

PROVERBS SERIES FIVE
INTIMATE LOVE AND ITS ENEMY
Dr. Roger Barrier
Proverbs 5-9

Bible to Proverbs Glenn and I preaching on the book of Wisdom. Two lifestyles—wise and foolish.
Insert—more material than I can cover; lists you may want.

In Proverbs 5-9 Solomon shares a dream with us. So many of us dream of a happy and fulfilled life. For many that includes hopes for an idyllic marriage of companionship, great sex, long walks on the beach, perhaps children—and one day grandchildren.

READ PROVERBS 5:15-19.

Let's experience how this ought to be.

SONG AND DANCE

You just ought to do it right. Stand at the end of life of life: I did it right. I had a great life—not scarred and wounded—that is wisdom!

The father, speaking to his young, unmarried son, is concerned that his son lives out the dream of
■ SLIDE: The Intimacy of fulfilling love.

Because the opposite can be so devastating. As a result, four full chapters of Proverbs are devoted to
■ SLIDE: The Enemy of intimate love: sex outside of marriage
No other sin has built into it the deep-rooted damage that sexual immorality does!

Our society has gone overboard on the subject of sex.

C.S. Lewis has a beautiful analogy in Mere Christianity:

You can always get a large audience together to watch a striptease. No question about it. People will even pay to watch a girl undress on stage.

Now, suppose you come to a country where they fill an auditorium in a different way, not by having a girl undress, but by having an auditorium packed to the walls and a man walks out with a big tray which was covered with a large white cloth.

Wild music begins to play, lights begin to flash and all of a sudden in a very enticing manner he pulls off the cloth - screams in passionate ecstasy - and there on the tray was a pork chop.

"Wouldn't you think," asks C.W. Lewis, "that in that country something had gone wrong with their appetite for food!"

Something has gone wrong in America with our appetite for the body.

We have taken a very sacred thing which God has designed for the happiness and fulfillment and procreation of man and we have twisted it totally out of shape. We worship the flesh and the pleasures it provides as if it were God! We're preoccupied with fashions and figures and physiques and exposure!

■ SLIDE: Proverbs 5:1-2: My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
listen well to my words of insight,
that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.

■ SLIDE: Proverbs 5:3-4: For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; (Ah, listen, that's very enticing – honeycomb lips and a smooth mouth, but the opposite comes in verses 4-5.)

but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

■ SLIDE: Proverbs 5:5-6: Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.
She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.

■ SLIDE: OVERHEAD: Let's define Terms (Write Fornication and Adultery on the screen.)

Miller's Mother teaches Single Adult class: What is the difference between Adultery and Fornication?"
Single boy: "I have tried them both and there is not a dime's worth of difference."

Fornication is from the Greek word *porneia* (πορνεία). It describes every form of immoral sexual behavior from sex outside of marriage to lust to incest to bestiality to other things that I choose not to mention at this time. It has to do with all sorts of impurity and unnatural vice.

Adultery is a type of fornication. It involves sexual relations between two people, at least one of whom is married.

Marriage as defined by God is "One man and one woman for a lifetime."

Not two men, not two women: aberration. No foundation for a family.
Ruins the Type: "Let us make man in our image: Male and female created He them."

■ SLIDE: READ PROVERBS 5:7-8.

You won't have the problem of committing adultery if you don't go near where they are.

If Solomon were writing today he would widen his definition of what it means to "go near her door."

Need to update. What is the door of her house?
South 6th and miracle mile—OR
Could be in your den: as close as your computer for online internet porn.
"After hours" cable television

STORY of lady on internet with camera. Husband discovers. Counseling. Finally, me or computer. She packed up her belongings, unplugged her access source to the internet and walked out the door with her computer.

■ SLIDES: 30 Million people visit sex sites each month
70% of e-porn traffic occurs between 9AM and 5PM weekdays.
Four times as many men involved online than women (77% vs. 23%).
The proportion of women involved has increased from 14% to 23% since 1997.
Women favor chat rooms (49% to 23%), while men prefer visual erotica online (50% vs. 23%).
Sexuality is the number one searched topic on the internet.

SLIDE: Sex is the fastest-growing addiction in the United States and the addiction of choice among Christians. FOOLS!

SLIDE: Porn Sex is classic idolatry. Think about it in terms of *worship*.
We give it our *time*.
We give it our *money*.
We run to it for *comfort*.
We *leave God* totally *out* of the picture.

SLIDE: Internet porn is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction.
Just a few hits and you can get hooked.

By the way, there are three at risk groups in our society for sexual addiction.

- SLIDE:** 1. Those who were Neglected and Abandoned as children (rejected pain at root cause of sexual addiction).
2. Those who were sexually abused (broken view of sex and relationships).
3. Young adolescent males from 12 to 25 (imprinting years).

80% of all sexual addicts were relationship impaired in one way or another.
All addictive patterns are basically there to mask pain.

SLIDE: “It is not good for man to be alone.”
But consider how internet sex meets emotional needs alone.

- SLIDES:** 1. Anonymity—relationship with no emotional strings
2. An illusion of friendships without the demands of friendship
3. Emotional control without risk, exposure, or being known
4. As gratification and a sense of being connected flourishes, the person actually grows more isolated, lonely, and relationally unfulfilled.
5. Powerful detrimental effect on human relationships and sexuality (never learn to interact socially with others; program brain to unique, situational performance.)

SLIDE: SEXUAL ADDICTION: The warning signs of sexual addiction:

- SLIDES:** 1. Loss of control—no longer able to say, “I’ll stop.”
2. Mind obsessed with a constant flood of sexual images (alcohol, next drink; food addict, next meal)
3. Continuation in spite of increasing negative consequences
4. An “adrenalin fix” high from the activity (chemical addiction component to gambling and sex—the brain gets “high”)
5. Life out of control in other areas (money spent on porn)
6. A sense of entitlement – “I deserve this.” (Distorted thinking says, “I am hurting so badly that I am entitled to relief.)
7. Experiencing a feeling of power (especially female) – (high for a woman to control a man with her sexuality. Both think they are making a conquest. Power is intoxicating.

Sorry you are hooked. Not angry with you. Broken hearted.

SLIDE: The Sex Addicts View of Life

1. I am a horrible, terrible person.

2. No one will meet my needs – sex is my most important need.
3. If you really knew me you would leave me, i.e. shame.

This is a relational problem – they were deeply wounded in relationships and can only be cured in context of relationships.

Celebrate Recovery: Church is best equipped to do this.

SLIDE: READ PROVERBS 5:9-10.

A person can actually come to the place where he loses his fortune. Many a man has come to the place where he has destroyed his life over women. Many a man is saddled today with paying so much alimony that he can hardly live himself. People have lost their lives or livelihood through immorality
Child support: Not only do you end up with no children, you have to pay for another man to raise them.

SLIDE: READ PROVERBS 5:11-14.

When you get old and you can't function physically and you have absolutely nothing left than the pain and remorse then you will say (verse 12).

Learned lessons to late. If only I had listened to the wise, my life I could have had a wonderful life—but I missed it. I was a fool!

SLIDE: In the opening verses of chapter 5 Solomon has warned us about *the enemy of intimate love*:
“pornea”

SLIDE: Now he begins to share *the intimacy of fulfilling love*.

As we read the next several verses, let me share with you some of the beauty of what this means.

SLIDE: Proverbs 5:15-16: Drink water from your own cistern,
running water from your own well. (*Guarantee of security in family life*)

Should your springs overflow in the streets,
your streams of water in the public squares? (*Never have unwanted children. Teens pregnant*)

SLIDE: Proverbs 5:17-18: Let them be yours alone,
never to be shared with strangers (*Never have to worry about disease*)

May your fountain be blessed (*many children*)
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth (*Opportunity for partnership for a lifetime*)

Why would Solomon write that and then not obey it himself?

Wife of his youth was a Shunamite woman. Now he's had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Could it be that at the time of writing he's learned that a man can only love one woman?

SLIDE: Proverbs 5:19: A loving doe, a graceful deer —
may her breasts satisfy you always, (*Fulfills your ability to love freely and openly*)
may you ever be captivated by her love. (*Brain is patterned sexually to you partner*).

Your partner is never degraded to an object. He or she is a real person to explore and get to know—and you are known. And you are no longer alone.

Fulfills the Type of Intimacy with God in worship. The sexual act is a Type of God's love for us.

SLIDE: Song of Solomon 6:4-5: You are beautiful, my darling, as Tirzah,
lovely as Jerusalem,
majestic as troops with banners.
*Turn your eyes from me;
they overwhelm me.*

SLIDE: THE WARNING CONTINUES WITH A TRUE STORY (PROVERBS 7:4-27).

READ PROVERBS 7:4-5

Solomon's going to give us an illustration – Proverbs 7:5-20.

READ PROVERBS 7:6

Solomon looks through his window frame.

READ PROVERBS 7:7

Here's a stupid young man – The world's full of them. Here's why they're stupid.

READ PROVERBS 7:8a

The old trade of prostitution hasn't changed one bit.

They've always been on corners – always will be on corners – wherever people are.

So here's this stupid guy going down the street – no wisdom- thinks this is the way to live.

READ PROVERBS 7:8b-9

Isn't it always!

READ PROVERBS 7:10

Can still tell how they dress.

READ PROVERBS 7:11-12

Always stirring up trouble.

READ PROVERBS 7:13a

That's what's known as the direct approach.

READ PROVERBS 7:13b-14

It's okay. My religion's all taken care of – got that out of the way.

READ PROVERBS 7:15-17

Getting a little heavy.

READ PROVERBS 7:18

Sounds great, doesn't it – so enticing and alluring. Truth of the matter is in verse 19.

READ PROVERBS 7:19-20.

Now here's the real reason – husband is gone.

Now this is a stupid kid, remember!

READ PROVERBS 7:21-23.

How? Like a lover to love? No – like an ox to slaughter!

Like a wise man to fulfillment? No! Like a deer stepping into a noose until an arrow pierces his liver!
Like a child to the circus: No! Like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

READ PROVERBS 7:24-27.

What a foolish thing to do!

If you're a Christian, God will forgive you, but it's certainly not going to help you to do this!

SLIDE: HOW TO KEEP YOUR HEART PURE IN A SEXUAL ADDICTING SOCIETY.

Recognize The Process to Immorality

The road to immorality involves a process. People don't just fall into immorality instantly, especially not committed Christians.

STORY of deal with Rhonda and Carol: If some one makes a pass at me in my office, I will open door and say, "Will you please tell Rhonda what you just said to me."

Shared my plan on several occasions. Wise man said, "Roger, don't be naïve. It will never be that overt. It comes on quietly, seductively, when you least expect it."

People don't lead moral lives one day and have an affair the next. It may appear that way, but it is a process. The process is often overlooked because some states are not obvious to us, the viewer, and thus they are difficult to detect. That's why it seems to happen overnight.

Any of us could be in the process right now. None of us are immune. The earlier the danger signals can be detected and responded to, the easier it is to change direction.

SLIDE: OVERHEAD: Best guard: Struck by the importance of healthy relationships

- Love God and love others.

Singles or stuck in miserable relationship.

SLIDE: 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 – "Now to the unmarried and the widows I say, It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

Many Christian singles are doing neither – marrying or burning. Instead of marrying, there is an attitude among many to "put off" that binding commitment. And instead of burning, they take part in illicit sex because they are "only human."

Consider two options: Instead of me giving you all the rules.

BACK UP TO SLIDE OVERHEAD: ● Make God the object of your affection. Isaiah, "I will be your husband, father."

CANDLE OF HOPE

Dear Father,

Since you are the God of all comfort, we pray that you would minister graciously and lovingly to all those here this morning whose marriages have not turned out well. There are many hurting hearts in this room this morning. Each one needs your love and healing grace. May You quietly continue to help them pick

up the broken pieces of life and reassemble them ways that bring hope and abundant fulfillment for the future.

We pray for our many single adults who want to be married. May you bring into their lives the right person, in the right way, at the right time. Give them grace and patience in the mean time.

Please also give strength and healing to those who were hurt so badly that they have decided never to risk marriage again. May your grace be sufficient for them.

We pray grace and blessing for all today who will one day be married. May their dreams of love, fulfillment, and delight be met beyond their wildest imaginations. For our children we pray for stable marriages, founded strongly upon you and your principles. May they live out your dreams for their joy and happiness until death do they part—and then on for all eternity.

Amen.