

Proverbs 5, July 15, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Today is all about the “strange woman” or wayward wife.

Definitions of fornication and adultery.

Jesus' words on lust.

How porn destroys your soul.

Commentary:

1-6: Pay attention and count the cost

1-3 Don't be an idiot. Don't be weak.

V3 “strange woman” is not natural, not right.

“drip honey”

“smoother than oil in her speech”

“The most sexy thing about the other woman was that she was interested in me.”

The debilitating effects of flattery.

“You look so nice. You must work out.”

“You're so interesting, tell me more.”

“You work so hard, you deserve a good time.”

4-6 Bitterness and sword, death and the grave, unstable and ignorant: All of this flattery leads to regret. You will hate yourself and what you've become. It is nothing but bitterness. It promises sweetness but gives only bitterness “wormwood.” It promises relaxation and release but only brings war “sword.” She peddles life but delivers death. She deals in excitement, but the end is the grave. What she promises, she does not deliver. It is the art of seduction, and you are the prey. She will eat your soul.

7-14: Avoid Regret

V8 –Keep far away; Don't go near.

“Flee” 2Tim 2:22, 1Cor 6:19

V9 -don't give your splendor, your strength, wealth and integrity.

15-19: Enjoy your wife

Hebrews 13:4 “The marriage bed is undefiled.” Whatever is consensual is allowable. Get past any kind of unhealthy views on sex as being dirty or wrong. If there are past experiences (unfaithfulness, abuse, etc.) that are hindering you or her, you need to deal with that. The marriage bed “IS UNDEFILED” whether you or her feel that way or not. That is the case. Adjust your thinking accordingly.

1Cor 7:5 “stop depriving one another.” Sex is a command. Regular physical intimacy is not an option. God says that you should not hold out on one another. Sex is not a weapon. Sometimes, it's not all that sexy, it's just a matter of getting it done. That's ok. The more you do it, the better you'll get at it. Sometimes it isn't great but bad sex is better than no sex just like bad food is better than no food. Obviously, everyone wants to have great sex but sometimes regular sex is the best sex. Just do it. How much is enough? Whatever you agree on. The national average is something like 1-2x week for married people. Of course, that will vary with life but do not let it go too long.

I know a guy who gave up on sex with his wife decades ago because of some of these types of issues. This is not ok. You need to insist on dealing with this. A sexless marriage is not Biblical with very rare exception. Even then, there are things can be done if it is not direct copulation. There is oral sex and physical manipulation if normal relations are not possible. Physical intimacy is not an option for either of you. 1Cor 7:5 is a real command.

What is your wife isn't as desirable as she once was? Has she gained weight or changed in appearance? First, I would remind you that there is a very good chance that she is not the only one. Perhaps, you're getting in shape, and she is not. You

need to patiently lead and make sure your heart is right. Additionally, in the words of Mark Driscoll, “whatever your wife is, that is your type. If she used to be skinny and now is not, you like women who used to be skinny and now are not. Whatever she is, that’s your type.” Don’t be fooled by the world’s standards and traps. Preach the truth to yourself.

Enjoy the wife that God gave you. Song of Solomon has some great poetry about the beauty of the marriage relationship. Give yourself to her and lead her to do the same for you. Create a safe environment for her and have a good time. Create some adventure with her but do it respectfully and talk about it beforehand. Have an agreement on what is permissible and what is out of bounds. Don’t be influenced by porn and the unrealistic depictions from it. Build something better.

Practical advice: Remember the flattery that the wayward woman gives and how powerful it is? You need to notice your wife and speak to her smoothly. You need to romance and seduce her.

Additionally, and in some ways on the other hand, talk openly and honestly with your wife about sex. Talk about what you both like and don’t like. Talk about it when sex is not being pursued. Talk about occasions and regularity. If you have psychological or physiological issues, address them. Be a man and lead. Do not ignore problems. Work through them.

I do think it’s healthy and right to talk openly and frankly about each other’s desires and expectations. Revisit this as necessary. Lead. Don’t be passive. If you are self-conscious and don’t know how, be aggressive and just get it out there. Blurt it out if you need to just to get the ball rolling. Don’t be shy. Don’t be a sissy. This is your responsibility. For God’s sake, your wife, your sex life and your faith are all part of this. Be a man and take action.

20-23: God sees: Judgement and Reward

Punishment is coming in this life and the life to come for those who do not obey. Likewise, reward and blessing are for those who heed this teaching both in this life and in eternity. Store up blessing now and forevermore. Do not sacrifice eternal riches for fleeting pleasure.

If you travel, your heart should be at home.

Every man I've ever met that committed adultery has regretted it. I've never met a Christian man who was glad about it. They all universally wish they had not done it.

If you have done it, of course there is forgiveness contingent upon repentance and trust in Christ. If that is you, move on and get on with growing.

Husbands: love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
-Eph 5:22

Resources:

Joe Rigney: More than a Battle

Covenant Eyes

Closing Prayer:

Father, make us men of rightly ordered affections. Make us love what is good and hate evil. Help us to love our wives and children and build families for the kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.