

Text: Proverbs 5
Topic: Sexual Purity

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A Strategy For Winning In The Battle For Sexual Purity

Pr 5:1-2 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.

3-6 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. 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol. 6 She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

7-8 Now then, my 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,

9-14 Or you will give your vigor to others And your years to the cruel one; 10 And strangers will be filled with your strength And your hard-earned goods will go to the house of an alien; 11 And you groan at your final end, When your flesh and your body are consumed; 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! 14 "I was almost in utter ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

15-19 Drink water from your own cistern And fresh water from your own well. 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. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love.

20-23 For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner? 21 For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths. 22 His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin. 23 He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.

Psalms 84:11 The LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Luke 9:23 "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Introduction:

IF YOU DESIRE TO MAINTAIN SEXUAL PURITY YOU MUST:

1. Undertake The Pursuit Of Biblical Instruction. 5:1-2

- 2 Timothy 2:22 *Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*
- Matt 4:1-11
- James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

2. Understand The Deception Of Sexual Sin. 5:3-6

3. Understand The Value Of Safe Distance. 5:7-8

- 2 Timothy 2:22a see above
- Joseph Principle

4. Unmask The Regret Of The Consequence's of Sin. 5:9-14

- The Testimony of Solomon
 - The command. Deut 17:17
 - The disobedience. 1 Kings 11:1-4
 - The regret. Ecc 7:27-29

5. Unlock The Satisfaction Of Marital Fidelity. 5:15-19

- Ps 84:11
- Luke 9:23-24
- 1 Cor 7:16-35 esp. 16, 20-24 & 32-35
- 1 Cor 10:13

6. Unleash The Horror Of God's Omniscience.

Outline adapted from an outline presented at the 2003 Shepherd's Conference by Dr. Rick Holland, Pastor, College and Student Ministries, Grace Community Church in Panorama City, CA.

Questions and Suggestions to Stimulate Your Application

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us **consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds**, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-26

- Using Proverbs 5 and the outline presented write out your own strategy for personal purity.

- Using 2 Timothy 2:22
 - Determine your areas of respectful distance – flight strategy. Areas where you need to just deny yourself entrance.

 - Determine how you will pursue:
 - Righteousness

 - Faith

 - Love

 - Peace

 - Determine how you will pursue the above goals together with others who call on the Lord from a pure heart. How will you be accountable and how will you grow together with others in this area? See the next sheet for a suggested list of accountability questions.

- To work on your marriage in a positive way study with your spouse *Love Life for Every Married Couple*, Dr. Ed Wheat. Harper, 1980.
- To gain victory in the battle for sexual purity study *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin*, Kris Lundgaard, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1998; *The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges, NavPress, 1978. *At The Altar Of Sexual Idolatry*, Steve Gallagher, Pure Live Ministry, 2000.

KEEPING THE VESSEL CLEAN: ACCOUNTABILITY

- *“Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor, and some to dishonor. Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, you will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:20-21*

1. What can you share with me specifically, that God spoke to you about through His Word this past week?
2. Have you been faithful in your commitment to prayer this week? Did you pray for other members of the team?
3. What sin/s has plagued you this week?
4. Have you shown complete financial integrity in every are of life this past week?
5. Are you giving to the Lord’s work regularly and proportionately as God has blessed you? What goals are you striving for in the area of giving?
6. Have you been looking at questionable material, movies, T.V., or books that would bring shame to the Lord? (Would you be willing to tell the whole congregation what movies you watched this past week?)
7. How did you impact your marriage and family with the love of Christ this week? What could you do to improve?
8. Have you been alone with a women in any situation when your feelings became inappropriate, or where others could have suspected something which could be suspicious?
9. What challenges or struggles are weighing on your mind?
10. What lives did you impact for Christ this past week?
11. Have you worked on your ministry goals and priorities this week?
12. Have you taken credit for anything where the credit and glory belong to God alone?
13. Have you in any way lied, or compromised to me? (Isn’t this question fun?)

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar and His Word is not in us.”
1 John 1:9*

“For God who said, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body and the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.” 2 Corinthians 4:6-19

Repercussions If I Give In To Lust

It will have a profound effect on the following:

God

God hates all lust. He is a jealous God.
 My prayer life will be impossible.
 My ability to study God's word will be crushed.
 My name would be added to the long list of Christian leaders who have failed.

My Wife

She will have a hard time rebuilding trust.
 She will have a hard time letting me touch her.
 She will have a harder time touching me or showing me any affection.
 She will feel embarrassed among her family and friends.
 She will have a hard time trusting my spiritual leadership.
 She will doubt God and His goodness.

My Boys

I will have been a terrible example to them.
 They will distrust me.
 They will not desire to speak with me regarding their own love and lust.
 They will see me as a fake.
 They will feel embarrassed around others who know me.

My Daughters

They will be totally confused by my choice.
 They will doubt my love for them.
 They will not want to hug or kiss me.
 They will have a difficult time trusting their future husbands.
 They will doubt God and His goodness.
 They will not look up to me as man of God.

Myself

I will immediately experience the guilt of my sin.
 I will have greatly diminished my walk with God.
 I will feel "dirty" near my wife and children and fellow laborers.
 I will have a tremendous price to pay spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally.

The Woman

She will be hurt spiritually and emotionally.
 Her view of Christ will be diminished.
 Her spouse or future spouse will be cheated.

My Father

He has watched my spiritual journey through life and it will all seem as a fake.
 It will seriously hinder any witness or example to him if he is not believer.
 It will hurt our ability to communicate.

My Fellow Elders (laborers)

I have disqualified myself for leadership.
 I will have to remove myself from leadership.
 I will have hurt them in that they worked with me and did not question my character in this area.
 Their trust in me may never be fully restored.
 I will be a disgrace to Christ and the church.

My Siblings

They and their spouses will have a hard time being around me.
Those who are not saved will feel vindicated in their sin.

My Fellow Workers

I have put myself up as a believer in Christ and this brings reproach on the name of Christ.
Non believers will discount my testimony and will generalize that to other believers.
My fellow Christian workers at the office will be extremely disturbed and disappointed.
My fellow Christian workers may yield to temptation in their own life due to my example.

My Neighbors, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, old friends, business associates, and enemies will all be affected when they hear of it. Add to that a likelihood of financial impact, mental strength, physical strength and loss of vitality

It's just not worth it!