

**Message #17****Proverbs 5:1-6**

With the exception of 6:1-19, Proverbs chapters 5-7 deals with the subject of sex education. In this opening section, Solomon charges his son to keep his focus on the Word of God because that is a major key to keeping him from immorality with women who were off-limits.

**AN INTENSE COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING IMMORALITY.**

It would be well to note that Solomon has not a perfect example and much of his wisdom was learned by comparing his own mistakes and sins with the truth of God (I Kings 11:1-8). In this opening section, there are two main points Solomon wanted to communicate to his son:

**POINT #1 – How to stay away from sexual immorality. 5:1-2**

We could call these two verses the charge to understand the Word of God. It is very significant to see that the first key to living a moral, godly life is through major attention given to the Word of God. We may safely assume that when Solomon was in the depths of immorality, he **was not** in the Scriptures.

Two stated purposes in verse two for giving this kind of attention to Scripture:

**(Purpose #1)** - You may regard discretion—carefully guard a prudent craftiness.

**(Purpose #2)** - You may keep knowledge—carefully guard intelligence, not ignorance.

**POINT #2 – Why stay away from sexual immorality. 5:3-6**

Primarily the reason for staying away from sexual immorality is because even though it appears to offer a sweet and smooth relationship, it will leave you with bitter and unsmooth consequences.

Notice **verse 3** begins with a conjunction “for.” This gives a reason why there needs to be a deep understanding of the Word of God, specifically because when immoral opportunities present themselves, they will **appear** to be very pleasant, enticing and charming. It is at this very moment when the child of God needs to have the spiritual intelligence to immediately recognize the true devastating reality of such an enticement.

Every child of God should implant **verse 3** in his or her mind—immoral relationships do not start out ugly; they start out sweet and smooth and they **falsely** promise total fulfillment.

The words “adulteress” are literally the words “strange woman,” which speaks of a woman who is forbidden, a woman who is not one’s wife.

In **verses 4-6**, Solomon gives his son three good reasons for not giving in to the words of a seductress no matter how sweet she appears or how smooth she sounds:

**Reason #1** - Behind her speech is total destruction. **5:4**

The phrase “bitter as wormwood” is a metaphor that is used of several things. The word “bitter” was used: 1) It was used for something sad (Job 21:25); 2) It was used of someone who was emotionally broken to the point of weeping bitterly (Gen. 27:34); 3) It was used of terrible rebellion against God (Jer. 2:19). The word “wormwood” was used for something that was not only verb bitter, but very destructive (Jer. 23:15).

Combined together these words poetically say that behind this smooth-talking woman is destruction that will leave one sad, broken and rebellious. Sexual immorality will break you!

**Reason #2** - Behind her speech is total death. **5:5**

Taking a walk with a woman other than your wife is taking a walk on a fatal path. Immorality will zap the life out of everything—your spirituality, your family, your emotions, even your physical existence.

**Reason #3** - Behind her speech is total captivity. **5:6**

The point seems to be that the one who gives in to immorality will never know the path of life again.

Solomon wanted his son to stay far away from sexual immorality. He knew that the key was to focus completely on the Word and wisdom of God. Charles Bridges well said, “The deluded victim only tastes, or expects to taste, the honeycomb...but never is the beginning so sweet as the end is bitter.”

Stay close to the Word of God and stay far away from immorality.