

Dig Deeper into Proverbs 5 for personal study and Life Groups...

Proverbs 5 “The door”

Intro: a very positive negative ! (v1-2,7-8)

1) A lust that doesn't deliver...

disappoints (v3-4) drains (v9-14) destroys (v5-6, 22-23)

2) A love that doesn't fail...

your spouse (v15-21) your saviour (v1)

Conclusion: Love like Jesus!



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Today's passage is one of 5 warnings in chapters 1-9 against the adulteress, or literally the “strange” woman. She may be called that because she has become “estranged” from her husband and from a covenant relationship with God, or it may be a reference to her as a “stranger”. Solomon himself (to whom these proverbs are ascribed) was led astray by many foreign wives who led him into spiritual danger. Jesus, wonderfully is the only true and faithful husband who remained true to his bride, the church, to the point of death, and by his blood washed her (us) from all sin (Eph 5:25-33).

1) How is this passage in fact a “good news” passage and a “very positive negative” passage?

2) Recap the contrast in this chapter between what adultery promises and what it delivers.

3) How do the following NT passages help you see sexual temptation in a different light...

- a) Hebrews 2:14-18
- b) 1 Cor 10:12-13
- c) 1 Cor 6:9-11

4) What would you say and how could you help a friend who says to you (privately) ...

- a) they are attracted to a man or woman who is not their spouse
- b) their marriage has gone cold and they wonder if there's any future for it
- c) they are really struggling with singleness (in terms of loneliness and purity)
- d) they are addicted to internet porn and don't know where to turn.

To think about in your own time... How practically can I invest in my relationship with my spouse (if married)? How can I turn my feelings about singleness into reminders about Jesus (if single)?

Resources...

- I love this very moving song by **Andrew Peterson**. It tells the story of his marriage and likens it to “[Dancing in the Minefields](#)”. “It was harder than we thought, but to lose your life for another, I've heard, is a good place to begin”. It was sent to us by a friend on our wedding anniversary.
- More on the “Fear of the Lord”. Some of us are still struggling with thinking of it as a negative. This article shows that there is a wrong kind of fear and a right kind of fear in the Bible. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/may-web-only/rejoice-tremble-michael-reeves-fear-lord.html>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/only-love-prevents-adultery> In this article, Joni Ortland wonderfully reminds us all that “The best guard against adultery is a deep love and satisfaction in Jesus Christ alone. The soul that is drinking deeply from his river of delights (Psalm 36:8) is not going to thirst for false joys”. It is part of one of 11 articles in the “Letters to a would be adulterer/ess” ([here](#)) written by a number of men & women in pastoral ministry.

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Charlie's Map of Proverbs... (copied from last time)

Proverbs 1-9	Passage	Summary	threats
How wisdom? Addressed to the "inexperienced prince"	1:1-9	Prologue- Fear of the Lord	
	1:10-19	"My son" 1	♂ ♂
	1:20-33	Lady Wisdom 1	
	2:1-22	"My son" 2	♂ ♀
	3:1-10	"My son" 3	
	3:11-12	"My son" 4	
	3:13-20	Lady Wisdom 2	
	3:21-35	"My son" 5	
	4:1-9	"My sons" 6	
	4:10-19	"My son" 7	
	4:20-27	"My son" 8	
	5:1-12	"My son" 9	♀
	6:1-19	"My son" 10	
	6:20-35	"My son" 11	♀
	7:1-27	"My son" 12	♀
	8:1-9:12	Wisdom calls	
	9:13-18	Folly calls	♀
Proverbs 10-29 What wisdom? Expertise in ruling wisely	10:1-22:16	Proverbs of Solomon 1	
	22:17-24:22	Words of the Wise 1 (x30)	
	24:23-34	Words of the Wise 2	
	25:1-29:27	Proverbs of Solomon 2	
Proverbs 30-31 Why wisdom? Addressed to the "wise king"	30:1-33	Oracle of Agur	
	31:1-9	Oracle of Lemuel	
	31:10-31	Epilogue- The woman who fears the Lord	

Proverbs, though full of what feels like a massive mix of random things, does have a structure... The outer parts (ch1-9 and 30-31) helps us read the central contents (10-29).

Chapters 1-9 form the introduction to wisdom. These chapters tell Solomon's son why he needs wisdom and how he can get it. It makes us thirst for wisdom which comes from a deep recognition that God is God and he has the right to call the shots. The major threat for him seems to be the "foreign" wife (which was sadly Solomon's downfall), but also includes the group of foolish men in 1:10-19.

Chapters 10-29 are the actual proverbs themselves- pithy phrases and sayings from Solomon and other sages. These concentrated sayings (probably from a range of original sources) take some thinking through. Some of the language seems to originate from the royal court, which has led some scholars to see this as a training manual for kings. This again would point to the Messiah and the wisdom he brings to his people. Jesus alone wonderfully lives this wisdom.

Chapters 30-31 form the conclusion of the book and also point us forward ("oracle"). They illustrate the principles that have been seen in the book, particularly in the idealised godly woman of Prov 31. Jesus alone was the perfectly wise King and Israel would have to look ahead to him for both the forgiveness from our folly, and the wisdom to follow in his footsteps, as we by his Spirit delight in the fear of God (Isaiah 11:3). Praise God for Jesus, our true wisdom!