

Book of Proverbs - VII

"The Marriage Covenant--Fidelity"

I. WOMEN IN PROVERBS AND MARITAL FIDELITY

- A. Chapter 6 - Evil woman (adulteress)
- B. Chapter 7 - Strange woman (prostitute)
- C. Chapter 9 - Foolish woman (wickedness)
- D. Chapter 31 - Virtuous woman

II. BEWARE WICKED WOMEN (Strange women and Evil Women) - Prov. 6:20-26

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thy heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread; and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."

- A. "Strange woman" (prostitute) sells her body for money. Prostitute degrades a man.
- B. "Evil woman" (adulteress) gives herself to her lover. Prompted by motive either to satisfy her own lust, or to exploit the one who falls prey to her charms; the adulteress will destroy him.
- C. Just as evil men speak with their body, so these women also have shuffling feet, winking eyes, and seductive fingers.
- D. Wicked woman will use "the flattery of the tongue" to entice her victim.
 - 1. Flattery is perverted praise.
 - 2. Praise desires to put something into a person, to edify him. Flattery seeks to get something out of person, to edify self.

III. KEEP SELF FROM EVIL WOMAN

- A. Pr. 6:27-35 - "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.
- B. *"Men do not despise a thief..but if he be found...he shall give all the substance of his house."*
 - 1. If man steals loaf of bread, can pay back.
 - 2. When commit adultery with another man's wife, there is no price he can pay that will restore that broken marriage relationship. Marital fidelity has no price tag. Like virginity, once lost it can never be restored by paying a fine.
- C. *"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."*
 - 1. Not only destroys a holy union, but destroys own soul.
 - 2. A lifetime of guilt and condemnation is a terrible price to pay for a few minutes of adulterous bliss.
- D. *"A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."*
 - 1. When a man commits adultery, he sins against his neighbor, his neighbor's

wife, and himself--against his own body.

2. Lose reputation--never be able to wipe slate clean.

E. *"For jealousy is the rage of a man; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."*

1. What will happen when husband finds out about adultery?

2. Seek vengeance upon one who defiled his marriage.

3. What is the price of a broken marriage vow? How much will a man pay a husband for the "use" of his wife? Adultery can never be paid off.

4. No such thing as a "cheap affair"--adultery is one of the most costly things on this earth!

IV. AVOID THE LIPS OF A STRANGE WOMAN (Pr. 5:1-14)

A. *"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge."*

1. Strong to be taught children, but if introduced at right age, they will understand.

2. Need to be informed about the world we live in, about the temptations they will face in it.

3. Need to know where to draw the line. Teach your children from the Word what is right and wrong.

B. *"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:"*

1. Teach your sons, especially, to beware the sweet talk of the evil woman.

Warn against being lead into temptation by the smooth talking seductress.

2. May look beautiful on the outside, so attractive to the eye and ear, but she is not what she seems.

C. *"But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword."*

1. Wormwood was a drug used in the ancient world. Produced a terrible hangover and caused brain damage.

2. Consorting with a strange woman will end in destruction of the soul and of the body. Venereal disease (AIDS) and even death are the results of yielding to her charms.

D. *"Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them."*

1. The evil woman is shifty. Never trust her. her ways are moveable.

E. *"Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed. "*

1. Steer clear; don't be taken in by her beguiling ways. She will seem so appealing at first, so warm and vibrant and exciting. But sweetness will turn to bitterness and her warmth to ice.

2. End up losing reputation; honor; health; and wealth. Everything you have worked for will be gone, all you own will be forfeited to her.

V. REJOICE WITH THE WIFE OF THY YOUTH

A. Pr. 5:15-23- *"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well."*

1. Exhortation to believing husband to cling to his wife and to her only.
2. Not to seek "refreshment" from any other source.
3. Be satisfied with the wholesomeness of the fresh water of marital love and not to seek after the "sweetness" and thrill of "stolen waters." (Pr. 9:17)

B. *"Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets."*

1. Word "fountains" speaks of the righteous man's sexual strength.
2. Be proud, knowing that your children are the products of a right relationship; not the offspring of a momentary, adulterous escapade with a strange woman.

C. "Let thy fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

"Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

1. Rejoice means to cheer up.
2. Sex is God's idea. Designed for pleasure as well as for procreation.
3. The word "ravished" actually means "to be intoxicated or enraptured with."
4. A husband should be enraptured with his wife's love.

VI. HE WHO FINDS A WIFE FINDS A GOOD THING