

THE PERILS OF MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS

INTRODUCTION: We are surrounded by a culture of marital unfaithfulness. It is woven into the fabric of every city. Its poison corrupts every town. Every community witnesses its devastation. It is promoted by Hollywood. What happens in Las Vegas does not stay in Las Vegas. It is seen on TV. We have access to it on our computers. **SEXUALITY SELLS THE PRODUCTS OF AMERICA.** Name a product (soap, cars, furniture, food, vacations)—sensuality sells it.

Back when most TV were still B/W there was a program called “Lost in Space” – family who had to crash land on a planet. At some point in the program the family robot would wave his arms and announce “Danger, Will Robinson, Danger! It was really corny! Here in Proverbs 5-7 the Spirit of God issues a warning—NOT CORNY—BUT CRUCIAL!

God made us to be sexual creatures. That is NOT a bad thing. It is an incredibly good thing as long as it takes place within the boundaries God has established. It is only bad when we wander outside. Name a game (football, baseball, volleyball, soccer) – games have to be played within the rules (boundaries). In football, hit a person outside the lines and you will be penalized—even ejected from the game. And that’s the way it is with sex.

PROVERBS: Marital unfaithfulness—5 disappointment—6 destruction—7 death

Serious Instruction: **5:1-3; 6:20-24; 7:1-5**

“Strange Woman” “ZAR” = strange, different, illegitimate, forbidden,

Leviticus 10:1 Aaron’s sons used “strange fire”

- Not just any fire but only fire from the altar → incense
- Not sexually intimate with just anybody—but set apart by covenant.
 - Not unmarried → (living with someone) rules out fornication
 - Not married → (affair, relationship) rules out adultery
 - Not same birth-sex/gender → rules out homosexuality
- NOTE: Just as women can be just as wicked as a man, so a man can be just as immoral and manipulative as a woman.
- Anyone can come to our church (spiritually broken and dysfunctional)
 - PASTORAL GOAL: Win them to Christ → new creature (2 Cor 5:17)
 - PASTORAL GOAL: Bring spiritual growth → **2 Peter 1:4-8** “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I. DISAPPOINTMENT FROM MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS (5:1-27)

A. INITIAL SWEET EXCITEMENT

1. Words of Honey (5:3a) – What she says will be sweet to your ears
 - a. She flatters your ego – tells you how good, smart, strong etc. you are
 - b. She understands you and approves of how you are doing things.
2. Words Smoother than Oil (5:3b)
 - a. She empathizes with your struggles and gives you encouragement.
 - b. What she says just makes life to have a easy glow—better than present struggle.

B. EVENTUAL DISAPPOINTMENT AND REMORSE: “Her End”

1. Bitter as wormwood (5:4a) – she will leave you with a bitter taste in your mouth.
2. Sharp as a two edged sword (5:4b)— you will feel wounded.
3. The path she walks leads to death and hell 5:5) – eternal remorse.
4. Hard to recognize where her path leads (5:6) – her approach is adaptable & manipulative.

C. COUNSEL ON HOW TO RESPOND: SEPARATION FROM HER (5:7-

1. Stay far away from her & don't go to her house (5:7-8).
2. Remorse over meeting her
 - a. Lost honor (5:9a)
 - b. Lost time (5:9b)
 - c. Lost money (5:10)
 - d. Physical health impacted (5:11)
 - e. Lost instruction from the Lord (5:12-14)

D. COUNSEL ON SPIRITUAL PROTECTION (5:15-21)

1. Drink your own waters: your wife will give life & make you fruitful (5:15-18).
2. Rejoice in your wife: that is where your passions belong (5:19-20).
3. Consider our ways knowing God is considering your ways (5:21).

E. THE MAN ENAMORED WITH THE STRANGE WOMAN DIES WITHOUT INSTRUCTION (5:22-23)

II. DESTRUCTION FROM MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS (6:20-35)

A. SOLOMON'S INSTRUCTION IS FROM THE LORD (6:20-23) – This gives authority to everything else that Solomon has to say

B. WARNING ABOUT THE BAIT USED BY THE STRANGE WOMAN (6:24-25)

1. Flattery
2. Beauty
3. Eyes

C. PICTURE OF A MAN'S DESTRUCTION (6:26-35)

1. A man brought to a “price of bread”: she hunts for his life—his wallet (6:26)
2. A man hiding fire in his bosom or walking on coals of fire: he is asking to be burned (6:27-28)
3. A man who commits adultery doesn't walk away without suffering hurt (6:29-35)
 - a. A hungry thief is not hated but must pay restitution (6:30-31)

- b. A man who steals another man's wife doesn't understand the gravity of his offense (6:32-35).
 - 1) Destroys his own soul (6:32).
 - 2) His act of dishonor will not be forgotten (6:33).
 - 3) No amount of money will bring reconciliation with the husband (6:34-35)

III. DEATH FROM MARITAL UNFAITHFULNESS (7:1-27)

A. WORDS OF WISDOM FROM A FATHER: EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY (7:1-5).

B. WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OBSERVATION (7:6-23)

- 1. A naïve young man puts himself in danger (7:6-9)
 - a. He was in the wrong place—"way to her house"
 - b. He was there at the wrong time—"twilight, in the evening"
- 2. An immoral woman meets him with the following characteristics: (7:10-20)
 - a. Her choice of dress advertised her intent (7:10a)
 - b. She is deceitful in her intent (7:10b).
 - c. She is brash in her speech (7:11a)
 - d. She is stubborn in spirit (7:11b)
 - e. She is at a place looking for an immoral experience (7:11c-12).
 - f. She is boldly flirtatious: grabs and kisses the young man (7:13a).
 - g. She lets him know she is available for a sexual rendezvous (7:13b-14)
 - h. She flatters him by telling him that he is exactly who she is looking for (7:15).
 - i. She has prepared her bed (7:16-17 cf. Romans 12:13).
 - j. She invites him to be sexually intimate with her (7:18)
 - k. She assures him they won't be caught by her husband (7:19-20)
- 3. The immediate result (7:21-23)
 - a. He accepts her invitation to immorality (7:21)
 - b. Three examples (7:22-23)
 - 1) As an ox unknowingly is led to slaughter.
 - 2) As a fool casually strolls into a place of judgment.
 - 3) As a bird flies into a snare not knowing it will cost its life.
- 4. The end results (7:24-27)
 - a. An appeal to listen (7:24)
 - b. Don't follow a woman that has the characteristics just described (7:25)
 - c. Many have fallen for her temptation and suffered the consequences. (7:26)
 - d. Her house leads to death and hell