

Woodland Baptist Church
 Wednesday January 8, 2013
 Seeking Wisdom Together - Proverbs 6:20-35
 Avoiding the Trap of Adultery

1) Introduction

- a) Last time we were in the Proverbs we looked at the first part of chapter 6 which taught the following principles:
 - i) Not to become trapped in a hasty commitment that could cause you damage financially and ultimately your reputation.
 - ii) Positive and examples of character:
 - (1) Ant - great work ethic
 - (2) Sluggard - horrible work ethic
 - (3) The worthless person's activities and methods
 - iii) Six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him.
- b) Tonight have a cycle of "keep the commandments" of father and mother's teaching.
 - i) 20-21 - Keep them and Bind them to you
 - ii) 22-24 - What they can do if heeded
 - iii) 25-26 - The warning of the adulteress
 - iv) 27-33 - The certainty of problems with the adulteress
 - v) 34-35 - The rage and revenge of the husband involved

2) READ PROVERBS 6:20-35

3) Verses 20-21 - KEEP them and BIND them

- a) **My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.**
 - i) Provided that the parent's teaching is godly, as we know not everything that our parents taught us was/is godly. The Proverbs assumes that the parents are leading their children in the correct way of the Lord and are a family in the covenant of God.

b) **21 Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.**

- i) *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* - 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- ii) Note the **progression** of how keeping the commandments of the father and mother protect - Leads as they walk...watches over as they lie down...talks with you when you are wake.

- (1) The words and commandments of God are portrayed as ALIVE - **Hebrews 4:12** - 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

4) **Verses 22-24 - The PROTECTION they offer if HEEDED**

a) **23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, 24 to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.**

- i) Commandment is a lamp - as the commandment is written and remains idle in the text or the mind it in itself is a lamp - it shines bright.
- ii) Teaching a light - as the commandment is verbally taught the lamp then becomes light as it illuminates the way and the darkness retreats.

- (1) **Psalm 119:105** - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- (2) **Psalm 119:130** - The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
- (3) **John 1:9** -9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

- iii) Reproofs of discipline are the way of life - if we want to have life through wisdom, we must be willing to be “reproofed with discipline.”

(1) Reproof - criticism for a fault, can also be called a rebuke

- iv) To preserve you from the evil woman - the woman that Proverbs describes continually throughout the book - Proverbs 2:16-17 -So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, 17 who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God...
- v) The smooth tongue of the adulteress - flattery - the ability to woo someone in speech - constantly building you up, but overly doing so to flatter to get their way with you.

5) Verses 25-26 - The WARNING of involvement with the ADULTERESS

- a) **25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; 26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life.**

- i) Do not desire her beauty in your heart - this is a perfect description of lust, as one looks upon the forbidden beauty of another's body / character.

(1) **Matthew 5:27-30** - 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 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. 30 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.

- ii) Do not let her capture you with her eyelashes - even today there are still extreme forms of mascara that can over-emphasize the eyes to purposefully be more alluring to men. We have heard don't "bat your eyes" at them, meaning to blink them quickly at someone to be eye catching and alluring.
- iii) For the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life

(1) The man's life, which the wayward woman hunts, is called "precious" (i.e., valuable) in contrast to meager payment the prostitute demands. This obviously is not meant to endorse going to a prostitute as opposed to having an affair with another man's wife but to show the complete folly of getting involved with another man's wife. Indeed,

“prostitute,” in parallel here with the “[other] man’s wife,” may well be one and the same person. She takes a small payment as prostitute from her victim but as adulteress steals away his very life. The price also indicates the degradation of this act to both man and woman; it is cheap. Going to the immoral woman is the quintessential self-destructive act.¹

- b) The message is clear and concise, there will be consequences for taking the forbidden woman or the forbidden man.

6) **Verses 27-33** The CERTAINTY of CONSEQUENCES from involvement

- a) **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. 30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, 31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. 32 He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.**
 - i) Two rhetorical questions - **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?** The answer to both those questions is “No.” If you carry fire close to your body, you will get burned, unless you have some type of fire suite on nor can you walk on coals without being burned unless you have some form of protection on your feet.
- b) **29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.**
 - i) It is guaranteed that adultery will bring punishment - why is that? Why is it guaranteed that sexual immorality brings punishment? It is against God’s created order, even within the fallen state of the universe.
- c) A comparison for the severity of the sin and consequences of adultery:
 - i) **30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, 31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. 32 He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does**

¹ Garrett, logos

it destroys himself. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.

(1) A thief who steals food in hunger is compared to a man who steals someone's wife in lust.

- (a) 30 People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, 31 but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house - [temporary consequences]
- (b) 32 He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. 33 He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. [permanent consequences]
- (i) Notice the damage that is done to satisfy sexual and lustful urges is far greater than hunger. What is the source of this damage - where do the "wounds" and "dishonor" come from?
- (ii) Notice also that with the their there is a form of sympathy but not for the one that takes someone's wife - he does not lack bread, he lacks sense.²

7) Verses 34-35 - The **RAGE** and **REVENGE** of the adulteress's husband

a) 34 For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge. 35 He will accept no compensation; he will refuse though you multiply gifts.

- i) Jealousy makes a man furious - this rage completely overtakes him and the object of his wrath will most likely be the one that took his wife.
- ii) Will not spare...accept no compensation...refuse multiple gifts - no matter the resources of the one that took his wife, no matter what he offers to the husband, the only thing that will satisfy the husband is revenge upon the man that took his wife.

8) CLOSE

- a) 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 -12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 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.

² Bridges, 50