



December 3, 2017

Proverbs Part 3

“Proverbs: Sexuality”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In this message Pastor Gary teaches on the topic of sexuality. Proverbs chapters five through seven all focus on this topic, with an emphasis on adultery. Pastor Gary also teaches about marriage as being a covenant, and God’s gift of sex is for one man and one woman in the context of marriage for the purpose of pleasure and procreation. This message will challenge singles and married couples alike. In this study, we will learn more about how the Bible addresses five things about sexual sin, as well as how mercy from the Lord may be found when sexual sin is renounced.

Background

1. Pastor Gary said: “In the opening that I read in chapter seven, it describes a foolish, likely single young man, who [lacked] judgment, [and] who [was] seduced by a married woman who deliberately, [and] intentionally [enticed] him with her charm and smooth talk and good looks. She [told] this young man that... her husband [had] gone away on a trip, and so her home was empty. [She persuaded] this young man... to take the bait... This is a familiar story, unfortunately, on many levels [for] many people. This is a story that describes countless people. It’s a story of lust and pleasure and seduction and betrayal. But it is also a story of pain and heartache and consequences and regret... Because we live in a sexually charged culture, with very little sexually defined boundaries, there is a lot of confusion in our world on this topic, and there is a lot of pain that accompanies that confusion. [It’s] the natural result of a culture that has disregarded, in large part, ... anyone telling [men and women] what should define their sexuality.”
2. [Proverbs 2:12, 16-17](#) - *“Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men... [Wisdom] will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with*

her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.”¹ (Emphasis added)

- a. The Hebrew word for covenant is berith, which means, to cut, because a covenant was often signed as a blood covenant.
 - b. A covenant is not the same as a contract, because a contract involves two parties who sign an agreement together.
 - c. A covenant is often seen in the Bible as a pact that God made with people, or it can be an agreement people made with God.
 - d. Pastor Gary said: “This was not something that you could break with the ‘fine print,’ [because it] was binding.”
 - e. **Genesis 2:24** – *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”*
3. In the Old Testament, any form of sexual expression outside of the context of marriage was punishable by death.
4. In **John 8:1-11**, we read about the encounter Jesus had with the Pharisees and the woman who was caught in the act of adultery.
- a. The Pharisees wanted to see if Jesus would be “soft on sin” or “by the book” on sin.
 - b. Jesus offered the opportunity to cast the first stone to anyone who was without sin!
 - c. **John 8:9-11** – *“At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’ ”*
 - d. Jesus wasn’t soft on sin; Jesus was strong on grace!

The Right (Biblical) View Of Sexual Expression

5. God’s standard for sexual expression is simply this: faithfulness in marriage and abstinence in singleness.
6. Pastor Gary shared the findings from Barna Research Group, which found that 56% of respondents in these categories believe it’s usually wrong or always wrong not to recycle, but only 32% of teens and young adults believe that viewing pornography is usually wrong or always wrong!²

¹ Pastor Gary said: “You can [also] interject the idea of a man being [the one who seduces a woman.]”

² <https://www.barna.com/the-porn-phenomenon/>

7. Pastor Gary said: "It's time that we really press into the Lord and say: 'Lord, what do you [have] to say about this topic and how can [I] be blessed in this area and how can [I] honor you?' ... When we live our lives to honor [the Lord] it [will go] far better for us.... [This] is about holiness... whether you're married or single... This is about dying to self, which is part of the Christian life."
 - a. [Matthew 16:24](#) - *"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' "*

The Temptation

8. Temptation is not a sin; sin is yielding to temptation.
9. [Hebrews 2:18](#) - *"Because he himself [Jesus] suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."*
10. [Proverbs 5:3](#) - *"For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil."*
11. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) - *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*
12. [James 1:13-15](#) - *"When tempted no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."*

The Deception

13. [Proverbs 5:6](#) - *"She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not."*
14. [Proverbs 9:17-18](#) - *" 'Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!' But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave."*

The Admonition

15. [Proverbs 4:23](#) - *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."*

16. **Matthew 15:19** - *“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality...”*

The Ramifications

17. **Proverbs 6:25-28, 32** - *“Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life..... Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? ... But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.”*

The Solution

18. Don't Take The “Second Glance”
- Proverbs 4:25** - *“Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.”*
 - Job 31:1** - *“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.”*
19. Don't Go Near Those Who Tempt You Or Whatever Tempts You
- Proverbs 5:8** - *“Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.”*
 - Social media is one of the primary reasons for the increase in adultery for those who are married, and fornication for those who are single.
20. Keep God's Commands
- Proverbs 6:23-24** - *“For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward life.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20** - *“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”*
 - Read the Bible!
21. Renounce Sin And Find Mercy
- Proverbs 28:13** - *“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Proverbs 7:6-27](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments concerning our confused culture. (See #1 above)
3. Read [John 8:1-11](#) and allow the people in your group to share their experiences concerning the mercy and grace of the Lord.
4. What is your reaction to the Barna Research Group study concerning viewing pornography and recycling? (See #6 above)
5. Spend time reading the Scriptures and talking about each of the five points in Pastor Gary's outline. (See #8 through #21 above)
6. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).