Sinners eventually pay dearly for their brief moments of seeming pleasure.

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2Sa 11:1-5 ISV

- (1) *One spring day, during the time of year when kings go off to war, David sent out Joab, along with his personal staff and all of Israel's army. They utterly destroyed the Ammonites and then attacked Rabbah while David remained in Jerusalem.*
- (2) *Late one afternoon about dusk, David got up from his couch and was walking around on the roof of the royal palace. From there he watched a woman taking a bath, and she was very beautiful to look at.*
- (3) *David sent word to inquire about her, and someone told him, "This is Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, isn't it?"*
- (4) *So David sent some messengers, took her from her home, and she went to him, and he had sex with her. (She had been consecrating herself following her menstrual separation.) Then she returned to her home.*
- (5) *The woman conceived, and she sent this message to David: "I'm pregnant."*

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The Pattern

David stayed in Jerusalem
David was in bed in the afternoon
David saw and continued to look, he watched
David inquired, sought her out, chased after her
David sent, brought the temptation into his presence
David lay with her and sinned

The Result:

Uriah was murdered.
Solomon's older brother died.
The rest of David's children and family were thrust into a lifetime jealousy and rebellion

The pattern: He sees, He desires, He takes. He sins

Eve and the forbidden fruit	Gen 3
Acan and the stolen Jericho spoils	Josh 7
Joseph and Potapher's wife	Gen 39

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The Way to Escape

Mat 5:27-30 NASB

- (27) "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY';
(28) but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
(29) "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
(30) "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Ps. 101:3 "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes",

Ps. 119:37 "Turn my eyes away from worthless things"

Job 31:1 "I have made a covenant with my eyes;
How then could I gaze at a virgin?"

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The Way of Escape

2Ti 2:22 NASB Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1Co 10:13 ISV No temptation has overtaken you that is unusual for human beings. **But God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength. Instead, along with the temptation he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to endure** [bears up under] **it.**

- Be where you should be
 - Do what you should be doing
 - Turn away from and flee lust / desire
 - Satisfy your desire properly / righteously

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Prov 5:7-9 Here's What I Want You to Know

- 7] Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.
8] Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:
9] Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

We've met "the strange woman" before (**Prov 2:16**) she'll be mentioned again (**Prov 5:20; 6:24; 7:5; 20:16; 22:14; 23:27; 27:13**).

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Prov 5:7-11 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:7 ISV* ¶ *Now, children, [Or sons] listen to me. Don't turn away from what I am saying.* [Lit. from the words of my mouth]

Pro 5:7 KJV+ Hear^{H8085} me now^{H6258} therefore, O ye children,^{H1121} and depart^{H5493} not^{H408} from the words^{H4480} ^{H561} of my mouth.^{H6310}

Pro 5:7 NASB Now then, my sons, listen to me And do not depart from the words of my mouth.

Pro 5:7 NIV Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.

She keeps you from reflecting on your present conduct and its end,

She constantly changes her allurements to trap you.

You cannot conceive of all her tricks and wiles.

Prov 5:8 Here's What I Want You to Know

Fifteen Reasons to Stay Away from a Strange Woman

1. She is an apostate (**Prov 5:3**).
2. She is deceptive.
3. She is a flatterer.
4. Her end is like wormwood (a bitter taste, **Prov 5:4**).
5. Her end is destructive.
6. Her feet go down to death (**Prov 5:5**).
7. Her steps lay hold of hell.
8. Her ways are unpredictable (**Prov 5:6**).
9. She will ruin your reputation (**Prov 5:9**).
10. She will cause years of trouble.
11. She will bring material ruin (**Prov 5:10**).
12. She will ruin your health (**Prov 5:11**).
13. She will bring remorse (**Prov 5:12-13**).
14. She will reduce to wickedness (**Prov 5:14**).
15. She will cause eternal ruin (**Prov 5:23**).

For other reasons See notes, **Prov 2:16**.

Prov 5:8 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:8 ISV* (8) ¶ *Keep [Lit. Keep your path] far away from her, and don't go near the entrance to her house,*

Pro 5:8 KJV+ (8) Remove thy way far^{H7368} ^{H1870} from^{H4480} ^{H5921} her, and come not nigh^{H7126} ^{H408} ^{H413} the door^{H6607} of her house.^{H1004}

Pro 5:8 NASB (8) Keep your way far from her And do not go near the door of her house,

Pro 5:8 NIV (8) Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,

Verse 8 is the key: "Keep your way far from her."

[Remove thy way far from her]

Don't tell yourself you can get involved just a little and then walk away clear, no big deal, and nobody will ever know.

Prov 5:8 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:8 NASB (8) *Keep your way far from her And do not go near the door of her house,*

Do you think you can play with sin and keep it under your control?

Do you think you can compartmentalize God?

When we disobey God, our hearts harden.

The people we violate become hardened and embittered toward us, because sooner or later they find out too.

Sexual folly complicates everything. It ends up:

- financially in cover-ups and alimony and lawsuits,
- socially in his reputation,
- emotionally in his conscience, and of course in his marriage.

Jealousy, hurt, loneliness, regret—the cost is high.

Satan shows the bait, but he hides the hook.

The Path of Folly and Death Proverbs 5:9-14

When you read verses 9—14, you hear the words of a suffering sinner lamenting the high cost of disobeying God's laws.

The most expensive thing in the world is sin.

The adulterer ends up giving his strength to others and toiling away to pay his debt.

Instead of luxury, the sinner has misery;
Instead of riches, poverty; Instead of success, ruin;
and
Instead of a good reputation, the name of an adulterer.

He looks back and wishes he had listened to his parents and his spiritual instructors, but his wishes can't change his wretched situation.

God in His grace will forgive his sins if he repents, but God in His government sees to it that he reaps what he sows.

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Prov 5:9 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:9 ISV* (9) ¶ so that you don't give your honor to others, and waste your best years; [Lit. and your years to the cruel]

Pro 5:9 KJV+ (9) Lest^{H6435} thou give^{H5114} thine honour^{H1935} unto others,^{H312} and thy years^{H8141} unto the cruel.^{H394}

Pro 5:9 NASB (9) Or you will give your vigor to others And your years to the cruel one;

Pro 5:9 NIV (9) lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,

We can end up giving our years to "the merciless."

An adulterous affair and the porn industry are merciless.
They want to enslave us.

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Prov 5:10 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:10 ISV* (10) ¶ so that strangers don't enrich themselves at your expense, [Lit. don't satisfy themselves with your strength] **and your work won't end up the possession of foreigners.** [Lit. won't go into a foreigner's house]

Pro 5:10 KJV+ (10) Lest^{H6435} strangers^{H2114} be filled^{H7646} with thy wealth;^{H3581} and thy labours^{H6089} be in the house^{H1004} of a stranger,^{H5237}

Pro 5:10 NASB (10) And strangers will be filled with your strength And your hard-earned goods will go to the house of an alien;

Pro 5:10 NIV (10) lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.

[stranger] Hebrew: **nokriy** (OT:5237), a non-Israelite temple prostitute of idolatry (notes, **Prov 2:16**).

She will own what you have labored for.

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Prov 5:11 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:11 ISV* (11) ¶ You will cry out in anguish when your end comes, when your flesh and body are consumed,

Pro 5:11 KJV+ (11) And thou mourn^{H5098} at the last,^{H319} when thy flesh^{H1320} and thy body^{H7607} are consumed,^{H3615}

Pro 5:11 NASB (11) And you groan at your final end, When your flesh and your body are consumed;

Pro 5:11 NIV (11) At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.

[mourn] Hebrew: **naham** (OT:5098), the most excessive kind of mourning because of physical sufferings.

[body] Hebrew: **she'er** (OT:7607); its root, **sha'ar** (OT:7604), refers to the remains of anything.

Here it applies to what is left of the diseased body of a man brought down to death by a life of debauchery.

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Prov 5:11 Here's What I Want You to Know

**Pro 5:11 NASB (11) And you groan at your final end,
When your flesh and your body are consumed;**

Verse 11 says, "And at the end of your life you groan."

It doesn't take long for the pain and the groaning to begin.

She will bring you down in remorse and physical suffering.

In this remorse you will become awakened to your foolishness (**Prov 5:12-13**).

Venereal disease, financial and emotional ruin has reached epidemic proportions.

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Prov 5:11 Here's What I Want You to Know

There is only one true Friend for sexual fools, Jesus Christ, the Crucified One.

He wants you to know that your sexuality is a magnificent gift from God, for his glory and your blessing.

What you are, as a created being, is not fundamentally a problem; what you are, man or woman, is fundamentally a privilege.

If you used your iPhone to hammer nails, you would show complete incomprehension of an iPhone.

Your sexuality is a powerful, delicate gift from God.

You cannot violate his gift without damaging repercussions.

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Prov 5:12-14 Here's What I Want You to Know

There is a way back to healing, and that way is humility.

Note how the tune changes in verses 12—14:

***"How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!
I did not listen to the voice of my teachers
or incline my ear to my instructors.
I am at the brink of utter ruin.
in the assembled congregation."* (Proverbs 5:12—14)**

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Prov 5:12-14 Here's What I Want You to Know

The sexually foolish man finally faces himself.

He owns up, like the prodigal son (**Luke 15:11—24**).

That young man in Jesus' parable looked at himself and how low he had fallen and he said, "I am at the brink of utter ruin. But I have a father. I have a home. Why stay here?"

He got up and went home.

And while he was still a long way off, his father ran to him and kissed him. The father did not shame him but rejoiced over him.

The world may pick up its skirts and pass you by.

The world may say you belong in the gutter.

God your Father, because of the cross, is ready to embrace you as you are right now.

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Prov 5:12-14 Here's What I Want You to Know

God will receive you and rejoice over you and renew you.
He will give you your virginity back, plus more.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Our Savior makes ***“all things new” (Revelation 21:5).***

Prov 5:14 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:14 ISV* (14) ¶ Now I am at the point of utter disaster in [Lit. in the midst of] the assembly and in the congregation.”

Pro 5:14 KJV+ (14) I was^{H1961} almost^{H4592} in all^{H3605} evil^{H7451} in the midst^{H8432} of the congregation^{H6951} and assembly.^{H5712}

Pro 5:14 NASB (14) "I was almost in utter ruin in the midst of the assembly and congregation."

Pro 5:14 NIV (14) I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."

[I was almost in all evil] Literally, I soon became an evil man.

Prov 5:12-13 Here's What I Want You to Know

Pro 5:12-13 ISV* (12) ¶ and you will say, “How I hated instruction, [Or discipline] and my heart rejected correction! (13) ¶ I did not obey my teachers and did not listen [Lit. incline my ear] to my instructors.

Pro 5:12-33 KJV+ (12) And say,^{H559} How^{H349} have I hated^{H8130} instruction,^{H4148} and my heart^{H3820} despised^{H5006} reproof;^{H8433} (13) And have not^{H3808} obeyed^{H8085} the voice^{H6963} of my teachers,^{H3384} nor^{H3808} inclined^{H5186} mine ear^{H241} to them that instructed^{H3925} me!

Pro 5:12-13 NASB (12) And you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! (13) "I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to my instructors!

Pro 5:12 NIV (12) You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! (13) I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.

From purity to pollution Proverbs 5:15-20

Solomon compares enjoying married love to drinking pure water from a fresh well,

but committing sexual sin is like drinking polluted water from the gutter or sewer.

Sex within marriage is a beautiful river that brings life and refreshment,

Sex outside marriage is a sewer that defiles everything it touches.

If you “drink deep” of the wrong kind of love (**7:18 NIV**) it will destroy you.

From purity to pollution Proverbs 5:15-20

The commitment of marriage is like the banks of the river that channel the river and keep it from becoming a swamp.

God's holy law confines the waters within the banks, and this produces power and depth.

Extramarital and premarital affairs don't satisfy because they're shallow, and it doesn't take much to stir up shallow water.

A man and woman pledged to each other in marriage can experience the growing satisfaction that comes with love, commitment, depth, and purity.

Prov 5:15-17 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Here is the message of God's wonderful gift of sexual wisdom:

***Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.***

***Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?***

***Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you. (Proverbs 5:15—17)***

The metaphor used here is water to satisfy a raging thirst and internal fire.

The Bible is talking about a man's sexual desires, his passions and his powers.

God is saying. "Satisfy your thirst through lovemaking with your wife."

Prov 5:15-17 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

The Lord did not say,

"There's temptation out there so what you need is a will of iron. You need steely determination. So here is your future—endless frustration bottled up inside."

Obviously we all need self-control if we are going to have emotional structures above a five-year-old level.

Verse 23 warns against a "lack of discipline."

But God's remedy for your thirst or fire for sex is sex, overflowing sexual joy with your wife.

That is what he means in **verse 15** by "your own cistern" and "your own well."

Your wife is your own personal and private, divinely approved wellspring of endless sexual satisfaction and you are hers...

Prov 5:15 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:15 ISV* (15) ¶ Drink water from your own

Pro 5:15 KJV+ (15) Drink^{H8354} waters^{H4325} out of thine own cistern,^{H4480 H953} and running waters^{H5140} out of^{H4480 H8432} thine own well.^{H875}

***Pro 5:15 NASB (15) Drink water from your own cistern
And fresh water from your own well.***

***Pro 5:15 NIV (15) Drink water from your own cistern,
running water from your own well.***

[Drink waters out of thine own cistern] One must be satisfied with his own companion and his children must not be illegitimate (**Prov 5:15-18**).

Your offspring should be from your wife, not from a stranger.

Prov 5:16-17 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:16-17 ISV* (16) ¶ Should your springs flow outside, or streams of water in the street? (17) ¶ They should be for you alone and not for strangers who are with you.

Pro 5:16-17 KJV+ (16) Let thy fountains^{H4599} be dispersed^{H6327} abroad,^{H2351} and rivers^{H6388} of waters^{H4325} in the streets.^{H7339} (17) Let them be^{H1961} only^{H905} thine own, and not^{H369} strangers^{H2114} with^{H854} thee.

Pro 5:16-17 NASB (16) Should your springs be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? (17) Let them be yours alone And not for strangers with you.

Pro 5:16 NIV (16) Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? (17) Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.

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Prov 5:18-20 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

You have every right to see by faith, God your Father raising his hands in blessing over your marriage bed.

The wise father-figure prays over the married sexual experience of his son and daughter-in-law:

**May your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
a lovely deer, a graceful doe.**

**Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.**

**Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a
forbidden woman
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? (Proverbs
5:18-20)**

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Prov 5:18-19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

18] Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19] Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

Other figures for a wife come from the well-known beauty of these animals.

Ravished: literally, “intoxicated with” that is, fully satisfied.

What does the prayed-for blessing of God look like?

A spring of joyously bubbling sexual happiness between husband and wife.

And that is sexual wisdom.

As the years go by, she will always be in your eyes and heart even as “the wife of your youth.”

You will always cherish her and rejoice over her as that dear girl who gave herself completely to you alone.

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Prov 5:18 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:18 ISV* (18) ¶ Let your fountain be blessed and enjoy the wife of your youth.

Pro 5:18 KJV+ (18) Let thy fountain^{H4726} be^{H1961} blessed:^{H1288} and rejoice^{H8055} with the wife^{H4480} ^{H802} of thy youth.^{H5271}

Pro 5:18 NASB (18) Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Pro 5:18 NIV (18) May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

Let your own wife be blessed, and be satisfied with her at all times (**Prov 5:19**).

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Of Rivers and Swamps Proverbs 5:19-20

Solomon admonishes the husband to be “**ravished**” with his wife’s love (**5:19—20**);

the word translated “ravished” also means “intoxicated” or “infatuated.”

The adulterer watches the river turn into a sewer, but the faithful husband sees the water become wine!

It’s significant that Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast, as though He were giving us an object lesson concerning the growing delights of marriage (**John 2:1—11**).

When a husband and wife are faithful to the Lord and to each other, and when they obey Scriptures like **1 Cor 7:1—5** and **Eph 5:22—33**, neither of them will look for satisfaction anywhere else.

If they love each other and seek to please each other and the Lord, their relationship will be one of deepening joy and satisfaction; they won’t look around for “the greener grass.”

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Prov 5:19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:19 ISV* (19) ¶ Like a loving deer, a beautiful doe, let her breasts satisfy you all the time. Be constantly intoxicated by her love.

Pro 5:19 KJV+ (19) Let her be as the loving^{H158} hind^{H365} and pleasant^{H2580} roe;^{H3280} let her breasts^{H1717} satisfy^{H7301} thee at all^{H3605} times;^{H6256} and be thou ravished^{H7686} always^{H8548} with her love.^{H160}

Pro 5:19 NASB (19) As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

Pro 5:19 NIV (19) A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

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Prov 5:19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Using the deer, graceful doe” imagery of **verse 19**, the author has in mind “their bright black eyes, their graceful limbs, and their irresistible silky hair,”

Husband, enjoy your wife visually.

Honor and enjoy her beauty.

Wife, present yourself to your husband as attractively as you can, lovely and graceful.

Of all the women on the face of the earth today, a man’s own wife is his only morally legitimate satisfaction of his thirst for sexual enjoyment.

Why not each ask your spouse, “How can I please you more?”

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Prov 5:19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:19 NASB (19) As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

Verse 19 is frank, almost erotic, emphasizing two things:

- the quality of married lovemaking
“fill ... with delight” and “be intoxicated” and
- the quantity of married lovemaking
“at all times” and always”.

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Prov 5:19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:19 NASB (19) As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

The Bible is saying. When you get married, drop your inhibitions, and go for it in both quality and quantity.”

That is a command of God.

“The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does.

Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Do not deprive one another” (1 Corinthians 7:4, 5).

Prov 5:20 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:20 ISV* (20) ¶ Why should you be intoxicated by an adulteress, my son, and embrace the bosom of a foreign woman?

Pro 5:20 KJV+ (20) And why^{H4100} wilt thou, my son,^{H1121} be ravished^{H7686} with a strange woman,^{H2114} and embrace^{H2263} the bosom^{H2436} of a stranger?^{H5237}

Pro 5:20 NASB (20) For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

Pro 5:20 NIV (20) Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

Question 3. Next, **Prov 6:9.**

Prov 5:19 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:19 NASB (19) As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

Proverbs 5 adds, “Make it fun and frequent!”

The word translated “**be intoxicated**” is used elsewhere for a man staggering down the street in drunkenness (**Isaiah 28:7**).

The point is to be crazy in love together.

That is the good and wise will of God.

This comes from ancient times, when many marriages were arranged for economic and political purposes.

But the Bible calls us to being head-over-heels in romantic love – with your own spouse.

Prov 5:20 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:20 NASB (20) For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

God is giving you your own personal Garden of Eden with your marriage. Be faithful to it. Enjoy it—to the max.

God didn’t put the “marriage wall” around sex to *rob* us of pleasure but to *increase* pleasure and *protect* it.

Solomon explains the disappointments that come when people violate God’s loving laws of sexual purity.

God lifts physical love in marriage to the very highest plane.

Prov 5:20 Delights of Marital Faithfulness

Pro 5:20 NASB (20) For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?

Remember that marriage was designed by God Himself and was given to the human family for the welfare and good of mankind.

A part of the immorality of our day is the attempts to get rid of marriage.

The ultimate reason for obeying God with sexual wisdom is not physical or social but spiritual.

That is the final thing, and the most important thing, the wise father wants to say.

From freedom to bondage Proverbs 5:21-23

Freedom of choice is one of the privileges God has given us, but He instructs us and urges us to use that freedom wisely.

The laws of God are guideposts to lead us on the path of life.

He watches the decisions we make and the roads we take.

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (15:3).

As long as we use our freedom wisely, we will mature in Christian character, and God can trust us with more freedom

From freedom to bondage Proverbs 5:21-23

If we abuse our freedom and deliberately disobey His Word, our freedom will gradually become bondage, the kind of bondage that can't easily be broken.

“The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast” (5:22 NIV).

Those words could have been used as an epitaph for Samson (**Judg. 13—16**).

It's impossible to sin without being bound.

Sin promises freedom but only brings slavery.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34 NKJV).

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16 NKJV).

From freedom to bondage Proverbs 5:21-23

The cords of sin get stronger the more we sin.

Sin deceives us into thinking we're free and can quit sinning whenever we please.

As the invisible chains of habit are forged, we discover to our horror that we don't have the strength to break them.

Millions of people in our world today are in one kind of bondage or another and are seeking for deliverance,

There is only One who can set us free; Jesus Christ.

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36 NKJV).

No wonder the father warns his children to stay away from the adulteress.

“Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house” (Prov. 5:8 NKJV).

“Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death” (7:27).

Prov 5:21-23 Now Decide!

***For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,
and he ponders all his paths.
The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he is led astray.
(Proverbs 5:21—23)***

All of us are sexual sinners at some level, and we all know the slavery of it, the inescapable regret and shame of it.

Sin touches everything we are.
None of us is perfect.
None of us is strong.

We all need merciful liberation from our pasts, our thoughts, our fantasies...

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Prov 5:21 Now Decide!

Pro 5:21 ISV* (21) ¶ Indeed, what a man does is [Lit. Indeed, a man's ways are] always in the LORD's presence, [Lit. in front of the LORD's eyes] and he weighs all his paths.

Pro 5:21 KJV+ (21) For^{H3588} the ways^{H1870} of man^{H376} are before^{H5227} the eyes^{H5869} of the LORD,^{H3068} and he pondereth^{H6424} all^{H3605} his goings.^{H4570}

Pro 5:21 NASB (21) For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.

Pro 5:21 NIV (21) For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.

The ways of man are before God - He records every word and deed.

"God loves you so much He can't take His eyes off of you!"

How deeds are recorded is unknown, but every idle word and every cup of cold water given or refused will be brought up before man in the day of judgment (***Matt 10:42; 12:37-38; Rev 20:11-15***).

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Prov 5:21-23 Now Decide!

Estimates are that about 85 percent of men have premarital sex,

After marrying about 25 percent of men and 15 percent of women commit adultery at some point, and

About ½ of all men and 1/3 of all women look at Internet porn once a month.

A tsunami of sexual destruction is slamming us in our modern world today.

We need a massive cleansing that only God can give.

We must run to Christ, the mighty Friend of sexual fools.

Come to Christ.

Be forgiven and learn sexual wisdom as a gift of his grace.

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Prov 5:21 Now Decide!

Ten Examples of Man's Ways Before God (*Prov 5:21*)

1. Cain (***Gen 4:5-6***)
2. Babel's builders (***Gen 11:1-11***)
3. Sodom and Gomorrah (***Gen 18:21***)
4. Uzzah (***2 Sam 6:6-7; 1 Chron 13:10***)
5. David (***2 Sam 12***)
6. Baasha (***1 Kings 15:29***)
7. Ahab (***1 Kings 21:19***)
8. Belshazzar (***Dan 5:22-28***)
9. Nathanael (***John 1:48***)
10. The seven churches (***Rev 2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15***)

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Prov 5:22 Now Decide!

Pro 5:22 ISV* (22) ¶ The wicked person's iniquities will capture him, and he will be held with the cords of his sin.

Pro 5:22 KJV+ (22) His own iniquities^{H5771} shall take^{H3920} (H853) the wicked^{H7563} himself, and he shall be holden^{H8551} with the cords^{H2256} of his sins.^{H2403}

Pro 5:22 NASB (22) His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin.

Pro 5:22 NIV (22) The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

The 5th prophecy in Proverbs (**Prov 5:22-23**, being fulfilled in the end of the wicked). Next, **Prov 10:30**.

[iniquities] Sins shall trap the wicked and hold him in cords that only God can break.

There is no jury at the White Throne Judgment! (**Rev 20:11–15; 21:27; 22:15**.)

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Prov 5:22 Now Decide!

Pro 5:23 ISV* (23) ¶ He will die for lack of discipline, and he goes astray because of his great folly.

Pro 5:23 KJV+ (23) He^{H1931} shall die^{H4191} without^{H369} instruction,^{H4148} and in the greatness^{H7230} of his folly^{H200} he shall go astray.^{H7686}

Pro 5:23 NASB (23) He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

Pro 5:23 NIV (23) He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

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Prov 5:22 Now Decide!

Pro 5:22 NASB (22) His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin.

[holden with the cords of his sins]

Four examples of men held by sin:

1. Saul (**1 Sam 18:8-9; 28:5-20**)
2. Ahithophel (**2 Sam 17:23**)
3. Judas (**Matt 26:47-49; John 12:6**)
4. Paul (**Rom 7:7-25**)

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Proverbs 5 Sexual Sin Will Disappoint

- The experience goes from sweetness to bitterness **vv. 1–6**
- From gain to loss **vv. 7–14**
- From purity to pollution **vv. 15–20**
- From freedom to bondage **vv. 21–23**

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Prov 5 Sweetness to Bitterness

The Book of Proverbs emphasizes the importance of *looking ahead* to see where your actions will lead you

(5:11; 14:12–14; 16:25; 19:20; 20:21; 23:17–18, 32; 24:14, 20; 25:8).

The wise person checks on the destination before buying a ticket (**4:26**),

but modern society thinks that people can violate God's laws at will and still escape the consequences.

Prov 5 Purity to Pollution

Sex within marriage is a beautiful river that brings life and refreshment,

Sex outside marriage is a sewer that defiles everything it touches.

When a husband and wife obey Scriptures like **1 Co 7:1-5** and **Eph 5:22-33**,

neither of them will look for satisfaction anywhere else.

Prov 5 Gain to Loss

Temptation always includes hopeful promises;
otherwise, people wouldn't take the devil's bait.

To be a temptation, a thing must be:

- Desireable
- Possible
- Attainable
- Wrong

Sin is the most expensive thing in the world.

God in His **grace** will forgive his sins if he repents,
but God in His **government** sees to it that he reaps what he sows.

Prov 5 Freedom to Bondage

The kind of bondage which can't easily be broken.

Joh 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

Rom 6:16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

God's children have the responsibility to represent their Father's name.

***"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled;
but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Heb 13:4).***