

Sermon Title: A Blueprint for Sexual Purity part #1

Sermon Text: Proverbs 5

Getting Started: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Pray
- Read Proverbs 5
- What stands out to you from this text?
- It may seem somewhat awkward to talk about this issue, but it is very important we do look at what the Bible teaches regarding sexual intimacy. Can you think of any reasons we should discuss this in a biblically appropriate way as a church?

The Big Idea: This will give you a basic idea of what the message was about today.

In some ways the sermon today will just be an introduction. Over the next several weeks we are going to talk about sexual purity because Paul tells us if we are going to set our minds on things above, we must put to death these kinds of sins. We need to think carefully about how to do that, because we face so many challenges in actually doing so. One of the big challenges we face is the fact that what the Bible teaches about sexual purity is so different from what the world is telling us. If you take what the Bible says about sexual purity seriously, you will be mistreated. It's tempting to compromise under pressure and to stop listening to Scripture. This is disastrous! Today, I want to motivate you not to compromise or stop listening by giving you four reasons for the importance of being faithful to biblical teaching on this subject.

Discussion Questions: This will help you think through the passage and what you heard in the message.

- We are in Proverbs 5 this morning. That may seem strange given the fact that we have been spending time in Colossians 3. Why might we be turning our attention here?
- What do you think the fact that there is so much teaching in the Bible on this subject might tell us?
- In Proverbs 5:1,2 what motivation does the writer give for listening to what he has to say. To put it in a negative way, what will happen if we don't listen to him? How might this apply to what happens when people stop paying attention to what the Bible teaches regarding sexual sins?
- What do verses 3-5 tell us about the adulterous woman and what lessons can we learn from that about the nature of sexual temptation? In what way is this a motivation to take what the Bible says so seriously?
- What do we mean when we say temptation wouldn't be tempting if it wasn't tempting and how does that help us think about responding to temptation?

- Read Proverbs 5:7-14. What is the instruction he gives regarding sexual temptation and what are the reasons for taking that approach?
- What are some of the consequences of sexual sin that he describes?
- When it comes to pursuing sexual purity, we often focus on the negative. But what is the positive instruction Solomon gives in verses 15-20 and how does this help us better understand what the Bible teaches about this subject and why it is so important?

Going Deeper This will help you think about the truths of this message from another angle and perhaps a little more thoroughly.

- Read the following passages and make observations about what we can learn about God's design for this area of our lives. Some of the Scriptures may speak more directly about this issue and others may be more indirect, but try to think of how all these Scriptures might help us think more clearly about God's will for our sexual behavior. After you read the passage you might simply ask: What does this passage say about God's design for sex and the marriage relationship? Can we learn anything from this passage that is important to remember as we think about God's commands in this area of our lives?
 - Genesis 2:24-25
 - Proverbs 5:18-20
 - 1 Corinthians 7:3-5
 - Exodus 20:14
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - Deuteronomy 10:12-13
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Shooh. That was a lot of verses! But believe it or not, now I am going to give you one more thing to read that sums it up. Read through this paragraph and then answer the question that follows. "Sex exists for the glory of God. Certainly there are other secondary purposes for the gift of sexuality — procreation, expressions of love, pleasure, consummation of marriage — all those things are true, but they're secondary purposes. The ultimate purpose of sex as God has given it is his glory. This is important because it changes the way you think about sexual activity. If you relate all of your life to the glory of God, that presents you with a certain ethical framework that sometimes other frameworks don't allow. In some frameworks, the question is "What is allowed?" And people begin to mine the Scriptures for laws or rules concerning sexuality. Now, everything the Bible says in terms of laws or rules is important, but that's not the ultimate question we have to ask. The ultimate question we're asking is "What glorifies God?" Not what is lawful alone, but what glorifies God. So, that to me is a bottom line value we have in pursuing ethics this way."
 - I want you to try to summarize what you have learned from that paragraph and the verses you read in a sentence or two. Imagine

someone asks you what is the Christian view of sexuality? How might you respond to them?

- This is good news! God is the great and wise creator of the Universe and He knows what is best for us and He has spoken on this very important topic. But, the fact that He has spoken means it is possible to disobey Him in this area, and as we know, many people are living in rebellion to God in their sexual lives. Let's think for a moment about how seriously God takes sexual purity. Read the following verses and note what they say about what God expects and the importance of obeying God in this area. You might ask: How does this verse illustrate the seriousness or danger of sexual sin? How does this verse explain just how pure God expects believers to be?
 - Matthew 5:27-29
 - Ephesians 5:3-6
 - Proverbs 7:21-27
 - Hebrews 13:4
 - Job 31:1
 - Genesis 39:7-9

Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.

Preparing for Next Week: The following questions will help you anticipate what we are going to discuss next Sunday.

- A young man comes to you and says that he is struggling with looking at pornography on the internet and needs help staying pure. What are some suggestions you would make to him?
- You have been asked to disciple a friend of yours who recently became a Christian after living a number of years in a fairly promiscuous heterosexual lifestyle. He is truly attempting to live a godly life but is struggling with mental flashbacks, periodic pangs of guilt and urges to resume sexual activity which he knows to be sin. He asks you for some practical suggestions. What do you tell him? Would your suggestions differ significantly if he was a homosexual when he came to Christ? If so, how? (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 2:11-3:7)
- You are trying to raise your family in a godly way, but in the flat where you live, the other people who are staying with you are not Christians and are sinning in some pretty serious ways in this area. They are not careful about the television shows they watch, they have people over who are not their spouses, and on and on. What steps do you take to protect and train your children when it comes to sexual purity?