

God's Glory through Sexual Purity

Proverbs 5:1-23

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Big Idea | Zealously pursue God's glory through sexual purity.

[1] 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.

Proverbs 5:1-2 (ESV)

[7] And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 5:7 (ESV)

Parents:

- Do you have a plan to disciple your children on sexuality?
- Do your children consider you wise and approachable?
- Do you model an honest pursuit of holiness?

Children and Youth:

- Are you striving to honor God by honoring your parents or guardians?
- Are you listening to their wisdom, or even asking for it?
- Do you go to God's word to learn about sexuality or to the world?

1) Avoid the devastating consequences of sexual impurity (vv. 3-14)

A) Sexual impurity promises satisfaction but delivers destruction. (vv. 3-6)

[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.

Proverbs 5:3-6 (ESV)

Explicit forms of sexual impurity:

- Lustful thoughts
- Addiction to sexualized media
- Self-Gratification

- Sexual activity outside of marriage
- Acting upon unbiblical sexual desires
- Adultery

[1] Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3] But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
Ephesians 5:1–3(ESV)

We must promote holiness in one another for God's glory:

- In what ways are you guarding yourself and one another from temptation?
- Is there any sin you need to repent of regarding your thoughts or actions?

B) Stay far from sexual impurity (vv.7-8)

[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
Proverbs 5:7-8 (ESV)

[27] Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? [28] Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? [29] So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.
Proverbs 6:27–29 (ESV)

[13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

- Are you fleeing sexual temptation or are you going near it?
- What can you do to better flee from temptation?

C) The consequences of sexual impurity are devastating (vv. 9-14)

[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."

Proverbs 5:9-14 (ESV)

- The loss of precious good
- Regret over your decisions
- The feeling of ruin and shame

His grace is greater

[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

Ephesians 2:4-5 (ESV)

[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1 (ESV)

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

2) Pursue God's glory through sexual purity

(vv. 15-20)

[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. [20] Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden

woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

Proverbs 5:15–20 (ESV)

A) Reserve your sexual desires exclusively for your spouse

(vv.15-

17)

[2] But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. [3] The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:2-3 (ESV)

[4] He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, [5] and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? [6] So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:4-6 (ESV)

For those who are married:

- Do you prioritize time for one another?
- Do you intentionally seek to grow in oneness with your spouse?
- Do you think well of your spouse and thank God for them?

For those who are single:

- Are you striving to glorify God through sexual purity?
- Are you seeking first the Kingdom and submitting your desires to God?
- Are you finding your completion and satisfaction in Christ?

B) Express your sexual desires passionately with your spouse

(vv. 18-20)

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

Proverbs 5:15-20 (ESV)

- Is anything keeping you from delighting in and giving yourself fully to your spouse?
- Do you approach sexual intimacy with a heart to serve your spouse?
- How can you cultivate greater passion in your intimacy?

3) How to pursue God's glory through sexual purity

(vv. 21-23)

[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.

Proverbs 5:21–23 (ESV)

A) Fear God

[7] The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

B) Grow in discipline

- i. Spend time with God and rehearse the gospel.
- ii. Be prayerful and dependent upon God.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5 (ESV)

- iii. Identify sin in your life and take any necessary measure of repentance.

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

Matthew 5:29-30 (ESV)

- iv. Walk in the light through grace-filled, sin-killing accountability.

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

James 5:16 (ESV)

- v. Call others to do the same.

"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a wicked heart of unbelief that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Hebrews 3:12-13 (ESV)