

2. God's positive plan sex and blessing.

¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.

¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?

¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,

¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

3. Why is our marital faithfulness so important to God?

a. You take Him with you, spiritually in you, when your sin sexually.

1 Cor. 6: 13-14, 18-20 The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

b. Christ loves you and wants you to be His bride.

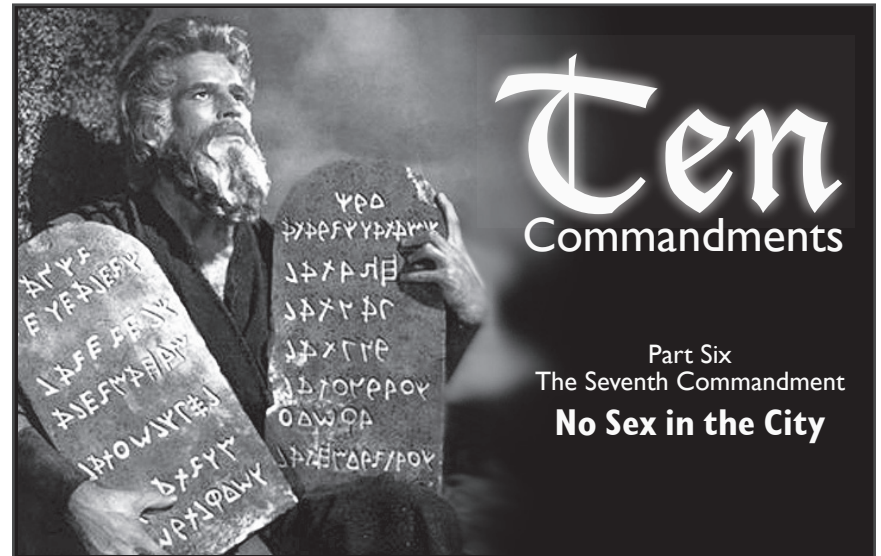
Eph. 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. Why are young married men (as well as other adult men) especially vulnerable to being enticed to sexual sin (Prov. 5:3; 12; 22-23)?
2. What does a person who gets ensnared with forbidden sex lose (Prov. 5:9-14; 21-23)?
3. Even though this passage is written as a Father giving his son wisdom, how can both men and women keep their paths pure sexually?
4. What is sexual intercourse for? Why did God make this drive, desire and pleasure a part of our created bodies?

Next Sunday, June 20, 2010: Ten Commandments Part 9 The Eighth Command - "You shall not steal"

Why do people steal from others? Why do we take another person's property without permission or legal right and without intending to return it.. Ideas can be stolen when we dishonestly pass off another person's ideas as our own. To answers these questions we will discover principles from passages like 1 Tim. 6:6-19, where we find the famous quotation: "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil".



Motivation for Obeying the Seventh Commandment:

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery.

Proverbs 5

My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, ² that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil,

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 follow the path to Sheol;

⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

be attentive... incline your ear: This chapter of Proverbs is written from the perspective of a father to his married son. He prods his son to pay close attention to the wisdom he is about to impart. The father strongly asserts because what may appear to his son to be of little threat, actually is a life and death concern.

lips: The father hopes his son will have lips that speak wisdom, understanding and discretion. But that may not occur if the erotic, honey "lips" of the forbidden woman tempt the son to pursue her. She is very enticing, but very dangerous.

honey/wormwood, oil/sword: "The truth is that appearances are misleading." (Longman) What looks sweet turns out to be bitter, like wormwood. Instead of being sensually smooth, as oil, this path of life is as deadly as a two-edged sword. The father's warning here is that forbidden sex, adultery, is very tempting but leads to death on many levels for both the son and the woman.

her steps follow the path: There are paths that we humans take. This woman's path will lead to her death but she does not care to reflect upon it. Oblivious of the consequences, she drifts along.

⁷ And now, O 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 lest you give your honor to
others and your years to the
merciless,

¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of
your strength, and your labors go
to the house of a foreigner,

¹¹ and at the end of your life you
groan, when your flesh and body
are consumed,

¹² and you say, "How I hated
discipline, and my heart despised
reproof!"

¹³ I did not listen to the voice of
my teachers or incline my ear to
my instructors.

¹⁴ I am at the brink of utter ruin
in the assembled congregation."

¹⁵ Drink water from your own
cistern, flowing water from your
own well.

¹⁶ Should your springs be
scattered abroad, streams of
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¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone,
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and rejoice in the wife of your
youth,

¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times
with delight; be intoxicated always
in her love.

listen to me and do not depart from the words of my mouth: This is the second time the father has pleaded with his son (sons) to listen and follow his instruction. Why is he so concerned? Verses 9 through 14 present the consequences of not listening to and adopting the father's instructions.

Keep your way far from her...do not go near: In verses 3-5 the first warning is given to the son. The father tells him that what appears to be enticingly sweet and smooth in the forbidden woman actually becomes bitter and cutting in the end. Now the father adds more reasons to stay completely away from the forbidden woman. Possibly Paul had this verse in mind when he wrote in 1 Cor. 6:18 that the best thing Christians tempted by prostitutes can do is to "Flee".

lest: The father lists the many negative consequences that will happen to the son who pursues the forbidden woman. Loss of honor (9); loss of vitality and wealth (10); loss of health (11); loss of self-esteem (12); deep regrets and public humiliation (13-14). The father knows that if the son does not listen he will head down a road that will diminish his body, his family, his livelihood, his reputation and his own sense of meaning and worth.

water, cistern, flowing water, well, springs, streams of water, fountain: Now the father switches his strategy and moves from warning to encouraging his son to focus on proper sexual enjoyment. Here there are many euphemistic metaphors, water sources, alcohol inebriation and even some animal metaphors. "Drink water" in v. 15, (as in Song 5:1), stands for quenching one's sexual thirst (Waltke). "Own cistern" likens a wife to a prized possession for storing rainwater in arid and stoney Canaan. "Water in the streets" in v.16 is the forbidden sexual fulfillment found with another woman also used by others.

fountain be blessed: Longman states that the "Cistern" of v.15 refers to the wife's sexuality and the "fountain" refers to the husband's.

rejoice in, be intoxicated: The son is encouraged by his father to not only rejoice in the wife of his youth, but also to be inebriated by her. This

²⁰ Why should you be
intoxicated, my son, with a
forbidden woman
and embrace the bosom of an
adulteress?

²¹ For a man's ways are before
the eyes of the Lord, and he
ponders all his paths.

²² The iniquities of the wicked
ensnare him, and he is held fast
in the cords of his sin.

²³ He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he
is led astray.

sexual desire, light-headed intoxication, delight filled pursuit and focus is encouraged and even blessed by the father. Intimate, joy-filled, intense, pleasurable sex between a husband and his wife is presented as a gift from God to be pursued.

a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord: A final motivation to stay away from the forbidden woman and the enticements of forbidden sex is the fact that omniscient God sees all that we do. We may think we can hide, but God sees all. Even though we do not always ponder our pathways, God is watching us.

ensnare him: Sadly, our partaking of what is forbidden has a terrible effect. Rather than giving us pleasure and enjoyment, we become trapped, ensnared, held in the cords of sin. This trapped person then sees his own great folly.

Commentaries and resources used in preparation of this message: The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, [The Book of Proverbs](#), by Bruce K. Waltke; Baker Commentary on the Old Testament, [Proverbs](#) by Tremper Longman III and several recorded messages by Timothy Keller

I. The Destructive Power of Adultery.

a. The Destruction of a Husband and his marriage: Loss of...

⁹ lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless,
¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, ¹¹ and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, ¹² and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! ¹³ I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. ¹⁴ I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

²¹ For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.

b. The Destruction of the Adulterous woman: She becomes...

³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, 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 follow the path to Sheol; ⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.