

Sexual Healing??

[Summer Wisdom]

Introduction

- Proverbs are short sayings to give wisdom and understanding
 1. The goal of wisdom is not to become smart. The goal of wisdom is to fear the Lord
 2. May this be the summer of wisdom for us
- We 2 wrong views of sex often in the world.
 1. **Sex is God**
 - Often we are told that sex is what we need to find fulfillment in our lives.
 - I have heard it said “you would never buy a car w/out test driving it”
 - Our culture makes too much of sex and too little of the boundaries.
 2. **Sex is Gross.**
 - Some just avoid talking about sexuality and saying don't do it.
 - This view is not biblical and is harmful
 3. **There is a third option: sex is Godly**
 - It is God's design that we are male and female.
 - Sex has purpose, design, and usefulness
 - Within its boundaries sex is righteous

Read Prov 7:1-5

God's Word equips and informs us about sex (7:6-7)

- **A Biblical worldview/position is always superior to anything you get from yourself, a friend, or the world.**
 - the mentor enjoys a spatially superior position, able to survey the street scene below where sexual dangers await the witting, he himself sheltered from curious eyes by the lattice through which he appears (Alter)

- **God's Word shows us that the things which bring us great joy can also rob us of joy and bring danger.**
 - What is clear from reading the other biblical pictures (Gen 26:8 and Abimelech/Isaac) of the viewer at the window is a foreshadowing that trouble is on the way (NIV)
 - Sexual temptation is a trap that effects everyone!
- **God's Word must impact your heart**
 - חֲסֵר-לֵב
 - This man did not simply lack wisdom, he lacked "heart". To lack heart is to do the opposite of what parents and Wisdom teach; it is no innocent ignorance (NIV).
 - Sexual relationships always impact your heart—**there is no such thing as casual sex**. Be careful who you give your heart to.
 - Every romantic encounter... you give a piece of your heart/soul away.

Watch where you walk (7:8-9)

- **As a Christ follower—you must pay close attention to the paths you walk**
 - The corner is often a place where dubious women look for men.
 - Here is the warning from Scripture—this seems to be a normal street—there was no sign that said "**danger ahead**"
 - In every relationship you will have temptations
 - This man walked the path alone—do you have boundaries and accountability in your life?
 - **God lead's us in the path of righteousness for His name's sake**
- **Be watchful when you walk paths during dangerous/vulnerable times**
 - We do not know whether the young lad took the path intentionally or unintentionally. Either way **evening is falling** (Alter).
 - What constitutes a vulnerable time? Moments of sadness, emotion, romantic, isolated, hurt, tired.
 - If you go to the movies to with someone else. If you go to the movies as a couple don't sit on the back row
 - We are warned of taking the path at evening, in the black and dark of night.
 - Be wary of circumstances, be wary of websites, we wary of late night TV shows,
 - If you are engaged/very involved, you are extra vulnerable. Seek purity. Honor the Lord.

Guard your heart (7:10-13)

- **On a path this man might have taken every day... he met a woman dressed in unusual attire.**
 - Hineh! Look! Creates a you are there! Experience. Before we **hear her we see her** (NIV).
 - And there, it appears as if the encounter is **unexpected** (Longman).
 - **This is why we are commanded to hide God's word in our heart that we may not sin against God (Psalm 10)**
 - When you guard your heart... and encounter an unexpected situation... your heart is prepared

- **Guard your heart against being provocative**
 - She not only had on a sexy outfit... she had a crafty heart.
 - The way you dress shows your heart
 - Provocative = causing a strong reaction
 - She is a married woman, not a professional prostitute, the reference is probably to provocative attire.
 - Perhaps the description is also a reminder that a prostitute is not as dangerous as an adulterous (7:26)
- **Guard your heart against discontentment (7:11)**
 - This woman was not content at home so she is now out on the streets
 - Guard against always wanting MORE
- **Guard your heart against those who are sexually aggressive**
 - **If someone watches your attention because they are highly sexual BEWARE**
 - Her role as sexual aggressor is manifest (Alter).
 - Suddenly the language in proverbs turns to that of a hunt (NIV)
- **Why is the heart so important in Biblical sexuality?**
 - Because your romantic and sexual relationships have a tremendous effect on your heart
 - They will either strengthen your heart
 - Or they will destroy your heart.

Beware of sexual enticement (7:14-21)

- **Specifically proverbs seven warns us of three sexual enticements offered this young man. These are temptations that still remain.**
- **Beware of something new/rare/exciting/fantasy**
 - Sacrifices at home offer the delicacy of meat
 - Just because it is exciting does not mean it is healthy or good for you
- **This is the danger of Pornography**
- Globally pornography is a \$97B industry and \$10-12 B is from the USA
- **Effects of Pornography on the brain- it is not harmless**
 - In men, there are five primary chemicals involved in sexual arousal and response. The one that likely plays the most significant role in pornography addiction is **dopamine**. Dopamine plays a major role in the brain system that is responsible for reward-driven learning.
 - A teen's brain is at its peak of dopamine production and neuroplasticity, making it highly vulnerable to addiction and rewiring.
 - Men's exposure to sexually explicit material is correlated with **social anxiety, depression, low motivation, erectile dysfunction, concentration problems,** and **negative self-perceptions** in terms of physical appearance and sexual functioning.

- Research has found that after men are exposed to pornography, they rate themselves as less in love with their partner than men who didn't see any porn. On top of that, another study found that after being exposed to pornographic images, people were more critical of their partner's appearance, sexual curiosity, sexual performance, and displays of affection.
 - Researchers have repeatedly found that people who have seen a significant amount of porn are more likely to start having sex sooner and with more partners, and to engage in riskier kinds of sex, putting them at greater risk of getting sexually transmitted infections.
- **Beware when someone offers you the pleasure of love (7:18)**
 - Look how romantic the scene is that she is setting: cloth from Egypt, aromatic spices from Arabia and India. She is appealing to his senses.
 - **The only time when sexual physical relationship meet is in the context of marriage.**
 - Myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon are included in the garden of fragrances used to describe the woman of Song of Songs (4:14). Myrrh and aloes perfume the king's robe at his wedding in Psalm 45:8 and myrrh and cinnamon were used in sacred anointing oil (Ex 30:23).
- - This is not love.
- If anyone says you to if you love me you will.... Its not love. Its coercion. Its self-gratification.
- **Beware the promise of security (7:18-19)**
 - Sex and physical relationships do not automatically lead to security.
 - Ladies, if you sleep with him he will not stay. If you have his child... he will not commit.

Know the devastating effects of sexual sin (7:22-27)

- **Impure relationships always lead to brokenness**
- **Unrighteous relationships always lead to pain**
 - Liver. Often linked with sexual desire. The image here is a fatal wound and even a sexual disease (Alter).
- **Unrighteous relationships always lead to death.**
 - The image: a simple young man is slain.
 - The location of the arrow in the liver specifies a particularly painful way to die (Longman).
- **What if it is too late?**
 - If you have already have a relationship that has gone too far what do you do?
 1. How today to be pure and Honor the Lord
 2. If you cannot honor the Lord in your relationship you get out.
 - a. God will not bless a relationships that dishonors him
 3. If you are unequally yoked you share Christ today... and stop the relationship
 - a. The most important attribute of your OTHER should be their faith

Embrace God's design for sexuality (5:15-19)

- **Enjoy a sexually healthy relationship within your marriage (5:5:15-16)**
 - Drink water...
 - God designed sex to be enjoyed within the committed covenant of marriage
 - You should not feel shame
 - You should feel satisfaction
 - Its ok to enjoy sex in marriage. You are supposed to enjoy sex in marriage!
- **Protect your sexual relationship in marriage**
 - It should be safe
 - It should be comfortable
 - It should be for you and you alone
 - Your relationship is closed the moment you say I DO

Conclusion

- **Why does purity matter?**
 - **Rev 19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” **8** And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
 - God demands our purity
 - One day Jesus will purify us... from all unrighteousness
- **Do you need to seek forgiveness for past relationships or current ones?**
 - **Why does it Matter?**
 - We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
 - We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
 - We escape God’s wrath (reconciled)
 - We are adopted in to a new family
 - We gain a new identity (New Creation)
 - **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**
- **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**
- Opportunity to respond publically
 - Come forward
 - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you

Notes

6 For at the window of my house
I looked through my lattice,

- the mentor enjoys a spatially superior position, able to survey the street scene below where sexual dangers await the witting, he himself sheltered from curious eyes by the lattice through which he appears (Alter)
- his post of observation in his house is a counterpoint to the house of a stranger-woman with its lethal dangers (Alter)
- what is clear from reading the other biblical pictures (Gen 26:8 and Abimelech/Isaac) of the viewer at the window is a foreshadowing that trouble is on the way (NIV)

7 And saw among the simple,
I perceived among the youths,
A young man devoid of understanding,

- He wanders into temptation, where place (8) and time (9) can join forces against him; and if he is aimless, his temptress is not (TOTC).
- This man did not simply lack wisdom, he lacked “heart”. To lack heart is to do the opposite of what parents and Wisdom teach; it is no innocent ignorance (NIV).

8 Passing along the street near her corner;
And he took the path to her house

- The corner is often a place where dubious women look for men.

9 In the twilight, in the evening,
In the black and dark night.

- We do not know whether the young lad took the path intentionally or unintentionally. Either way even is falling (Alter).
- The word for pitch black is ‘ishon, otherwise the apple of the eye (as in v.2) – that is the darkest part of the eye.
 - Also another play on words is possible as the Hebrew yosan = sleep. Thus the man should have been asleep instead of being out in the black night (NIV)

10 And there a woman met him,
With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.

- She is a married woman, not a professional prostitute, the reference is probably to provocative attire.
 - Perhaps the description is also a reminder that a prostitute is not as dangerous as an adulterous (7:26)
 - Crafty heart = “guarded of heart.”
- Hineh! Look! Creates a you are there! Experience. Before we hear her we see her (NIV).

- And there, it appears as if the encounter is unexpected (Longman).
- Attire
 - We are unclear what this means but most certainly means that her dress was provocative (Longman).

11 She *was* loud and rebellious,
Her feet would not stay at home.

- She is not content at home, so she is out on the streets.

12 At times *she was* outside, at times in the open square,
Lurking at every corner.

13 So she caught him and kissed him;
With an impudent face she said to him:

- Her going out into the streets is an expression of her sexual restlessness.
- Her role as sexual aggressor is manifest (Alter).
- Suddenly the language in proverbs turns to that of a hunt (NIV)

14 “*I have* peace offerings with me;
Today I have paid my vows.

- **3 enticements**
 - sacrifices at home offer the delicacy of meat
 - the bed at home offers pleasures of love
 - the husband not at home promises a sense of security (NIV)
- the irony of the sacrifice is that the young man is the next victim (NIV).
- Peace offerings
 - The fellowship offering is described in Lev 3 and 7:11-21. There we see that this sacrifice emphasizes the communion one has with God and fellow worshippers
 - She is not only engaging in sex, she is blaspheming the holy things of God.

15 So I came out to meet you,
Diligently to seek your face,
And I have found you.

16 I have spread my bed with tapestry,
Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.

17 I have perfumed my bed
With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

- Now she moves to the site of sexual consummation, explaining how she lavishly prepared her bed with luxurious cloths imported from Egypt, scented with aromatic spices imported from Arabia and India. It is clear she is appealing to his senses (Alter).
- Myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon are included in the garden of fragrances used to describe the woman of Song of Songs (4:14). Myrrh and aloes perfume the king’s robe at his wedding in Psalm 45:8 and myrrh and cinnamon were used in sacred anointing oil (Ex 30:23).

18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning;
Let us delight ourselves with love.

- The word for loving, *dodim* refers explicitly to love making, and the drinking of *dodim* is a phrase used in the Song of Songs. Counting on his youthful vigor, she is offering him a whole night of continuous sex (Alter).

19 For my husband *is* not at home;
He has gone on a long journey;

- The trouble comes because no one is at home where each should be. Key word = Home (NIV)
 - *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* ² Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³ Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵ Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Cor 7)

20 He has taken a bag of money with him,
And will come home on the appointed day.”

21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield,
With her flattering lips she seduced him.

- It is her talk not her beauty that does the trick (Longman)

22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter,
Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,

23 Till an arrow struck his liver.
As a bird hastens to the snare,
He did not know it *would cost* his life.

- Liver. Often linked with sexual desire. The image here is a fatal wound and even a sexual disease (Alter).
- The image: a simple young man is slain.
 - The location of the arrow in the liver specifies a particularly painful way to die (Longman).

24 Now therefore, listen to me, *my children*;
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,
Do not stray into her paths;

26 For she has cast down many wounded,
And all who were slain by her were strong *men*.

27 Her house *is* the way to hell,

Descending to the chambers of death.

- After watching the young man, we are made to see ourselves as conceivably filling the same role. The fence is threefold. First guard your mind (25a) second keep away (26) and third look past her to the casualties and the chambers of death (27).
- A second image: the woman's slain victims (NIV).
- The proverb does not say Son, don't have sex with strange women because God tells you not to do it." Rather, "his argument is Son, don't have sex with the strange women because you will ruin your life and perhaps end it, and here is a story to illustrate what I am telling you."
- Proverbs shows us the strength of sexual temptation.

Illustrations

- Men, especially, are designed by evolution to be attracted to sexual novelty and to gradually lose sexual attraction to the same partner in the absence of such novelty. The so-called Coolidge Effect is well demonstrated in social mammals of all sorts, and is old news to anyone knowledgeable about reproductive biology.

Application

- We 2 wrong views of sex often in the world.
 1. sex is God
 2. Sex is Gross .
- Our culture makes too much of sex and too little of the boundaries.

- Sex is both less than we think and at the same time more than we thin. Our culture overstates its capacity to make our lives complete and so understates its true purpose, to bond humans together in joyful and mutual commitment (NIV)
- Proverbs speaks to the fulfillment of marriage
- Proverbs speaks to the dangers of sexual fantasies (NIV)
 1. See the woman's description of her bed. She cultivates desire, not for the sake of relationship and commitment but for the sake of her own ends (NIV)
 - Globally pornography is a \$97B industry and \$10-12 B is from the USA
 - **Effects of Pornography on the brain- it is not harmless**
 1. In men, there are five primary chemicals involved in sexual arousal and response. The one that likely plays the most significant role in pornography addiction is **dopamine**. Dopamine plays a major role in the brain system that is responsible for reward-driven learning.
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 5. Researchers have repeatedly found that people who have seen a significant amount of porn are more likely to start having sex sooner and with more partners, and to engage in riskier kinds of sex, putting them at greater risk of getting sexually transmitted infections.
 - **Can you imagine if health class was taught by a cigarette salesman or drug dealer. Parents would you let this happen?**