

PROVERBS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Proverbs chapter 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you will see in these first 19 verses of Proverbs chapter 6 there are four specific areas that Solomon is speaking about. In Proverbs 6:1-5 he deals with how we handle our money. In Proverbs 6:6-11 he deals with how we discipline ourselves you might say and he does this by looking at the lazy person. Then in Proverbs 6:12-15 he deals with the shyster or the worthless person. And in Proverbs 6:16-19 he deals with things God hates.

From Proverbs 6:20 through Proverbs 7:27 he deals with one topic. His focus in these verses is adultery, sexual sin. And he speaks very strongly against this sexual sin and gives to us a heavy warning of not being enticed down that path. So we have a lot to cover tonight so let's begin reading in Proverbs chapter 6, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PROVERBS 6

VERSES 1-5

1. As I have said, these verses deal with how we handle our money and specifically surety or how we loan money to others or specifically co-signing their loans. Now this may seem strange when the Bible tells us that we are to help those that are in need. Yes we are but we are also not to be foolish. If you co-sign a loan you better make sure that you have the resources to pay it back if the other person doesn't pay it! That is just being wise; don't put yourself in a situation that will break you or your family.

You see, if they default on the loan you are left holding the bag and you are responsible to pay the debt that was owed, and that could even mean going into slavery to pay off the debt back then or bankruptcy today! Even the Federal Trade Commission picks up on this and on their website listen to the warning that they are giving to people.

You are being asked to guarantee this debt. Think carefully before you do. If the borrower does not pay the debt, you will have to. Be sure you can afford to pay if you have to, and that you want to accept this responsibility.

You may have to pay up to the full amount of the debt if the borrower does not pay. You may also have to pay late fees or collection costs, which increase this amount.

The creditor can collect this debt from you without first trying to collect from the borrower. The creditor can use the same collection methods against you that can be used against the borrower, such as suing you, garnishing your wages, etc. If this debt is ever in default, that fact may become a part of your credit record.

- <http://www.in.gov/dfi/2615.htm>

So the lesson is to be wise. If you want to give to someone then do so with the idea of not getting that money back. If you do that is great and if you don't, it won't bother you.

2. Solomon is also saying that if you have done this, if you have loaned someone money or co-signed a loan for someone, then get out of it quickly, don't ignore it. In fact he says "Don't even go to sleep until you have settled this matter. Break this deal, take care of it now, don't sleep on it!" I think we should be wise and listen to the warning that Solomon has given here. If you do co-sign a loan, make sure you have the resources to cover it, like I have said. Count that money as a loss or a gift to that person. And like I have said, if you get it back that is wonderful and if you don't, it won't be a burden to you!

3. And let me share this with you just to drive this point home. Some studies of certain types of lenders show that for co-signed loans that go into default, as many as three out of four co-signers are asked to repay the loan. That statistic should not surprise you. When you are asked to co-sign, you are being asked to take a risk that a professional lender will not take. The lender would not require a co-signer if the borrower met the lender's criteria for making a loan.

VERSES 6-11

1. In these verses we see Solomon comparing the tiny little ant, with his tiny little brain, to that of a man, who he calls a "**sluggard**" or a lazy person. In fact, in Proverbs 26:13-16 we see this picture of the lazy man once again as we are told, "**The lazy man says, 'There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!' As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed. The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; it wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can answer sensibly.**" In other words, the lazy man has more excuses than Carter has liver pills, for those of you who remember those little cure-all pills!

2. Now in this comparison the ant is far wiser than the lazy person. Why? Because he goes out and gathers food during the times that are good, preparing for the times he can't go out and gather food. He uses his time wisely, while the lazy person doesn't. No one has to order him around, and yet the ant does the work that is needed.

How many places of business go into a free-for-all when the boss is gone? At many places the work is put on hold. It is like the commercial several years back where the boss calls from his vacation spot telling his employees that he will be back in town in a few minutes. And they are having this grand old party until they hear this news. Now terror fills their faces and they believe they are going to get caught messing up. And then they go to the next scene which pictures the boss lying at the beach and he says, 'I just love to do that!'

We as Christians should do the work because our boss, the Lord, is the one who will be glorified by it, or His name will be put down when we don't do it.

3. Now I realize that this may seem harsh, but I don't know how else to put it. If you don't work, if you are just lazy and refuse to support yourself, then you should go hungry. No one should help you. We should not feed into your laziness. "Pastor Joe, how can you say that? That is not very Christian!" You bet it is. In fact it is Scriptural for Paul tells us this in II Thessalonians 3:10, **"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."** I think that is pretty clear!

4. I do have some bad news to tell you. This story has changed in this country regarding the ant. Let me share with you what has taken place and I hope it doesn't depress you too much. We are told,

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving. CBS, NBC and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food.

America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can it be that, in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Then a representative of the NAGB (The national association of green bugs) shows up on Nightline and charges the ant with green bias, and makes the case that the grasshopper is the victim of 30 million years of greenism.

Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when he sings "It's not easy being green." Michelle Obama makes a special guest appearance on the CBS Evening News to tell a concerned host that she will do everything she can for the grasshopper who has been denied the prosperity he deserves by those who benefited unfairly during the Bush administration. Van Jones exclaims, in an interview with Stephen Colbert, that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and calls for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share."

Finally, the EEOC drafts the “Economic Equity and Anti-Greenism Act,” retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government. Hillary gets her old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of federal hearing officers that Bill appointed . . .

The ant loses the case. . .

- <http://www.blessedquietness.com/journal/theworld/work.htm>

I told you, a very sad but true story in America. As Christians, we should not be lazy, we should not be a sluggard, but serve the Lord faithfully, work hard because, as Jesus said, “**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” Matthew 5:16. But the sluggard procrastinates and does not treat each moment that God has given him in this life as being precious and used for His glory!

5. And yes, this does apply to us as Christians like I have said. Listen to what J. Vernon McGee had to say and he does not pull any punches. He just lays it out of us to listen and receive. He wrote,

I think one of the great sins among Christians today is laziness, and many of the lazy ones can be found in full-time Christian service. All of us need to ask ourselves what we do with our spare time. Do we read the Word of God? Do we study the Word of God? I think that laziness is one of the curses of the ministry today.

A young man came to me and said, “I feel like I’m through as a preacher. I’ve been a pastor here at this place for three years, and I have run out of sermons. I feel like a dried-up well.” Of course, then he became very pious, “I’ve spent a lot of time in prayer and meditation.” Well, I asked him, “How much time do you spend in the Word of God? How much time do you spend studying it?” I couldn’t get a very definite answer from him, but he inferred that he spent less than *an hour a week* in the study of the Bible! He was a great promoter, always out doing something while the important business remained undone.

I told him, “Unless you change your ways, you ought to get out of the ministry. It is a disgrace to go to the pulpit on a Sunday morning unprepared. You should have something to say from the Word of God.” The ant has a lesson for that boy. “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.”

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, Vol. III, p. 24

VERSES 12-15

1. Solomon now speaks of the wicked person, the shyster, the worthless person. These kinds of people think they can get away with anything. They take advantage of anyone and everyone, and if they could make a profit, they would even deceive their own mother. Everything that this person does is suggestive. He “**winks with his eyes**” and this speaks of saying one thing and doing something else. They are schemers. When they speak they say things that have filthy connotations to them. And believe it or not, there are Christians who are walking down this path and in doing so they are disrespecting the Lord. Let me show you what I mean. John MacArthur tells us this,

Worldly preachers seem to go out of their way to put their carnal expertise on display - even in their sermons. In the name of connecting with “the culture” they want their people to know they have seen all the latest programs on MTV; familiarized themselves with all the key themes of “South Park”; learned the lyrics to countless tracks of gangsta rap and heavy metal music; and watched who-knows-how-many R-rated movies. They seem to know every fad top to bottom, back to front, and inside out. They’ve adopted both the style and the language of the world - including lavish use of language that used to be deemed inappropriate in polite society, much less in the pulpit. They want to fit right in with the world, and they seem to be making themselves quite comfortable there.

Mark Driscoll is one of the best-known representatives of that kind of thinking. He is a very effective communicator - a bright, witty, clever, funny, insightful, crude, profane, deliberately shocking, in-your-face kind of guy. His soteriology is exactly right, but that only makes his infatuation with the vulgar aspects of contemporary society more disturbing.

Driscoll ministers in Seattle, birthplace of “grunge” music and heart of the ever-changing subculture associated with that movement. Driscoll’s unique style and idiom might aptly be labeled “post-grunge.” His language - even in his sermons - is deliberately crude. He is so well known for using profane language that in *Blue Like Jazz* (p. 133), Donald Miller (popular author and icon of the “Emerging Church” movement, who speaks of Driscoll with the utmost admiration) nicknamed him “Mark the Cussing Pastor.”

I don't know what Driscoll's language is like in private conversation, but I listened to several of his sermons. To be fair, he didn't use the sort of four-letter expletives most people think of as cuss words - nothing that might get bleeped on broadcast television these days. Still, it would certainly be accurate to describe both his vocabulary and his subject matter at times as tasteless, indecent, crude, and utterly inappropriate for a minister of Christ. In every message I listened to, at least once he veered into territory that ought to be clearly marked off limits for the pulpit.

- <http://defendingcontending.com/2008/09/27/john-macarthur-on-mark-driscoll/>

When you have pastors and leaders in the church using crude language what kind of representative of Christ are you? Not a good one! Solomon came against those with a “**perverse mouth**” and so should we. I would be ashamed of myself if I was known as “the cursing pastor.” I want to be known as a servant of Jesus Christ and that my life, as imperfect as it is, represents Him to this world that is in darkness! You see, those kinds of words, cuss words should not come from our lips and what we say should not have any sexual connotation to it. When we speak we should speak the truth and not speak double talk!

And for those that do, they will not get away with it. The unsaved, they will be judged by God and for the saved, they will be chastened by God. God will break you one way or another of these things!

2. Now we will look at the things that God hates and yes, God does hate things! Make no mistake about it, God is a God of love, but Solomon will tell us seven things He hates. And if God hates them, so must we.

VERSES 16-19

1. As you listened to these things that the Lord hates did you notice that each one is a declaration of independence? That is exactly what they are. "I can solve that problem!" "I can rectify that situation!" And God says that He hates these things, why is that? Because instead of depending upon God we are depending upon ourselves, we are independent of God and that truly is just pride and its many manifestations in our lives!

Now do we really need to pay attention to these things? You better believe we do. If God hates these things, if they are detestable to Him, then we need to pay attention and stay clear of them.

2. Let's break these seven things that God hates down and learn from them.

- ***A PROUD LOOK*** - Pride is what caused Lucifer to fall and it is one of those areas that cause many to stumble today. Remember what David said in Psalm 131:1, "**LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.**" Have a humble spirit.
- ***LYING TONGUE*** - This is not of our Father, but from the father of lies, Satan. Whose child do you want to be? In Psalm 120:2 we read, "**Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue.**"
- ***SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD*** - Human life is sacred, we have been created by the hands of God. Thus, when you murder someone you are destroying that gift of God. Life today, in the minds of many, is very cheap, but to God it is very precious! We see this in Genesis 9:6 where we are told, "**Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.**"
- ***HEART THAT DEVISES WICKED PLANS*** - It is as Jesus said in Matthew 15:19, "**For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.**" That should not be for the Christian!

- ***FEET SWIFT IN RUNNING TO EVIL*** - The heart blazes the trail and the feet will quickly follow. It is as Isaiah 59:7-8 says, **“Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.”**
- ***FALSE WITNESS*** - Look at the courts systems today and see what a joke they are. People place their hand on the Bible and swear to tell the whole truth, and then they have no problem with lying through their teeth, being a false witness.
- ***SOWS DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN*** - Jesus said in Matthew 5:9, **“Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”** Now why is that important? The reason is simple. If there is division and strife within the body of Christ, then the enemy can easily come in and conquer. There have been church splits based upon what color to paint the church, to have a collection box at the back of the church versus taking a collection, and-so-on. People are dying every day not knowing the Lord and we are allowing these minor issues to become a major division within the body. And you know what; it all goes back to the first issue, pride!

God hates these things and so should we! They are an **“abomination to Him”** and they should be to us also!

VERSES 20-23

1. Solomon is going to be speaking of adultery and warning his son not to go down that path. It is a dangerous road to travel, but before he does speak on this issue he reminds his son to remember the lessons that he has been taught over the years, don't forsake them, hold them close to your life because they will keep you from trouble. That is exactly what we are told in Psalm 119:9-11 as the Psalmist is speaking of how we can stay pure, how we can keep from sin. Listen carefully to what he said. He wrote, **“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”** Wise words that we would do well to heed!

2. Now we can apply this today. You see, the words of godly parents are a blessing to their children if they are a reflection of what God has said in His Word. If you take the things of God and apply them to your life they will guide you wherever you go. God's Word does not restrict us but it gives us life! May we not only share the things of God with our children and grandchildren, but also the lessons that our heavenly Father has shown us by His Spirit may we learn and obey!

VERSES 24-26

1. Do you think this is a problem in America today, this **“lust[ing] after her beauty in your heart”**? It absolutely is and the commercial industry is banking on it. They are trying to seduce you with their ads and we fall prey to them. The seductress woman uses fancy words to draw you in. She flutters her eyes at you and what happens to you? You are reduced to nothing, **“a crust of bread.”** In Psalm 119:37 we are told, **“Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.”**

Don't go down that path. Turn off the television or change the channel when you are being lured in. Don't go to that web site or turn off the computer or get software that won't let you go to those seductive sites! There are things we can do, but idle time is what the Devil will use to get us to go astray. Dissatisfaction will cause us to look elsewhere. He gets in through the eye gait to our mind and has us in bondage. And in the end, you are reduced to nothing, your life is destroyed. Don't go down that path, don't listen to her or for that matter him, don't be seduced!

VERSES 27-29

1. Solomon is showing us the foolishness of some who think they can have an extramarital affair, commit adultery and it will not affect their life at all! To show the foolishness of this he speaks of taking a hot coal to your chest and thinking it won't burn or affect their clothes in any way. Of course it will! Or, if you still don't believe it then go and walk on some hot coals and when you get to the emergency room you will see that your feet have been seared, they have been burned. The same is true with adultery.

Infidelity.com reports that 57% of American men and 54% of American women admit to committing infidelity in any relationship they have been in. The same site reports that 53% of American marriages end in divorce and that 74% of men and 68% of women say they would have an affair if they knew they would never be caught. These are depressing statistics, to say the least. And 65 percent of marriages that have had an adulterous relationship end in divorce! It does affect your life, you will get burned!

Paul tells us in I Corinthians 10:12-13, **“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**

God will give us a way out and that way out is through Him, by heeding what the Holy Spirit is showing you according to the Word of God, don't go down that path, flee from the situation as Joseph did when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him! Don't be taken in because, like I have said so many times, you will get burned!

VERSES 30-31

1. Now please understand that the Bible is not saying that stealing is right, you can justify this behavior. But it is saying you can easily understand someone who steals a loaf of bread to feed himself when he is starving and even more so when he has a family. It is not right and if he is caught he will have to pay the penalty of his crime. But at least you can understand why he did it, he was starving to death.

2. Now Solomon is going to contrast the need of this man and what he did to the lust of another man and what he did!

VERSES 32-35

1. Solomon is saying that sexual sin cannot be justified and it doesn't just happen, you work towards it. Paul said in I Corinthians 6:18, **“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”** Sex outside of marriage affects your life, it eats away at your body, and you cannot get that back. It will and it has destroyed many lives, if we would only be wise and understand that.

And when you have sex with your spouse you are giving a part of yourself to that person, the two become one. Thus, when you unite with someone who is not your spouse you are giving a part of yourself to them. Think of it like this. Physical intimacy results in the merging of two spirits. We saw that in the Garden of Eden when God joined Adam and Eve together into one flesh! And that is why sex outside of marriage is so destructive. When each person inevitably goes his way, something is irretrievably lost because each person walks away with a part of the other!

2. Not only do we see that but if you start fooling around with another man's wife, **LOOK OUT!** You are not going to be able to buy them off, you will not be able to give him gifts to appease his anger, but he will seek vengeance for what you have done to him. Yes, this kind of behavior can destroy, it can kill you. Remember what we just read in Proverbs 6:27-28, "**Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?**" Of course not! Be wise and heed what God is saying!

3. What we have seen so far is the consequences of sexually immorality. Now, as we move into chapter 7 of Proverbs Solomon is going to show us the strategies of sexual temptation. And please keep in mind we are not saying that only women behave like this and try to seduce men; this goes both ways as men try to seduce women. Both apply here and both are wrong!

PROVERBS 7

VERSES 1-5

1. People wonder what we can do about this problem of immorality that is running rampant in our society today! The answer is really very simple and yet, many refuse to take heed to it. Listen again to what Solomon said in regards to what we can do regarding sexual sin and for that matter, all kinds of immorality. He tells us to, "**keep my words,**" "**treasure my commands,**" "**Keep my commands,**" "**And my law,**" "**Bind them,**" "**Write them,**" and if you do these things you will keep yourself from the immoral woman! The solution is to draw near to God and He will draw near to you!

2. Now when Solomon speaks of “**the apple of your eye**” in verse 2 he is speaking of the pupil or the center of your eye. And the instruction is clear; keep God’s Word at the center of your life. It should be the plum line that is followed, the guiding Words of our Lord to us. And as we read God’s Word, as we apply it to our lives, that truly is wisdom and it will keep us safe from what this world, what the Devil is throwing at us.

Remember what Solomon said back in Proverbs 4:20-22, “**My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.**” I think that is the problem many times in our lives. We don’t give attention to what God is saying and spiritually we become unhealthy and physically we become unhealthy. Take heed!

3. Keep in mind that the first 9 chapters of the book of Proverbs deal heavily with sexual sin. Why does he spend so much time doing that? I think the reason is that Solomon disobeyed God’s instructions. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines, which caused his heart to turn from the Lord.

He saw what sexual sin did to his father David, how it affected his children tremendously. And now Solomon is warning his sons not to follow the same path that he traveled down, don’t follow the same path that their grandfather traveled down, learn from their mistakes.

And the warning is clear, obey God’s Word, listen to what He has to say and then apply that to your life, because, if you don’t, there are plenty of evil people that will try to bring you down to their level, to follow their wicked paths. Be warned!

4. Now Solomon is going to relate to us a story that he saw take place, and in doing so he is going to use it as an object lesson for us to learn from so we won't travel down that same path.

VERSES 6-9

1. As Solomon looked out his window in the evening he saw this “**simple**” young man, a man who was “**devoid of understanding**” or he was not street smart you might say. Now this Hebrew word for “**simple**” is PETHIY, (peth-ee') and it is related to a Hebrew verb meaning “to be open.” In other words, as this person is walking down the street he is keeping his options open, he is uncommitted to anything, he is you might say “exploring life.”

So as he is restless one evening and walking down the street he passes by the corner of a woman who acted like a harlot. I get the idea he knew where she lived and he was flirting with danger you might say, he was intrigued to go and see her. He was no innocent bystander who was swept away. He went towards this woman's house, not in the light of day, but at night, so his actions would not be seen. Robert L. Alden made this insightful statement. “If you want to avoid the devil, stay away from his neighborhood. If you suspect you might be vulnerable to a particular sin, take steps to avoid it.” That does make good sense and this is something that this person did not do and when you open yourself up to something like this, you will be drawn in!

2. Let's play this out for us today. You know areas that are dangerous. Maybe it is the break room at work. Or maybe it is on the Internet. It can be anywhere but you do know where to go to find what you are looking for. And like most you think, “Hey, I can handle this. I can do this; it is not a big deal for me. I do have to explore life don't I?” You let your guard down and you are getting ready to be placed in bondage. Let's read on and see what happens here.

VERSES 10-13

1. Here was a woman who roamed all over the place looking for sexual pleasure. I don't believe that this woman is a professional prostitute. That is not what it says. It says that she had on the **"attire of a harlot."** She looked like a harlot by the way she dressed and she was **"loud and rebellious."** That just shows us where her heart was at!

Also note that she was not content at home and thus, she was out looking to fill that void in her life. She was not satisfied, she was restless, she was looking for excitement in her life but you can also see that her behavior, her sexual promiscuity did not fill that void in her life.

How do I know that? Just listen again to what is said. **"At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner."** Proverbs 7:12.

2. So this man is out looking for this woman, he knows where she lives. This woman is out looking for any man she can find and when she sees him **"she caught him and kissed him."** She knew what she wanted and when she saw him she made sure she would have him! She was out looking for someone to seduce and I get the impression, like I have said, he knew where to find her.

3. Now just in case the kiss didn't work she is going to seduce him with the words she has to say. Let's read on and see how this plays out.

VERSES 14-20

1. What bait did she use to hook him? Flattering words! Be wise to the games that are used to take us into captivity and flee them. And I hope you noticed several points she makes to try and seduce this man.

The first one really blows me away but she does use it. In Proverbs 7:14 she tells us that she had just come from the Temple after offering to God the peace offering, (Leviticus 7:11-21). In this offering part of the animal was given to God as a sacrifice, and part was eaten by you. It spoke of a fellowship, communion with God. Doesn't that sound wonderful, a godly woman!

NOT!

You see, from the Temple she goes out to have an adulterous relationship. That tells me you can go through all the motions and yet still not know God. It is as I Samuel 15:22-23 says, **“Then Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.’”**

God is not interested in the outward actions but the heart of a person. You see, if the heart is right with God, what has taken place on the inside will overflow to our actions and they will be real, not fake. Too often churches are filled with people that put on their church face on Sunday and the rest of the week they are living lives that are in rebellion towards God, their actions are distasteful to God. This woman's actions are not very different from what we see happening many times in the church today and may we examine our own hearts, our own walk with the Lord.

And let me say this ladies and I guess in the days we are living in gentlemen. If someone tells you that they love you and they love the Lord and in God's eyes you are married, this person is their soul mate and they want to have sex with you, do you know what you need to do? ***RUN AWAY!*** They don't love you they lust you and there is a big difference.

God has given us His Word and He tells us that, "**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**" Hebrews 13:4. Sex between a husband and a wife is not wrong, God has given it to us not only for procreation but to enjoy. But Satan has come and perverted that which God has given to us and now it is sex with every Tom, Dick and Harry or Harriet, whatever the case may be!

Studies have shown that the divorce rate is higher for those who have had sex prior to marriage. Let me show you what I mean. When a man is married as a virgin, his divorce rate is 63 percent lower than a non-virgin. For women, it's 76 percent lower. (Edward O. Laumann, et al., *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994), 503). Enough said!

2. Next she tells him that she came out looking for him, seeking to find him. No, she was looking for any man and he fit the bill! But flattering words can draw a person in!

3. And then she goes in for the kill shot. She talks about her bed being prepared for them. She is telling him that she wants to saturate herself with him as they make love. Sorry, make lust is the reality! Do we still really not get it! Folks, this is not love, but lust! Even back then they had it mixed up. We think today that love is the sex act; in fact we even call it "making love." That is totally wrong!

Love is not feelings but an act of your will. I am not saying that we don't have feelings for our spouse, we do. But those feelings can wax and wane but true love does not! If you truly love someone and you marry them, then the fruit that is born out of that deep commitment to each other is sex, which is beautiful. But what we have done is made love the sexual act and thus, there is no commitment to that person. It is just a fulfillment of a lustful desire.

Let me show you an example of this. Let me set the stage for what is going on here. Our story comes from II Samuel chapter 13. Here we see Absalom and his sister Tamar, born of David through his wife Maacah, and Tamar was beautiful. Also mentioned is Amnon, David's first-born son through Ahinoam the Jezreelitess. Being the first-born meant that he was next in line to the throne, but Amnon had a problem. He lusted after his half-sister Tamar and it was so bad that he was sick over it. It affected his life. Now I want you to notice that I didn't say that he was in love with her but he lusted after her and you may think that is harsh, but when you read the story, you will see why I have said that. Like his father David, Amnon wants to take something that did not belong to him!

Also involved in this story is Jonadab, who was the cousin of Amnon and both these men were wicked. It says that Jonadab was Amnon's friend, but I disagree. You see, a true friend will not lead you down a sinful path. A true friend will not encourage you to sin, and yet, that is exactly what Jonadab is doing here! Jonadab asks Amnon why he is looking so ill, and Amnon tells him that he is in love with the sister of Absalom. Why didn't he just say his own sister? Because sin, this lust is so strong that it is twisting the reality of the situation so he can continue down this path!

And Jonadab tells him that he needs to lay down on his bed and when David comes in and asks what is wrong, just tell him that you would like your sister Tamar to come in and care for you. It all sounds good until you understand that they both were plotting the rape of Tamar! How fast we respond to wicked advice and reject godly!

So we see that Amnon is refusing to eat and when King David came to see him he looked bad. And to help him feel better, get some nourishment, Amnon asked for Tamar to come and prepare a meal for him, and David sent her to him. And here is this innocent young woman who was willing to care for her brother. And as she prepares all this food for him, he still refuses to eat until he dismisses all the servants in his house. Once they are gone he tells Tamar to bring the food for him into the bedroom. What a wicked plan, and all this is being done to deceive Tamar so that he can rape her!

And when Tamar finds out what he wants to do to her she is shocked and is pleading with him not to go down this path, not to be a fool and disgrace her. He was to be the next king in Israel and this would put an end to that. These are very wise words from Tamar. She is trying to persuade Amnon to stop this before it goes any further. It is as Clarke wrote, "There is something exceedingly tender and persuasive in this speech of Tamar; but Amnon was a mere brute, and it was all lost on him."

And listen to what happens after he rapes his half-sister Tamar. In II Samuel 13:15-17, **"Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, 'Arise, be gone!' So she said to him, 'No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me.' But he would not listen to her. Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, 'Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her.'"**

Love is not turned off and on like a light switch, but lust most certainly is! And please understand that love is not just the act but it is a relationship, it is not just a feeling, it is an act of your will. And here Amnon, as soon as he is done raping her, he tosses her out in the street like a dog! He refuses to listen to her pleas to let her stay. He could still do the right thing and marry her or pay her bride-price that was compensation for the fact that she would be less likely to be married since she was no longer a virgin. That is a tragic story that happens even today!

Regarding sexual relations outside the marriage relationship, Smith tells us, “Let me give a friendly, fatherly, tip unto all of you young girls, who may be in the position of Tamar, in that you have some fellow who is really pressing hard to have sex with you. He is the soul of kindness. He is very attentive. He calls all the time. He opens the door for you. He brings you flowers, but he’s pushing hard for a sexual relationship. Don’t give in. If you really love him, make him wait until you’re married. If he really loves you, he will. Over, and over, time and again, the fellow will press and press until he has taken you to bed, and that’s the last you see or hear from him. You’re no longer a challenge. He’s conquered, and he’s off for new conquests. If you really love him and want him, make him wait. If you really love God, and love yourself, make him wait.”

And let me also say this. I understand that in high school there is a lot of pressure to have sexual relations, but listen carefully to what I have to say. Girls want to have sexual relations with boys because they think that will solidify their relationship. Boys want to have sex with girls because they want to have sex with girls. And girls, please understand that once you have sex with a boy, within a few weeks those relationships have dissolved away and you have given a piece of yourself away. God has what is best and if it is true love, understand that **TRUE LOVE WAITS!**

4. Not only that but this woman here is a married woman whose husband is out of town on a business trip, and she cannot control her fleshly desires and is looking for sex all over town, with anyone she can find. And the world calls that healthy?

5. How is he going to respond to this seduction? Let's read on and see!

VERSES 21-23

1. Notice that he was hooked by her words; he was drawn into her seduction! He lost control and went after her! Make no mistake about it; the body appetite is a monster that can never be satisfied. And that is exactly what we are seeing here, a man who is out of control engaging in sex with a woman who is out of control.

2. He, like many people today, did not consider the consequences of his actions. That it would eat away at his life. In Genesis 2:17 God warned Adam about sin as He said, **“but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

In the Hebrew that can be translated, “dying you shall surely die.” Adam did not immediately die, but the death process began in his life at the moment he sinned. And yes, spiritually speaking he had died, the communion he had with God was separated by sin now!

And what I want you to see is that as we start down this path it will kill us spiritually, emotionally we will be devastated, and in the end it will kill us. Paul warned Timothy to, **“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”** II Timothy 2:22.

3. Listen to this and you will see how sex outside of marriage will affect you. We are told,

In the 1960s gonorrhea and syphilis seemed to be the only well known STDs, and both of these could be treated with penicillin. Today there are over twenty-five different STDs, and some of the most common ones are without cures. Among the STDs that can be cured, some are becoming increasingly resistant to modern antibiotics.

Most people who have an STD are unaware of their infection and contagious state. This should especially alarm young people, because of the nineteen million new STD infections each year, nearly half of them are among people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the direct medical cost associated with STDs in the United States is \$14.1 billion each year!

Some of the most common STDs include HPV, chlamydia, herpes, gonorrhea, and trichomoniasis. The four STDs that are incurable are HPV, HIV, herpes, and hepatitis . . . All of the others can be cured.

When considering the potential impact of STDs, we should remember the words of former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop: “When you have sex with someone, you are having sex with everyone they have had sex with for the last ten years, and everyone they and their partners have had sex with for the last ten years.”

Further, people can get tested for STDs, be told that they are clean, and then transmit dormant STDs the tests did not detect. Most tests today pick up the majority of the infections they are testing for. The problem is that many people believe they have been tested for all STDs when, in reality, they have been tested for only a few.

- <http://chastity.com/chastity-qa/stds/infections/how-many-stds-are-there/how-many>

VERSES 24-27

1. You can see the heart of Solomon here as he is warning his children to avoid this path that leads to Hell! And I think we can also see God calling for us to pay attention to His warning. Our heavenly Father is telling us that this kind of lifestyle will destroy you. I'm not sure how kids today came up with this, but it is irritating to hear. You tell them what you expect, warn them that what they are doing is wrong, and they respond by saying, "Whatever!"

I think we do that with God many times. We may not say those words, but we think that He is not speaking to us, or we are above what He has to say, it won't affect our lives, and in a sense, we are saying to our heavenly Father. "Whatever!"

We are doing what Jeremiah 32:33 says, "**And they have turned to Me the back, and not the face; though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction.**"

We need to listen, we need to turn to Him because the enticement is all around us and if we are not looking to Him we will be looking where we should not be! Remember what Solomon said in regards to what we can do regarding sexual sin and for that matter, all kinds of immorality. He tells us to, "**keep my words,**" "**treasure my commands,**" "**Keep my commands,**" "**And my law,**" "**Bind them,**" "**Write them,**" and if you do these things you will keep yourself from the immoral woman! The solution is to draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

That is what Paul is saying to us in II Timothy 3:16-17, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” God’s Word is profitable to us if we read it and then apply it to our lives! We are to allow Scripture to correct us, God’s Word to instruct us in our daily walk with Him. Very wise words for us to listen and apply to our lives especially in this area of sexual sin which is at epidemic proportions today, even in the church!