

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

chps. 1-9

HOW TO CULTIVATE A HEART
THAT CRAVES WISDOM

Proverbs 4:20-27

***"Ponder the path of your feet,
then all your ways will be sure..." (26)***

"As you were entering your teen (and later, your adult) years, I wanted to caution you against making shortsighted decisions based on the urge or temptation of the moment, but rather to take into consideration the distant, long-term perspective.

I knew that you would be facing many temptations in the coming years and other decisions with far-reaching consequences, and I wanted to give you a mental image which I hoped would come back to you at those critical decision-making times."

—Bruce Buchanan

Proverbs 5:1-23

Pay attention to...

- ***Yourself.*** Ponder your own path (4:26)
- ***Her.*** Notice she doesn't ponder the "path of life" (5:6)
- ***God.*** Remember God is pondering your steps (5:21)

MAIN POINT OF PROVERBS 5:1-23

Adultery will ruin your life.

ADULTERY WILL RUIN YOUR LIFE

Solomon fills this passage with warnings:

- ***Warnings about what will happen to you.***
 - *Adultery is the path that leads to death (5:5)*
 - *Adultery is how you trash your testimony & ruin your reputation (5:9)*
 - *Adultery is how you destroy the life you've built for yourself (5:10)*
- ***Warnings about how you'll feel.***
 - *At the end of your life, you'll groan in misery (5:11)*
 - *You'll despair in shame over your stupid foolishness (5:12)*
 - *You'll regret all the wise counsel you rejected (5:13)*
 - *You'll feel like your whole life is ruined (5:14)*
- ***Warnings about why it'll happen.***
 - *Because you were a slave to your sin—trapped in the bondage of your lust (5:22)*
 - *Because you had no self-control, and because you were led astray (5:23)*

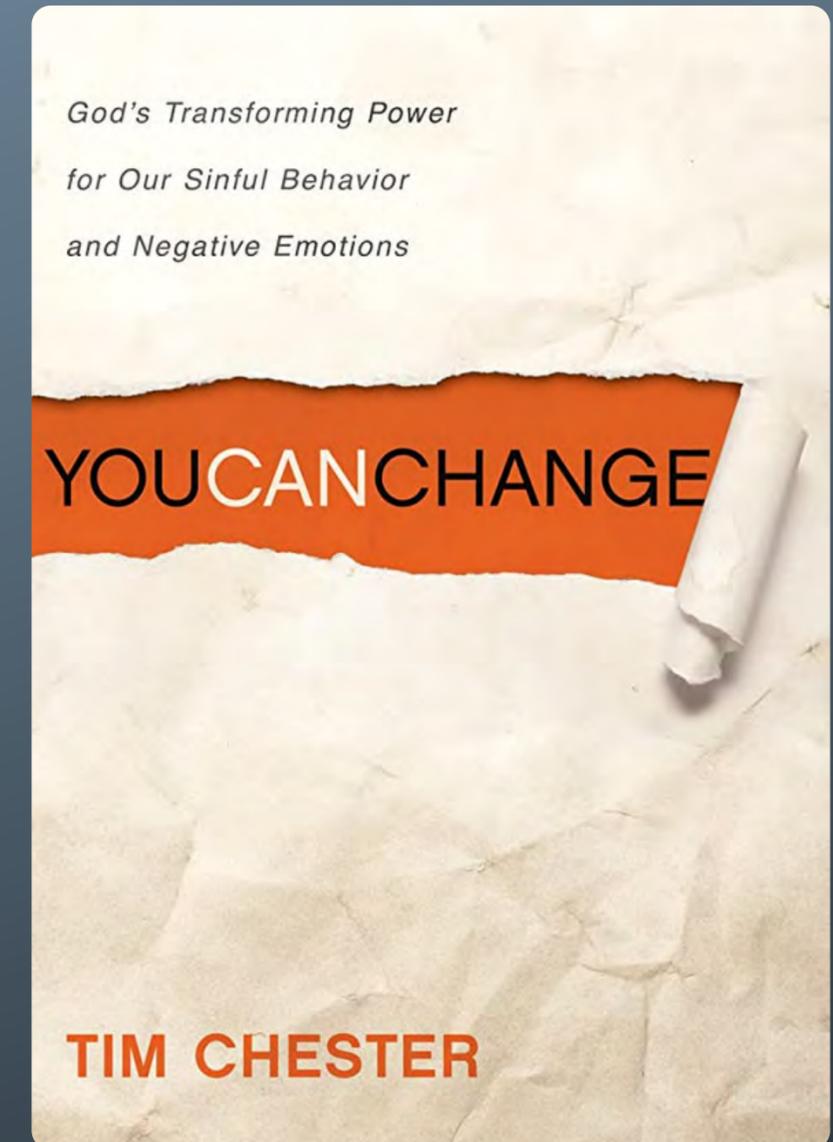
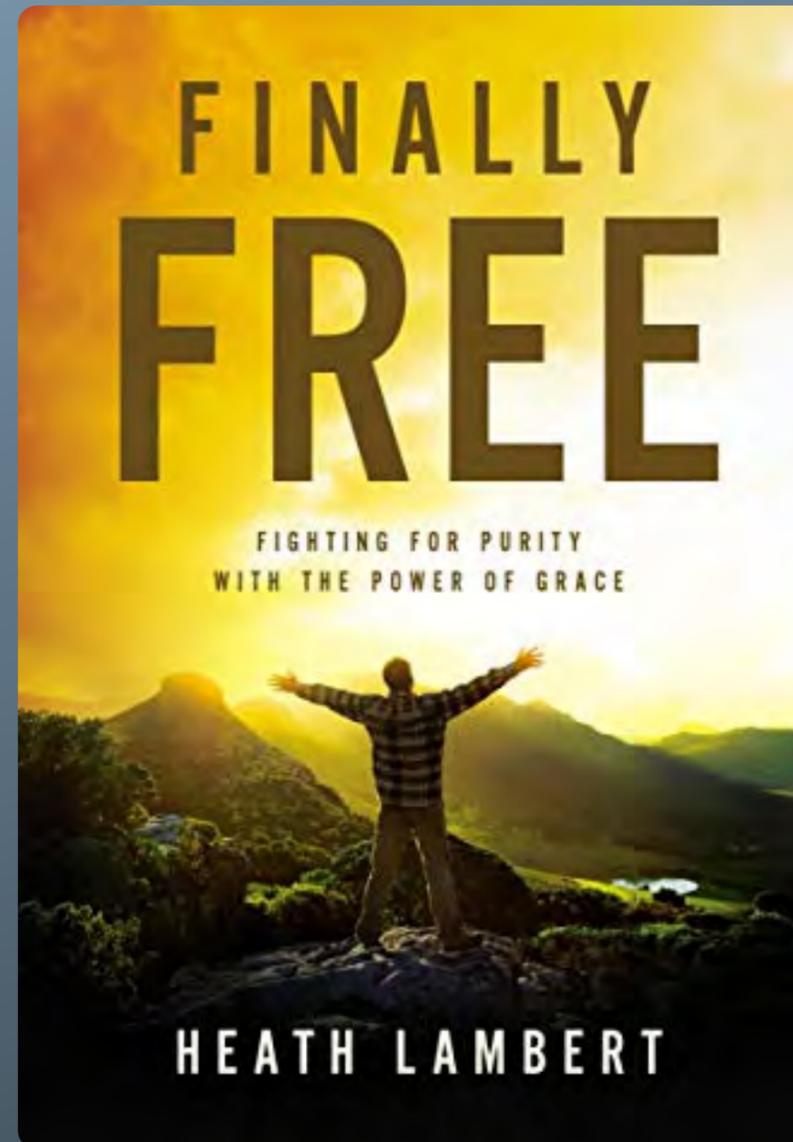
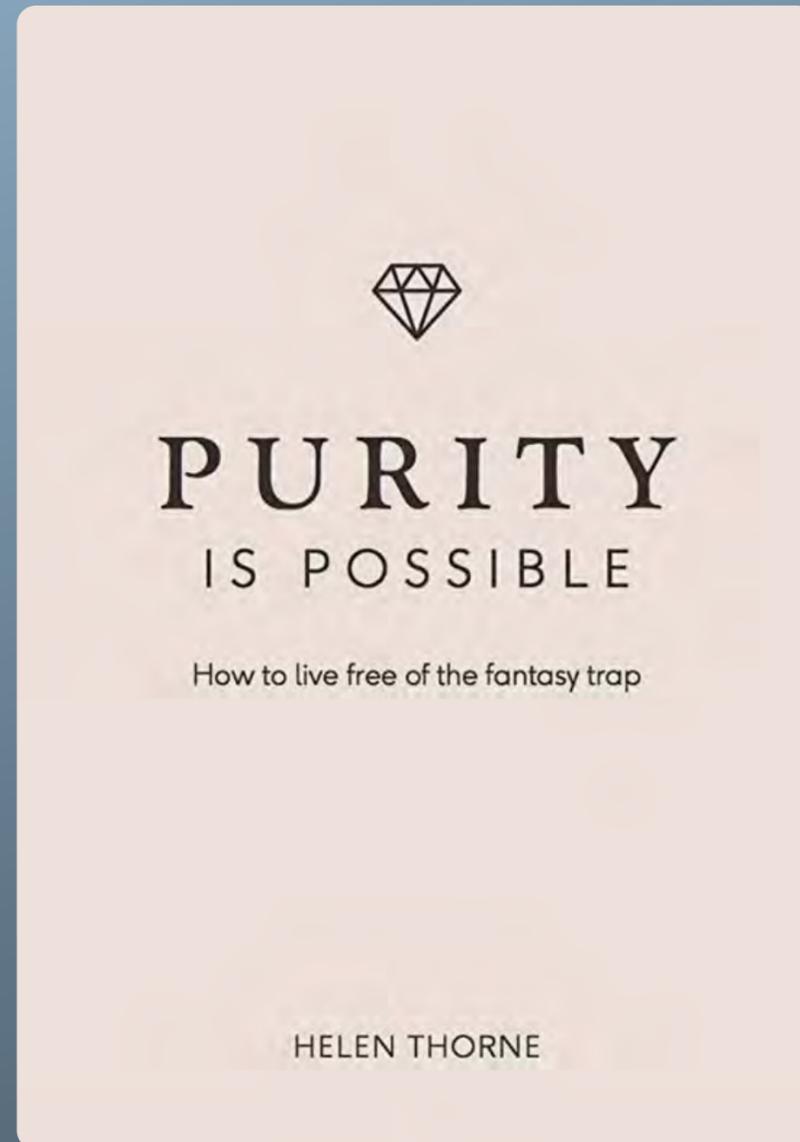
Applying Proverbs 5:1-23

- 1. The path of temptation is as delightful as it is deadly—don't miss the poison mixed in with the sweetness (1-6).**
- 2. The path of adultery will devastate your life in countless unexpected ways—take extreme measures to avoid this temptation (7-14).**

"No matter how terrible pornography is, no matter how much trouble you are in, no matter how flimsy and weak your resources are, you are never in a pit so deep that the grace of Jesus cannot lift you out... There is no porn user so enslaved that Jesus cannot set him or her free. There is no struggle for purity so intense that Jesus' grace cannot win the battle. There is no consequence so steep that Jesus' power cannot carry you through. Jesus' grace to change you is stronger than pornography's power to destroy you."

—Heath Lambert | Finally Free

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



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- 2. The path of adultery will devastate your life in countless unexpected ways—take extreme measures to avoid this temptation (7-14).**
- 3. The path of faithfulness is beautiful and satisfying—find intoxicating delight in God's incredible gift of marriage (15-20).**

"In a world starving for genuine, lasting intimacy, a loving Christian marriage is a powerful witness to the gospel and the goodness of God..."

—C.J. Mahaney | Sex, Romance & the Glory of God

"In a world starving for genuine, lasting intimacy, a loving Christian marriage is a powerful witness to the gospel and the goodness of God... [The husband] is lavishing high praises upon his beloved in an effort to communicate her effect on him. These are expressions of his heartfelt evaluation of her. They are not based on cultural criteria. Others may not share his assessment of her beauty, but he doesn't care. This is how he sees her, and together they rejoice in that assessment."

—C.J. Mahaney | Sex, Romance & the Glory of God

"We live in a world where sexual and romantic fulfillment are paraded as ultimate good. Miss out on sex, we are told, and you miss out on life. But within a Christian framework, missing marriage and gaining Christ is like missing out on playing with dolls as a child, but growing up to have a real baby. When we are fully enjoying the ultimate relationship, no one will lament for the loss of the scale model."

—Rebecca McLaughlin | Confronting Christianity

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- 3. The path of faithfulness is beautiful and satisfying—find intoxicating delight in God's incredible gift of marriage (15-20).**
- 4. The path of your life is under God's watching gaze—discipline yourself to stay true to the path of righteousness (21-23).**

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