

**Text: Proverbs 5:1-23****Title: “Street Smarts ... For Purity”**

Let's open our Bibles today Proverbs 5. The better part of Proverbs 5-7 is devoted to “Street Smarts for Purity.” And this wisdom is needed more today than ever. We are living in an unprecedented sexual revolution in our day. We are far beyond the days when we were shocked by indecency, adultery and immorality. Internet pornography usage has skyrocketed, and now not just among men, but also among women. Ten years ago we would have never imagined not only that homosexual immorality would become commonplace, but that same-sex marriage would become the law of the land. Now the transgender issue is front-and-center in a national debate. Our nation is gripped in a sexual and moral insanity. The blatant message we are bombarded with is that a person can act on any impulses they have without any consequences. That's why it's so important that the Church hears the voice of God's wisdom crying out above the moral insanity of our day.

Here in Proverbs 5 is a father talking to his son about the insanity of immorality, and the wisdom (street smarts) of God for keeping oneself pure.

**Proverbs 5:1-2 - My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.**

We are talking here about wisdom that comes straight from the mind and the mouth of God. Our memory verse reminds us...

**Proverbs 2:6 - For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.**

Again, here is a parent passing along the wisdom of God's Word to his child. Parents, that's our job. Our children need to hear from us the dangers of immorality and adultery, but they also need to hear from us the beauty of God's gift of intimacy in marriage. If we don't impart that wisdom to them, and instead let the media or public schools or their friends teach them these truths, we are setting your children up for failure. So here are the “street smarts” that need to be conveyed:

**1. A SEVERE WARNING (vv.3-6)**

This father knows his son will encounter powerful temptation.

**Proverbs 5:3 - For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;**

Now the main source of temptation that Solomon has in mind here comes from the “adulteress.” The word means “a forbidden woman” or “a stranger woman.” That would have been the main source of sexual temptation in his day. If Solomon were writing today he would have in mind

the many ways that this kind of temptation assaults us. And it would not be just from an immoral woman; a man can be just as immoral. It would include the temptations of online pornography and the moral insanity that we see openly displayed in the media. It would include not just the temptation to heterosexual immorality, but also to homosexual immorality. So the “adulteress” here in this chapter represents any source of sexual temptation.

Notice how Solomon describes this temptation to sin. It’s as sweet as honey (the sweetest thing in the ancient world) and as smooth as olive oil (the smoothest thing in the ancient world). It sells itself as easy and enjoyable. But...

**Proverbs 5:4 - but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.**

“In the end,” when the full consequences play out, this sweetness ends up being bitterly poisonous. “Gall” is a bitter and deadly plant that grows in the biblical lands. What appears smooth turns out being sharp like a double-edged sword that will cut you both ways. And it takes you down a deadly path.

**Proverbs 5:5-6 - Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.**

This is a reminder to us that immorality usually involves a process. People don’t just fall instantly. It usually involves a process of gradual compromise.

**STREET SMARTS ... TEMPTATION MAKES SIN LOOK MORE SATISFYING THAN IT REALLY IS.**

Allow the Word of God to show you the terrible heartache that is at the end of the path of temptation. And that leads to the next section that talks about...

## **2. THE DESTRUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES (vv.7-14)**

**Proverbs 5:8 - Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,**

This father urges his son to be wise. Temptation will come from every direction, but don’t let it entice you to go down that street.

**Proverbs 5:9 - lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,**

There are destructive consequences and unending regrets ... pregnancy out of wedlock ... disease ... addiction ... financial ruin ... divorce ... embarrassment. And the moral insanity of our day keeps sending us the message that we can act on impulses without facing the consequences. That’s a lie.

**ILLUSTRATION** –There are a million examples of the consequences of sexual immorality that I could show you, but here’s one that’s fresh from the news this past week. Brock Turner, a student at Stanford University, attended a party where he got drunk and assaulted an unconscious young lady. Brock was convicted and given a shockingly light sentence by a judge after this plea that was given by his father that seemed to ignore the damage done by his son: “As it stands now, Brock’s life has been deeply altered forever by the events of January 17th and 18th. He will never be his happy go lucky self with that easy going personality and welcoming smile. His every waking minute is consumed with worry, anxiety, fear, and depression. You can see this in his face, the way he walks, his weakened voice, his lack of appetite. Brock always enjoyed certain types of food and is a very good cook himself. I was always excited to buy him a big ribeye steak to grill or to get his favorite snack for him. I had to make sure to hide some of my favorite pretzels or chips because I knew they wouldn’t be around long after Brock walked in from a long swim practice. Now he barely consumes any food and eats only to exist. These verdicts have broken and shattered our family in so many ways. His life will never be the one that he dreamed about and worked so hard to achieve. That is a steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action out of his 20 plus years of life. The fact that he now has to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life forever alters where he can live, visit, work, and how he will be able to interact with people and organizations.”

Here’s a father who has failed at conveying to his son the right way to live his life ... and now he’s doing an even greater injustice. He’s trying to shield his son from the proper consequences of his actions.

Scripture says...

**Proverbs 5:12-13 - You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.**

The immoral person comes to the end of their life, filled with regret, thinking they should have listened to the wise voices God put around him.

**STREET SMARTS FOR PURITY... LIVING OUTSIDE OF GOD’S BOUNDARIES ENDS UP HURTING US.**

But the wisdom of God has a bigger picture. We have to heed the severe warning about destructive consequences. But we also need to see...

### **3. THE BEAUTIFUL ALTERNATIVE (vv.15-20)**

You see, God created us with the desire for this physical intimacy. And God designed that the natural satisfaction of that desire is to be fulfilled in marriage. So Solomon says...

**Proverbs 5:15-16 - Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?**

Solomon is using images of a cistern, a well, springs, streams of water to describe a husband's relationship with his wife. Water in Bible lands was a precious commodity. And the source of water was always to be protected and cherished. Solomon is saying that this kind of physical intimacy is to be expressed and enjoyed only in the context of biblical marriage.

**ILLUSTRATION** – The heavy rains over the past few weeks have caused the Trinity River to go over its banks and do a lot of damage. The river is refreshing and beautiful and useful and enjoyable as long as it flows along in the boundaries of its banks. It causes damage when it gets out of the boundaries of its banks. Physical intimacy was designed by God to flow in the boundaries of covenant marriage described in the Bible. When it gets beyond those boundaries it becomes a destructive shallow swamp. So Scripture says...

**Proverbs 5:18 - May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.**

Here you have the two purposes for which God created the marriage union. "May your fountain be blessed" refers to the blessing of procreation. To "rejoice in the wife of your youth" refers to the joy of physical intimacy in marriage with one woman for a lifetime. God created the covenant marriage for those purposes.

**STREET SMARTS ... TRUE SATISFACTION IS FOUND IN THE INTIMACY OF COVENANT MARRIAGE.**

In the moral insanity of our culture today we should not only continually cry out against immorality. We should also hold up the beauty that is to be found in marital faithfulness. That's what our culture needs to see.

There's one last thing Solomon wants his son to understand ...

#### **4. A GODWARD PERSPECTIVE (vv.21-23)**

**Proverbs 5:21 - For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.**

We think we can hide our sins, but our lives are lived in the full view of the Lord. He examines or weighs all the paths we take. Every thought we think we think in God's presence. Every look we take we take in God's presence. Everything we do is done in God's presence.

**STREET SMARTS ... LIVE YOUR LIFE IN FULL REALIZATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE.**

The wisdom of Proverbs is perfect wisdom, but as NT believers we read all Scripture in light of the Gospel. The streets smarts of Proverbs warns us of the consequences of immorality before marriage and adultery after marriage. And it shows us the beauty of marital intimacy and faithfulness. But Proverbs doesn't show us what to do if we have already strayed down the path of sin. That's why Jesus Christ came and lived a sinless life and died a sacrificial death and rose from the grave. He died to atone for our sin ... our immorality or adultery or lying or hatred or whatever other sin you want to put on the list. At the end of whatever path you may have strayed down in your life, you will find the Cross. We need to be continually reminded of that. That's why preaching and teaching the Scriptures is important. And that's why Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper ... to remind us of the forgiveness that Christ died to secure for us. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. And if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness ... ALL unrighteousness.

### **LORD'S SUPPER - Matthew 26:26-28**