

Protecting the Marital Relationship

Wisdom for the Home-Proverbs

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Ok. All right. We are going to continue our series “Wisdom for the Home,” studying the book of Proverbs. Today we are approaching a very, very... it is not a difficult subject, it is a very frank subject. The title of our lesson today is “Protecting the Marital Relationship.”

Whenever I personally come to this topic in the Bible and, for example, one of the things I do for devotions is I will read through one Psalm and one Proverb a day for a month or so and any time I come to these passages in Proverbs—and there is about six or seven different passages in the book of Proverbs that deal with this—any time I come to these passages there is a huge sense of humility that comes over me.

Many of you know me and over 15 years ago this very problem almost destroyed my life. So what I am about to teach you from the Bible, first of all, is definitely not from me being the greatest example. I am a perfect example of if you don't listen, what can happen.

Now thank the Lord that God's grace and his mercy and his forgiveness fixes all of our mistakes and all of our sins. However, what we are about to learn today, when God says it, he means it. And it is a horrible thing that destroys many lives and carries with it life long scars that never go away. And I am living testimony of that.

So as we approach this today, I approach this topic with unbelievable humility and with great fear and respect.

Years ago when I was in college I used to—I think I have told you this—I used to install ceiling fans. I worked with electricity. I got stung more than once working with electricity. I am not afraid of it, but I fear it. I have a healthy respect for it. That is how this topic is.

So we are going to talk today about protecting the marital relationship. And, in essence, what we are going to talk about is adultery, how it happens, what takes place and what can you do in your marriages to prevent it. God talks a lot about it in the book of

Proverbs. It is no wonder since Solomon had all those women as a part of his life, that this topic would be very prevalent throughout the book of Proverbs.

Look at Proverbs chapter 27. Let's start with verse number eight. The Bible says:

“Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.”¹

The first time I ever read this, or used it in a Bible study, one of the questions that comes up is: Well, does that mean that any time this happens it is always the man's fault? Because God is addressing this to the man who leaves the home. Do women ever leave the home and do this? Well, do they? Of course they do. So in this sense, what God is talking about is, number one, man does have the primary responsibility here. And we have seen that. As we have studied the home and the position that God has given the man in the home... And, unfortunately, our society has tried to distort that and ruin that. If you do it the right way, as we have seen, that is the way God intended for the home to be run. And, of course, the world today has a totally distorted and unbiblical view of how all that should work. So we won't go back over that.

However, the principles that we are going to look at today, just like all the principles in the Bible, are relative to every human being, whether we are a man or a woman. A woman can be tempted with sexual immorality just like a man can. We all can. We are human beings.

And, by the way, let me just begin by saying this. Anybody who thinks you are beyond this temptation or I would never do this, be very, very careful. I said the same thing years ago. Be very careful. Satan is far more powerful than we will ever dream of being. And if we do not put on the whole armor of God and allow God to fight that battle for us by doing what he tells us to do, we will lose that battle. Satan will win. So, as we get in to these principles, understand that this is not just for the man. It is for all of us and we all need to understand these principles.

So we are going to look at two things today. Number one, we need to understand the process of sin. And we are not going to spend a lot of time on this. We have actually talked about it before. But it is important that we look at this so you understand when God addresses this in the book of Proverbs, he is actually giving specific details about these three different steps in the process of sin.

So, first of all, let's go to James chapter one real quick and let's just review the three steps in the process of sin.

Whenever you and I as human beings sin, what do we do? What happens in our life? Well, James tells us this. Look at James chapter one beginning in verse 13. James says this.

¹ Proverbs 27:8.

“When tempted...”

By the way, that is where sin always starts, with a temptation. Remember 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”²

So just because temptation comes—and it will—God always will provide a way for us to overcome it. The problem comes when we don’t want to take God’s way. Sometimes it is difficult. Sometimes it is hard. Sometimes it may change our lifestyle, but if God says this is how you overcome this, we can overcome it. We have just got to learn to do what God says, ok?

But remember. That is not always easy to do. All right.

Now today we are going to look at what God says how to overcome this temptation. And you will see when we get into that, some of that is kind of difficult. So first of all, “When tempted, no-one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”³

Foundational truth. You and I need to understand if we are ever tempted to sin, it is not God doing it. So if it is not God doing it, then what is the only other option? Satan. Remember what Satan’s plan is for our life? Jesus tells Simon Peter, “Simon, Satan wants to have you so he can sift you like wheat.”

Jesus told his disciples, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.”⁴ That is what he wants to do to our life.

So if I am tempted to sin it is not God doing it. It is Satan and it is all a part of his plan to destroy my life, ok? So that is the first thing we have got to understand.

Now, what does he do? If he is the one doing it, what is the process he uses? All right, there is three things: simple desire, Satanic enticement and then submission to the sin. Well, let’s look at this in James chapter one. Look with me at verse number 14.

“But each one is tempted when...”⁵ And here God is going to tell us the process. Step number one, “...when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away.”⁶

² 1 Corinthians 10:13.

³ James 1:13.

⁴ John 10:10.

⁵ James 1:14.

⁶ Ibid.

Sin always begins with an evil desire that comes, by the way, from the sin nature that we all have. That is why John said in 1 John one, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves.”⁷

We all have a sin nature. That is why Paul said in Romans seven, “The things I don’t want to do, I end up doing. The things that I want to do, I can’t find myself doing them because there is a war going on inside of me.”

We don’t have time to look at it, but in Galatians chapter five—and I wrote it down for you—Galatians five verses 16 through 19 the Bible describes the battle between the flesh and the spirit in our life. And all of us have that as believers, ok?

So, first of all, this desire from my fleshy comes up. By the way, where do those desires start? In the mind. That is why the Bible talks so much about guarding our minds.

Let me ask you this question. Is it wrong to be tempted or to have that desire come up in my mind? Is that a sin? No. We are in the process of sin. So far, God has not said, “This is a sin.” This is where it starts. It is not a sin yet. The desires come up in my mind. Now let’s look at the next thing. The sinful desire, second of all, there is the satanic enticement. I want you to look at the next phrase.

“...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away...”⁸ The sinful desire comes up. And then, number two, “...and enticed.”

Now who does the enticing? Satan does. It is not God. He already told us that. Satan does that.

Now, by the way, you will notice in your notes. I have given you a passage in Proverbs chapter seven which we are going to go to in just a second where God describes for us a young man who was enticed by a harlot and he gave in. We are going to look at these three steps in that process, ok? But we will go there in just a minute.

So, first of all, the desire comes up. Second of all there is the enticing. We begin to dwell on it and Satan begins to give us all the reasons why it would be good, it would be fun, it would be great and it is ok. That is the enticing process.

Then, number three, there is the submission to the sin. I want you to look at the next verse, verse 15.

“Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to [what?] sin.”⁹

At that point it becomes sin. When the desire came up in my head, it is not sin yet. I am being enticed by it. It is still not sin yet. It is when I finally given in that it becomes sin.

⁷ 1 John 1:8.

⁸ James 1:14.

⁹ James 1:15.

And, do you know what? A lot of Christians, by the way, live defeated lives of guilt because they battle with these evil desires in their mind. Yet you have never given in to them. But they think they are these horrible people because I think about these horrible things sometimes. Can I just let you in on a little secret? Every human being does that. It is part of being a human being. That is what we are. We have a sin nature.

If you ever find a human being that never has an evil thought enter their mind, you will be in heaven looking at someone with a glorified body. We all have that, ok? Remember, when the desire comes and you are being enticed to sin, it is not sin yet. Fight it. And I am going to show you how in just a minute. Battle that thing and let God give you victory. Don't give in to it. Once we give in, then it becomes sin, ok? So that is the process. Sinful desire, satanic enticement and then we submit to it and becomes sin.

Now go back to the book of Proverbs and let's go to chapter seven. Now let's look real quick at how this process plays out in this matter of protecting the marital relationship. How does this process manifest itself and cause problems in a marriage? Proverbs chapter seven, let's look at verses one through nine at the sinful desire in this story.

Verse one of Proverbs seven.

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your kinsman; they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words.¹⁰

First of all, let me pause here to say—and we are going to talk more about this next week when we begin to study the three pillars of the home, the three things that hold the home up: knowledge, understanding and wisdom. All of these things are talked about here. What is God talking about? He is talking about filling our lives with his Word, with the principles of his Word.

Psalm 119 verse 11.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”¹¹

This is the key to us not submitting to sin. That is why this book is so important.

Ok, now let's see what happens. Look at verse six.

¹⁰ Proverbs 7:1-5.

¹¹ Psalm 119:11.

At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.¹²

He wasn't very wise. Why? Well, notice what he does.

Verse eight.

“He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house.”¹³

Bad mistake. That is why the Bible says that we are to abstain from all appearance of evil. Run from sin.

When Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife what did he do? Did he stand there and negotiate? He ran. He got as far away from her as he could. We are foolish to think we can play with fire and not get burned, because we will every single time. We are not strong enough to overcome the temptations of Satan if we don't do what God says.

So, first of all, the kid made a mistake because he is walking in the wrong direction getting near it, getting close to it. That was his first big mistake.

Let's keep going. Verse number nine.

...at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.¹⁴

What do you expect? That is where you are. You are right there giving her that opportunity. If he had not been in that part of town near that home, would this have ever happened? No, it would not.

So he starts... here is the desire coming up. Now you are going to start to see the enticement. Let's keep going.

(She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)¹⁵

Somebody might say, “Well, it was all her fault.”

But who cares whose fault it is? If it happens, they both suffer.

¹² Proverbs 7:6-7.

¹³ Proverbs 7:8.

¹⁴ Proverbs 7:9-10.

¹⁵ Proverbs 7:11-12.

Well, but I couldn't help it. It was all her fault.

No, it wasn't. It was both people's fault. He should have never been there in the first place.

All right. Let's keep going. Verse 13.

She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: "I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!"¹⁶

Right.

Can you see the enticement of Satan? He is making everything look like it is ok. He is making this kid feel like he is so important.

"You are the one I have been looking for all of my life."

Baloney. You told that to the last five guys who came here.

Satan doesn't care. He lies.

Yeah, but no one would really be that evil.

You want to bet? He is Satan the father of lies. That is what he is doing.

Look down at verse 18.

"Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!"¹⁷

By the way, a huge misnomer. This is not love. This is lust, evil lust. It has nothing to do with love. Real love wouldn't do this.

Let's keep going. Verse 19.

"My husband is not at home."¹⁸

That ought to be your first clue. She is married.

My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.¹⁹

¹⁶ Proverbs 7:13-15.

¹⁷ Proverbs 7:18.

¹⁸ Proverbs 7:19.

¹⁹ Proverbs 7:19-20.

Look at verse 21, the enticement.

“With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.”²⁰

Please understand. Satan is behind this. That is how he works. He is very persuasive and very smooth, more so than we are.

Look at verse 22.

All at once [before he realized what he was doing] he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing [he doesn't even realize it] it will cost him his life.²¹

I am going to tell you. It almost cost me my life. When God tells you this, he knows what he is talking about. He means it.

I had no idea. All these lies, everything. I believed it all.

Now let's keep going. Look at verse 25.

“Do not let your heart...”²²

There is the key.

“Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.”²³

Don't go anywhere near this. Stay as far away from it as possible, ok?

So, first of all, that is the process. That is how it happens. Now, how do we protect our marital relationship? Well, let's finish up our time by looking at these two things.

In Proverbs chapter seven I want you to look at verse number 24.

“Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.”²⁴

God is about to tell us how to avoid this.

²⁰ Proverbs 7:21.

²¹ Proverbs 7:22-23.

²² Proverbs 7:25.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Proverbs 7:24.

Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.²⁵

Verse 25 is the key, our heart.

Two things I want to share with you out of Proverbs. Number one, guard your heart. The moment my heart opens itself to the world and the philosophy of the world, that is when this all starts.

In Proverbs chapter four and verse 23 the Bible says, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”²⁶

And Proverbs chapter four verses 20 through 22 the Bible tells us how to do that. And he teaches us that we do it through his Word. That is how we guard our heart.

Psalm 119 verse nine.

“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?”²⁷

How does a young man live a clean life? By taking heed, by doing what the Word of God says.

Psalm 119 verse 11 talks about hiding God’s Word in our heart so we will not sin, ok?

Now there are four things in Proverbs chapter two, which, by the way, we don’t have time to look at all of these. I have given you the verses.

In the next two weeks we are actually going to look at all four of these in detail. So we will have time to go through this. But in chapter two, verses one through five, the Bible talks about knowledge. These, by the way, are the four things from God’s Word that we gain to guard our heart or protect us: knowledge; number two, understanding, Proverbs chapter two verse nine; number three, wisdom, Proverbs chapter two verses 10 and 12; and then, number four, discretion, Proverbs chapter two and verse 11.

Do you know what the rest of Proverbs chapter two talks about? How these four things will protect you from the adulterous woman, the whole rest of the chapter. If I have these four things, it will protect me from that sin.

So in the next two weeks we will talk about these in more detail. But I want you to understand he directly uses this as a way to guard my heart. I have to have knowledge of the Word of God. I have got to understand it. I have got to know how to apply it to my life and I have got to make wise choices. That is what discretion is. Ok?

²⁵ Proverbs 7:25-27.

²⁶ Proverbs 4:23.

²⁷ Psalm 119:9.

So, first of all, I have got to guard my heart. That is why your personal relationship with Jesus Christ is so vitally important. You and I have an enemy. His name is Satan. God clearly tells us that in several places. He is like a roaring lion, walking about seeking whom he may devour.

If I do not do what God says and I don't walk with God and I don't wear the armor of God in Ephesians six, my enemy will win the battle for my life. I lose. I don't want to lose. It hurts.

So it is important that we guard our heart.

Now, second of all, we have got to grow our marital relationship.

Turn with me to Proverbs chapter five. Let me show you something here and then we are going to 1 Corinthians chapter seven and that is where we are going to finish.

Proverbs chapter five.

By the way, there are many passages in the book of Proverbs that deal with this protecting the marital relationship and adultery. Most of them I have listed on the back of your study sheet. In your private meditation time for this week and you will read through... you will notice there are several of them in here that we are not going to get to. All of these are passages in Proverbs that deal with this topic. So I hope you will take time to read those this week. And you will better understand what we have been talking about when you start putting all of that together, ok?

So let's start. Look at Proverbs five verse number 15.

By the way, you will notice Proverbs five talks about this same topic.

When we come to verse 15, again, God is telling us how to keep from giving in to this sin.

Verse 15.

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.
Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.²⁸

What is he talking about? Guys, he is talking about only show love physically, spiritually and in every way to your own wife, nobody else's. Ladies, be committed physically, spiritually only to your own husband, nobody else's. That is what he is saying, because

²⁸ Proverbs 5:15-17.

he has just finished talking about adultery. And this is how you keep from getting involved in that. Stick to your own spouse.

Now that doesn't take rocket science or a PhD in theology to understand that. But how do you do that?

All right, let's keep going. Verse 17.

Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.²⁹

You need to find joy with your life and, ladies, with your husband. That means you need to be best friends. If there is anybody else in your life that you call your best friend, you have got problems. Your best friend is the person you are married to. If it is not, you are going to have big trouble.

Do you know how many couples have trouble because the guy wants to hang out with the guys all the time? Because those are his best friends.

The same thing with girls. They never want to be at home. They always want to go out with the girls. Why? Those are her best friends. That means there is problems at home.

Do you remember when you were growing up? Did you ever have best friends when you were growing up? I did. I wanted to be with them all the time. I always wanted to go over to their house or have them come over to my house. If you have got a best friend, that is who you want to be with all the time. It needs to be your spouse. If it is not, you need to cultivate that, ok? So that is what he is talking about here.

Look at verse 19.

“A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.”³⁰

How many...? I told you it was frank. God is saying, “Physically, her body better give you everything you will ever want,” because if it doesn't he promises you, you ain't never going to find it in another woman's body. You had better learn to be satisfied with the one you got.

In marital counseling one of the things I talk to these couples about is the physical relationship. We go through 1 Corinthians chapter seven. There is nothing in the Bible that says you can't marry somebody who is physically attractive to you.

Well, I know that they are not the best looking I have ever seen, but they are just such a nice person. You better not marry him. They better be the best looking thing you have

²⁹ Proverbs 5:17-18.

³⁰ Proverbs 5:19.

ever seen, because if they are not, whoever that is, will come along one day. Satan will make sure of it. They better be the best looking thing you have ever seen in your life. And it needs to stay that way.

And I am telling you. If it is not, you are headed for some rough times.

I told you it was frank. I am trying to protect you, ok?

All right. Let's keep going.

By the way, I didn't say it. God did, all right?

Let's keep going. Look at verse 20.

Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.³¹

All right, real quick, because we are running out of time. Turn to 1 Corinthians chapter seven and let me give you these four ways to grow your marital relationship, our marital relationship.

By the way, they are not easy. They take work and you will have to do these things the rest of your life and work at them as a married couple. My wife and I, Denise and I have been married almost 14 years now. We have to work at this. And it doesn't get no easier. It just gets harder. But if you want to protect your relationship, this is what we have to do, ok?

1 Corinthians seven verse one.

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.”³²

Uh-oh. Paul, what are you talking about? Well, we don't have time to go through all of that, but he is not saying that it is a sin to get married, ok? So please understand that.

But, verse two.

“But since there is so much immorality [sexual promiscuity], each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife...”³³

³¹ Proverbs 5:20-23.

³² 1 Corinthians 7:1.

³³ 1 Corinthians 7:2-3.

We are talking about protecting the marital relationship. That is what he is talking about.

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, [Why?] so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.³⁴

That is exactly what we have been talking about in the book of Proverbs, Satan tempting us because of our lack of self control in the marital relationship, ok?

Now let me give you these four things. These are the four things we have got to have to grow our marital relationship. Number one, contentment. In the book of Hebrews, the Bible tells us in chapter 13...

As a matter of fact, hold your finger there. You need to see this. Go with me to Hebrews chapter 13 and I want you to look at verse four. Hebrews 13 verse four.

“Marriage should be honoured by all...”³⁵

By the way, our society doesn't honor marriage. I was talking to somebody the other day and they said, “You know, it used to be that in this particular state,” they named the state, “that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce.” Do you know? It is not that many anymore. Do you know why? Because just don't get married. They don't get married. They don't honor the institution of marriage anymore. Our society is destroying the institution of marriage. God never said it was ok to do that.

God says here, “Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.”³⁶

Interesting. In these two verses God talks about the two things that destroy most marriages, sexual immorality and money. And do you know what he says the answer to both of them is? To be content with what you have in both areas, ok?

Let's go back to 1 Corinthians seven.

So I need to be content. I need to be content with the woman I have got. I need to be content with the man I have got. We are married for life. I have got to learn to be content with that.

³⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.

³⁵ Hebrews 13:4.

³⁶ Hebrews 13:4-5.

Number two. Consideration. Look at verse number three.

The Bible says:

The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.³⁷

Consideration. Do you know you need to be considerate of each other? Let me just be frank with you. Do you know that the physical relationship in marriage, sex in marriage is not about you? It is about them. And I am just being frank. It is not [?] thank you, ma'am. If that is what your physical relationship is, you are headed for problems. It is not about that. It is about each other. It is showing love for each other. That is what marriage is all about. Marriage is spending the rest of our life learning how to love each other better.

And I am telling you, God warns us. We need to be considerate of each other. Think of each other, ok?

Number three, communication. Look at verse number five.

“Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time.”³⁸

Let me ask you something. How can you and I mutually consent about something or on something if we don't ever communicate? How can you and your spouse mutually consent to something if you never communicate?

And, by the way, if you do your small group this week and you get into these study questions, they are pretty frank, too. One of the things you are going to talk about is do you ever talk together about your physical relationship. Let me ask you something. Fellows, do you know what meets your wife's needs physically? And vice versa. Girls, do you know what meets your husband's needs physically? Do you know that the majority of young couples would say, “No, I don't”? Do you know why? Because they never talk about it. They think there is something wrong with it.

Well, if you are not married there is. But if you are married, it is part of your responsibility to each other. You need to talk about it. Do you know there are couples that go for years in their marital relationship physically not doing what the other really needs and the other one never says anything. They just agree. It destroys marriages.

“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled.”³⁹

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 7:3-4.

³⁸ 1 Corinthians 7:5.

³⁹ Hebrews 13:4.

It should be kept pure.

Did you realize that there is a marriage bed? That is part of marriage. And the truth is, a lot of times we are embarrassed or we are scared to talk about it. But it is very important, ok?

So there needs to be communication. And then, finally, and number four, and this is the foundation to everything. There needs to be consecration, commitment, first of all, to the Lord and then to each other.

Look at verse number five again.

“Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer.”⁴⁰

What is it saying? This is saying my commitment to Christ takes priority over every other commitment and relationship in my life. I know I am responsible. I need to take care of you. But I need this time to pray. Is that ok? Yes, honey, that is fine. But when you are done, he says, you come back together. That is the commitment to your spouse. And if you don't, if you go for long extended periods of time without coming together—and in the context, he is talking about coming together physically. If you go for long extended periods of time without communicating about it, without mutually consenting not do it, you just don't. God says, “If you don't, you will be tempted by Satan and he will target your lack of discipline.”

Now why do you say he says he will target our lack of self control or discipline? Because we have all got it. We all have tendencies that way. We are human, ok?

So how do we grow that relationship? First of all you have got to be content, consideration. Think of each other. There has got to be communication. You have got to talk. And there has got to be consecration, first to the Lord and then to each other, ok?

Sorry this was so fast. Actually, it is a topic... and that passage in Hebrews 13 is so critical and to me it is so interesting that in both of those verses he deals with the two things that Satan uses the most to destroy our marriages: the physical relationship and money. And yet he says the key to both is to be content.

Now, here is what you need to do. Work together. Talk. The most important person physically in your life right now is your spouse. Jesus Christ is in your life spiritually, but the most important person in your life is your spouse. Protect your marital relationship by putting Christ in the center of it and asking him to help us to do what it is he says we need to do to grow that relationship, ok?

Father, thank you for your Word. How frank it is and how pointed, because you love us and you are trying to protect us. Lord, I pray for each of these marriages. I pray, again,

⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 7:5.

for mine. Put a hedge about us and protect us. Be the strength and the guide of our marriage. Strengthen our relationships with our spouses and, Lord, may our lives and our marriages bring glory to you. Defeat Satan, keep him out. Don't let him hurt us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All right, everybody. Have a great...

Wisdom For The Home-A study in Proverbs
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PERSONAL APPLICATION

Review the main lesson outline briefly

1. How is your love life...physically? What are some of the challenges you face? Do you communicate about it with your spouse?
2. Describe your spiritual time with your spouse (prayer, Bible reading, “Talk Time”). Most couples have to really work at this. What could you do to improve your consecration to each other and the Lord?

PRIVATE MEDITATION

Read the Scripture and identify 1 thought to take with you for that day
Write down your daily thought under each day

Monday – Proverbs 2:1-22

Thought:

Tuesday – Proverbs 5:1-23

Thought:

Wednesday – Proverbs 6:20-35

Thought:

Thursday – Proverbs 7:1-27

Thought:

Friday – Proverbs 22:14, 23:26-28, 30:20

Thought:

Saturday – Proverbs 24:3-4

Sunday – “*The Three Pillars of the Home*”

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Wisdom for the Home!



A Study in the book of Proverbs

Wisdom For The Home-A study in Proverbs
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Protecting the Marital Relationship

Proverbs 27:8

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NOTES

- I. Understanding the **Process of sin** – James 1:13-15
 - a. Sinful Desire – Prov. 7:1-9 (Galatians 5:16-19)
 - b. Satanic Enticement – Proverbs 7:10-21
 - c. Submission to Sin – Proverbs 7:22-23

- II. The **Plan to Protect** the marital relationship –
Proverbs 7:24-27
 - a. Guard the heart – Proverbs 4:23, 20-22 (Ps. 119:9, 11)
 - i. Knowledge – 2:1-5
 - ii. Understanding – 2:9
 - iii. Wisdom – 2:10, 12
 - iv. Discretion – 2:11

 - b. Grow our marital relationship – Proverbs 5:15-19
 - i. Contentment – 1 Corinthians 7:1-2
 - ii. Consideration – 1 Corinthians 7:3-4
 - iii. Communication – 1 Corinthians 7:5
 - iv. Consecration – 1 Corinthians 7:5
 - 1. The Lord
 - 2. Each other