WINNING THE BATTLE FOR THE HOME

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

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Winning the Battle for the Home

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 5:27-28, Proverbs 5
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1676

The home is the fabric of our society, and we are at a crisis point. It is a matter of moral purity and the sanctity of the home. Our enemy knows that if he can destroy the home, he can dominate our society.

Proverbs 5 identifies five factors for the maintenance of sexual purity and building a strong family, so we can win the battle for the home.

- **The Instruction Factor**

Proverbs 5:1-2 says, "My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge." Families often fail due to a lack of wisdom, discretion, and understanding. Our only hope for true wisdom is turning our ears to God's instruction. He has given us a book—His Word.

- **The Deception Factor**

We must beware of Satan's snares. Proverbs 5:3-4 says, "For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword." In the moment, immorality seems so good, but it's mere frivolity, flattery, and vitality.

Adrian Rogers says, "Sin fascinates and then it assassinates; it thrills and then it kills."

- **The Protection Factor**

Proverbs 5:8 says, "Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house..."

We aren't told to fight off sexual immorality... we're told to flee and stay away from it. We must be careful with what we put in our minds and what comes out of our mouths.

- **The Destruction Factor**

There are deadly consequences of immorality: dissipating our reputations, bodily disease, and disappointment in what we actually get from it. We could also face public disgrace, and sin having dominion over us. If we don't break the chains of sin and repent, it can lead to moral, spiritual, and eternal death.

- **The Intention Factor**

God wants us to enjoy lasting and loving marriages, but the only way to have that is if we do it His way. It is crucial that we pursue purity and win the battle for our homes.

Life Application

Are you living a life of immorality? Understand that God loves you and wants what's best for you. He has the power to deliver you from your sin if you will repent from it and flee from immorality.

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) Matthew 5:27-28
   b) We are in a crisis today.
      i) A crisis that deals with the matter of moral purity and the sanctity of the home.
      ii) Ezra 9:6
         (1) We have become a generation of unblushables.
   c) When we talk about sexual morals, we are talking about something that is at war against the basic unit, the fabric of our society.
   d) God built the home before He instituted government and before He built the church.
   e) God's plan is one man for one woman until death do them part in a monogamous marriage.
      i) Genesis 2:24
      ii) This is why the Lord Jesus Christ clearly said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
         (1) Matthew 5:27
   f) The devil has aimed all the artillery of Hell against our families and our homes.
      i) The devil knows that if he can hurt us at home, then he can hurt us all over.
   g) Satan's plan has always been the following:
      i) To deny God to a mere superstition.
      ii) Once he has denied God, he wants to debase man and make man a mere animal.
      iii) If there is no God and man is the product of blind evolution, then you deny morals.
         (1) There is no fixed standard of right and wrong.
      iv) After you deny morals, you destroy the home.
      v) After you destroy the home, you dominate society.
         (1) Satan is well on his way.
   h) Nothing tears at the fabric of society any more than sexual immorality and moral impurity.
      i) It has been said that at the top of the list of reasons for the rise and fall of the Roman Empire was the breakdown of the home through sexual and moral impurity.
      ii) It is a known sociological fact that those who treat sex lightly will treat other human beings lightly.
   i) Today's message will share five factors that will help us to build and maintain moral purity; thereby, building strong families.

2) THE INSTRUCTION FACTOR: LEARN GODLY WISDOM (PROVERBS 5:1-2)
   a) Proverbs 5:1-2
      i) This passage is in the context of sexual purity.
   b) We often hear the statement, "What you don't know can't hurt you."
      i) But what you don't know may kill you.

c) We have families that are failing primarily for a lack of wisdom, discretion, understanding, and knowledge.
d) Where are we going to learn?
   i) Proverbs 5:1
      (1) We are to bow our ear to God's understanding.
   ii) God has a way; God has a plan.
e) Proverbs 6:32-33
   i) This passage says, frankly, that immorality is stupid.
f) We need to be instructed; we need to learn.
g) We need to teach in our churches today.
   i) Social engineers have taken the Bible out of schools.
   ii) Sex education, birth control, and abortion without parental consent have been put into schools.
   iii) The Ten Commandments have been taken down from the walls, and policemen have been put in the halls.
h) God has given us a book, an instruction manual, which is the Bible.
i) We need to learn godly wisdom.
   i) Proverbs 5:1-2

3) THE DECEPTION FACTOR: BEWARE OF SATAN'S SNARES (PROVERBS 5:3-6)

a) Proverbs 5:3-6
   i) This passage talks about satanic deception.
      (1) He is speaking here about the ways of Satan to ruin our lives.
   ii) He talks about an immoral woman.
b) Satan is too clever to go fishing without any bait on his hook.
   i) Like many fishermen, Satan first deceives with an allurement.
   ii) Then, comes entrapment and enslavement.
c) Satan's fatal trap:
   i) Frivolity
      (1) Proverbs 5:3
         (a) Her lips are sweeter than honey.
         (b) The sweetness just flows out.
      (2) Immorality to many people seems good.
         (a) They wonder how anything so wonderful could be wrong.
         (b) Proverbs 20:17
      (3) There is this fun, this rush, and this thrill.
   ii) Flattery
      (1) Proverbs 5:3
         (a) She knows how to give him the "come hither".
      (2) Many people are susceptible to flattery.
         (a) A little flattery makes big fools of little people.
      (3) This is the reason we need a quiet time.

(a) In the morning, we need to spend time with God.
(b) Proverbs 6:23-24
(c) There is nothing that will protect you more from immorality than to load up in the morning with the Word of God.
(i) Go out of your house with the Word of God in your heart.

iii) Vitality
(1) Proverbs 5:4-5
(2) This sin has deadly power.
(a) There is nothing that is more destructive.
(3) Sin fascinates, and then it assassinates.
(a) It thrills, then it kills.
(4) Sin brings death.
(a) Death to youth, joy, purity, happiness, death to the home, spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death.

4) THE PROTECTION FACTOR: AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS (PROVERBS 5:7-8)

a) Proverbs 5:7-8
b) Oswald Chambers once said that an unguarded strength is a double weakness.
i) 1 Corinthians 10:12
c) Sexual immorality is not a sin that we are told to fight; it is a sin that we are told to flee.
i) Proverbs 5:8
(1) Don't even walk past her house.
ii) 2 Timothy 2:22
iii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
(1) Flee fornication.
(2) Flee youthful lust.
d) 1 Corinthians 10:13
i) Often the way to escape is two legs, the highway, and a hard run.
(1) Just get out of there.
(2) Saturate that place with your absence.
(a) You don't have to hang around those kinds of places.
(b) You don't have to look at that kind of literature.
(c) You don't have to go to those kinds of movies.
e) Joseph was a holy man, and Potiphar's wife wanted to seduce him.
i) Genesis 39:7-12
ii) When Joseph realized what was happening, he fled the room.
iii) Joseph didn't begin to fight this temptation; he fled.
(1) 2 Timothy 2:22
f) There is a motto that says, "He who would not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places."
i) Flee fornication.
(1) Don't even come near her house.
g) Rules for business people, ministers, deacons, and others to avoid dangerous situations:

i) Never visit the opposite sex alone at their home.
ii) Never counsel the opposite sex alone in your office.
(1) Counsel when someone is next door, and keep the door slightly ajar.
iii) Never go to lunch alone with the opposite sex.
iv) Never discuss detailed sexual problems with the opposite sex.
v) Don't playfully or good-naturedly flirt with the opposite sex.
(1) It plants a seed in the mind that Satan wants to water and cultivate.
vi) Don't call the waitress "Sweetheart" or "Dear".
(1) Save those words for your wife.
vii) Be careful what you put in your mind.
(1) Matthew 5:28

5) THE DESTRUCTION FACTOR: CONSIDER THE DEADLY CONSEQUENCES (PROVERBS 5:8-14, 22-23)
a) There are consequences to immorality.
b) There is dissipation.
i) Proverbs 5:8-10
ii) Sin is costly.
(1) Sin does not pay; it costs.
c) There is disease.
i) Proverbs 5:11
ii) There are sexually transmitted diseases.
d) There is disappointment.
i) Proverbs 5:12-13
(1) The Living Bible translates it as, "Oh, if I had only listened. Why wouldn't I take advice?"
ii) People say that this is what liberates, but it doesn't liberate.
(1) There are some places that have an open society.
(a) They are liberated sexually, but they have a high suicide rate.
iii) Satan offers high wages, but he pays in counterfeit money.
(1) You get what you want, and you are not going to want what you get.
e) There is disgrace.
i) Proverbs 5:14
(1) The Living Bible says, "For now, I must face public disgrace."
ii) You can only hide it so long.
(1) One of these days, God will expose you.
(a) If not here, then at the final judgment.
(i) Luke 12:2
(2) You may be hiding it now, but sooner or later, it will be made known.
(3) If you don't want this known, then repent of it and be done with it.
f) There is dominion.
i) Proverbs 5:22
ii) There is no other sin that enslaves like the sin of immorality.
(1) A person is entrapped by this sin.

iii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
iv) There is bondage with this sin.
(1) Proverbs 5:22
(2) The very chain that he forged is the very chain that will bind him.

g) There is death.
i) Proverbs 5:23
ii) There is moral death.
iii) There is spiritual death.
iv) There is eternal death.
v) The warm flames of lust will turn to the fiery flames of Hell.
vi) 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
(1) "Effeminate" means homosexuals.
(2) The Bible says that if these things are your lifestyle, then you do not know the grace of God and cannot call yourself a child of God; you have no hope of Heaven unless you repent and turn from that sin.
(a) What about once saved always saved?
(i) Someone who is saved cannot live this way with no conviction, no compunction, and no remorse.
(3) God will forgive, but you cannot hold onto this sin with one hand and hold onto God with the other hand.
(a) It cannot be done.

6) THE INTENTION FACTOR: ENJOY GOD'S BEST (PROVERBS 5:18-19, 22)

a) We need to understand what God's intention is for us.
b) A lasting marriage
i) Proverbs 5:18
ii) God's best is one man for one woman until death do them part.
c) A loving marriage
i) Proverbs 5:19
ii) Don't get the idea that if you live according to God's law, then you are going to miss out.
(1) If you don't live according to God's law, then you are going to miss out.
(2) Kids talk today about going all the way, but that is one thing that they don't do.
(a) They don't know the fulfillment and joy of a monogamous marriage.
iii) God's laws are for our welfare.
(1) God is not some tyrant sitting in Heaven making a bunch of laws and trying to make us squirm while keeping those laws.
(2) God loves you.
(3) Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," God is simply saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
(4) Every time God says, "Thou shalt," God is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
(5) God is not trying to keep sex from you; He is trying to keep sex for you.
(a) God says to flee fornication because He has something wonderful for you.
(i) God wants you to have a lasting and loving marriage.

(b) Keep yourself pure, and save yourself for the one you will marry.
(6) Live by God's laws, and you will be wise.

d) A liberating marriage
i) Proverbs 5:22 will not be true about you.
(1) You will not be bound by this.
ii) You are free to be all that God wants you to be.

7) CONCLUSION

a) Is there hope if you have not kept God's laws?
i) Romans 5:20
ii) If you have committed sin, then confess it, and God will cleanse you.
(1) 1 John 1:9
(2) You can be pure.

b) If you are living a life of immorality or contemplating that life, then get the instruction manual and learn God's way.
i) Learn why the wisest and best man who ever lived (the Lord Jesus, who was more than a man but was God Himself) said the words in Matthew 5:25-28.

c) The Lord Jesus keeps coming back to the heart, and that is what we need.
i) We need a new heart, that comes by receiving Him.

d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
i) Romans 3:23
ii) Romans 10:9-10
iii) Romans 10:13
iv) Acts 16:31
v) John 3:16

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Take God's Word, and turn to Matthew chapter 5 would you please? We're continuing our series, "Building on the Rock", as we're studying the Sermon on the Mount. And last week you were, you will remember that we talked about that it is what is on the inside that counts. Our Lord looks past the act, and our Lord looks right on the heart, and He deals with the attitude and today that is so clear. Matthew chapter 5, we're going to read verses 27 and 28. The title of our message today is, "Winning the Battle for the Home".

A war has been waged on America's homes and we are at a crisis point, and never have I dealt with a more pertinent Scripture, than the Scripture we have today. Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." In his heart. We are in a crisis in America today. A crisis that deals with the matter of moral purity and the sanctity of the home. And I don't mind telling you that my heart is broken. It seems as though a sewer pipe has broken and is spewing filth all over God-blessed America. And I was thinking yesterday about that passage of Scripture in Ezra chapter 9 and verse 6, where Ezra, "Oh my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to Thee, my God: for our iniquities have increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens." Ezra said, "Oh God, I am ashamed to even to look into Your face because of the sin of my nation." He said, "Oh my God, I blush." Thank God that he could blush. Many people in America have become a generation of unblushables.

When I'm talking about sexual morals, I'm not just talking to you about a thing of niceties. I'm not just talking to you about a matter of manners. I'm not just talking to you about something that deals with taste. I am talking to you about something that is at war against the basic unit, the fabric of our society. God built the home before he instituted government, and before he built the church, and God's plan is one man for one woman until death do them part, in a monogamous marriage. And the Bible says in Genesis chapter 2 and verse 24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." My dear friend, that is God's eternal plan. And that's why the Lord Jesus Christ clearly said without equivocation, stutter, or stammer, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

But the devil, the devil, has aimed the artillery of Hell against your family, against your home, against my family, against our homes, because the devil knows that if he can hurt us at home, he can hurt us all over. Satan's plan has always been number one, to deny God; that's to a mere superstition. And once he has denied God, he wants to be deb, debase man and make man a mere animal. And if there is no God, and if man is the product of blind evolution, it follows one, two, three: you deny God, you debase man, then my dear friend, you deny morals. There is no fixed standard of right and wrong. And after you have done that, you destroy the home. And after you have done that, you dominate society, and Satan is well on his way. Nothing tears at the fabric of society anymore than sexual immorality. Moral impurity.

Gibbins, who wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" and gave those reasons for the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, put at the very top of his list of reasons, the breakdown of the home through sexual and moral impurity. It is a known sociological fact that those who treat sex lightly will treat other human beings lightly.

With that in mind, having looked at this passage here in Matthew chapter 5, I want you to go now to the Old Testament, and I want you to turn to the book of Proverbs. And in the book of Proverbs, I want to give you five factors, five factors, that will help you to build and maintain moral purity and to keep your home as it ought to be. And I want every teenager here to open his or her Bible to Proverbs chapter 5. And I pray God that the Holy Spirit will emblazon these truths upon your heart, will etch them into your consciousness and cause them to reverberate through your soul. Here are five factors for the maintenance of sexual purity, and therefore the building of a strong family. Five things that I want you to remember. I want every father to write these things down. I want every mother to remember these things. I want every teenager to listen carefully.

Number one, you need to remember **the instruction factor**, the instruction factor, and learn godly wisdom. Look in Proverbs chapter 5 verses 1 and 2, "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: that thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge." Now, all of this is in the context of sexual purity. We often hear the statement "What you don't know can't hurt you." Very frankly, that's stupid. What you don't know may kill you. And we have families that are failing primarily for a lack of wisdom, discretion, understanding, and knowledge.

And where my dear friend, are we going to learn? Are we going to learn at the university from the professor of sociology, who teaches humanistic hogwash in the halls of higher learning? Are we going to learn for the rantings of the baby butchers, called Planned Parenthood? Is that where we're going to learn? Where are we going to learn? Are we going to learn from the money grabbing moguls of dirt for profit in Hollywood? Where are we going to learn? Are these the ones who are going to teach us? Where are we going to learn? God is saying here in Proverbs verse 1 that we are to bow our ear to God's understanding. God has a way, God has a plan.

Listen to Proverbs chapter 6 and verse 32 and 33, Turn to that and look at it, "But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding." Do you know what that says? It says my dear friend that immorality is stupid. And if that hurts your feelings, you come up to me after the service and apologize and I'll forgive you. "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding." You just simply do not know. "He that doeth it destroyeth his, his own soul. A wound and dishonor shall he get and his reproach shall not be wiped away."

Now the very first thing my dear friend is the instruction factor. You need to be instructed, you need to learn. And we need to teach in our churches today with no uncertain sound. We have social engineers today who put the Bible out of school. They put sex education in, condoms and birth control and abortion without parental consent into school. We've taken the Ten Commandments down from the walls and put policemen in the halls. Where are we going to learn? My dear friend, God has given us a book, God has given us an instruction manual. And the very first factor my dear friend, is the instruction fact. We need to learn Godly wisdom. Proverbs 5 verses 1 and 2, "My son, attend unto my wisdom and bow down thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard dis, discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge." And so the very first factor is the instruction factor, you need to learn Godly wisdom.

The second factor that you need to be aware of is **the deception factor,** just the opposite of the instruction factor. Remember the deception factor and beware of Satan's snares. Now continue to read in Proverbs 5:3 through 6, "For the lips of the strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on Hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, that thou canst not know them." And here he's talking about satanic deception. He's talking here about the ways of Satan to ruin your

life. And he talks about a immoral woman. Satan is too clever to go fishing without any bait on his hook. And so like any fisherman, Satan dis, deceives first of all with allurement, and then entrapment, and then enslavement.

Now notice what Satan does, notice his fatal trap. Look at, first of all in Proverbs 5 verse 3, "For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb." Now, what's he talking about there? Her lips are sweeter than honey. Old honey lips, that's her name, that's what we call her. The, the sweetness just flows out. I mean, it seems so wonderful. Immorality to so many people seems so good. I was talking to a man and he said to me as he was living this kind, kind of a life. He said, "How could anything so wonderful as this be wrong?" The Bible says in Proverbs 20:17, "The bread of deceit is sweet; but afterward a man's mouth shall be filled with gravel." First of all, there's this, this **frivolity**, this, this fun, this rush, this thrill. Here she is, she's honey lips.

And then not only is there that frivolity, there's that **flattery.** Look if you willing the last part of Proverbs 5 verse 3, "Her mouth is smoother than oil." She knows how to give him the come hither. And of course if Solomon had been talking to a daughter he would talk about the man and his line. The flattery, many people are very susceptible to flattery. A little flattery now and then makes big fools of little men. This is the reason that you need a quiet time. This is the reason that in the morning you need to spend time with God mister, before you go to work. Look if you will in Proverbs 6 verse 23 and 24, look at it, "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: to keep thee from the evil woman, and from the flattery of the tongue of the strange woman." There is nothing sir that will protect you more from immorality, from the flirtation of that woman that works next to you, than to load up in the morning early with the Word of God. To go out of your house with the Word of God in your heart. Listen to it again, "For the commandment is a lamp; and, and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: to keep thee from the evil woman, and from the flattery of the tongue of the strange woman."

Now every now and then we hear about some man, sometimes even a minister, a preacher, or somebody who fell, and they say, "Oh isn't that terrible." Maybe a deacon, maybe a church worker. They say, "Isn't that terrible. Look how far he fell." Well friend you may not know how low he was living. He didn't fall that far. He had failed to keep himself in the Word of God and to be loading up and storing up the Word of God.

First of all there's that frivolity, ol honey lips. Then there's that flattery, her mouth is smoother than oil. But there is that **vitality.** Look in Proverbs 5 verses 4 and 5, "But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword, her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on Hell." What a deadly power this sin has. Nothing is more destructive. Sin fascinates and then it assassinates. It thrills and then it kills. "Her steps take hold on Hell." It brings death. Death to youth, joy, purity, happiness, death to the home, spiritual death, physical death, eternal death.

Oh my dear friend, there is the instruction factor; learn Godly wisdom. There is the deception factor; beware of devilish snares. Here's the third factor. It is **the protection factor** and avoid dangerous situations. Proverbs chapter 5 verses 7 and 8, look at it, "Here me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house." I hope that every young man in this congregation has underlined that right now in his Bible. You say, "Well I don't think that I have to worry about that." My dear friend, Oswald Chambers has said a long time ago, "An unguarded strength is a double weakness." Did you hear that? I want every deacon to listen to me. I want every Godly teacher listening to me by television, remember this, "An unguarded strength is a double weakness. And the Bible says in First Corinthians 10 verse 12, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Now this sexual immorality, this is not a sin that we're told to fight. It's a sin that we're told to flee.

Look in Proverbs 5 verse 8, "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house." Don't even walk past her house. Let me give you some other verses to put into your margin. Second Timothy chapter 2 and verse 22, "Flee also youthful lusts." Flee, the Bible says. Be a coward. Again, First Corinthians 6 verse 18, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Flee fornication. Flee youthful lust. Don't even come near her house. The Bible, in First Corinthians 10:13 says to, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man. And God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation make a way to escape." And my dear friend, often the way to escape is two legs, the kings highway, and a hard run. You just get out of there. You saturate that place with your absence. You don't, you don't hang around those kind of places. You don't hang around that kind of literature. You don't go to those kind of movies. You don't do it. You just simply don't do it.

Joseph, in the Bible, was a holy man. There was a woman who wanted to seduce Joseph. It was Mrs. Potiphar, Potiphar's wife. Joseph was like a servant in the house. Mrs. Potiphar tried to entice Joseph to come to bed with her. And Joseph, when he realized what was happening, he began to leave the room. She reached out and took hold of his garment. And he, he left his coat there and fled. And he's still holy, he's still pure. Now some people might laugh at him and call him Holy Joe, but he is holy; I thank God for that. I know some stupid people, and yes I'm going to use the word stupid, some of them who call themselves Christian counselors and pastors and leaders and so forth who would have said, "Now Mrs. Potiphar, you ought not act this way. Let's you and I kneel down by the bed and pray about this." Joseph didn't do that. Joseph did not begin to fight this temptation, he fled. "Flee youthful lusts."

I know what the temptation of the flesh is; I'm a man. But I thank God that I went to the marriage altar a virgin. When I was in college, I had this motto on my desk. "He who would not fall down not ought to walk in slippery places." Flee, flee fornication. That's what the Bible says. The Bible says don't even come near her desk, or don't even come near her house. Don't even come near that company; just get away.

Let me give you men, business men, ministers, deacons, and others, some rules. Never visit the opposite sex alone at their home. Don't do it. Never counsel with the opposite sex alone in your office. If you do that counseling, your secretary's next door, the door is slightly ajar. Never go to lunch alone with the opposite sex; there's no reason to do it, you don't have to do it, don't do it. Never discuss sexually detailed problems or detailed sexual problems with the opposite sex. Don't playfully or good-naturedly flirt with the opposite sex. Don't say little cute things like, "Why don't you leave that guy your married to and come run away with me?" You may think it's funny, but my dear friend it plants a seed in the mind that Satan wants to water and cultivate. You don't have to call that waitress sweetheart. Call your wife sweetheart. You don't have to call that waitress darling or dear. Save those words for your wife. Be careful what you put in your mind.

As a matter of fact, the next message is going to be how to deal with the thought life. We're going to be dealing with immorality and, and pornography and all of this and how to keep your thought life pure. For Jesus Christ said in Matthew 5:28, "Whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." And were going to talk about how to handle lust. And that will be the next message, I don't even have time to get it all into this message today. But my dear friend, you remember the instruction factor, you remember the deception factor, remember the protection factor, just simply keep your, give a wide birth to this; flee fornication.

And then in order to help you to do that, you need to remember **the destruction factor,** the destruction factor, and consider the deadly consequences. What are the consequences of immorality? Why does God say that it is stupid? You say, "It's the in thing to do." God says it is stupid. You lack understanding. Let me give you some reasons. Well, first of all, there's **dissipation**, look if you will in Proverbs chapter 5 verses 9 and 10,

he says, “Don’t come near the door of her house: lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel. Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger.” Now sin, is costly. Sin does not pay; it costs. I think of a man in this city that I knew and loved well; was a dear friend, professional man. He had one of the most beautiful homes in this city, one of the finest families in this city. He professed to be a Christian, but he worked side by side with a beautiful woman, and before long those threads of flirtation began to be woven into a cord, and then a chain of bondage. And this man got into deep sin and immorality. It broke my heart to stand by to do all that I could do, but I could not stop this man. Today, that man has lost his business. Today that man has lost his family. Today that man has lost his home. Today that man has lost his reputation. He has lost his children. Somebody else are calling those children daddy. It breaks my heart. I know of ministers who bought a tombstone for their ministry, and I know of businessmen who have absolutely ruined their career. What a colossal waste. That’s what God is saying first of all, there is dissipation. Proverbs 5 verse 9, “You give honor unto others and your years unto the cruel.”

But not only is there dissipation, there is **disease**. Look if you will now in Proverbs 5 verse 11, “And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed.” You’re saying is AIDS the judgment of God? My dear friend it is the consequence of sin. It’s the consequence of sin. You say, “Does everybody who have, who has AIDS or is everybody a sinner? Of course not. Is every child that’s killed by a drunken driver guilty of drunkenness? Of course not. Of course not. But my dear friend I have an announcement and I would to God I could get on ABC, CBS, and NBC, and CNN and tell the world I have the answer to the AIDS epidemic. I have the answer, I, Adrian Rogers, I have the answer. And you guys in the laboratory and you guys at the White House and all of you social engineers, I have the answer. Just live by this book. That’s it. I mean they are running around saying, “What is the answer, what is the answer?” I’ll tell you the answer! One man for one woman, till death do them part. That’s the answer. You say, “Well that’s too simple.” Yes, but it is God’s Word, and God says, “And you will mourn at the last when your flesh and your body are consumed.” Have these high powered drugs and yet we’re in a sexually transmitted disease epidemic that’s ten times greater than it was a few years ago.

First of all, there’s dissipation. Secondly, there is disease. Thirdly there is **disappointment.** Look if you will in Proverbs 5 verses 12 through 13, “And you’ll say ‘How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!’” One of these days, there’ll be some of you sitting in this place today who say, “Why didn’t I listen to the pastor? Why did I not listen to the Word of God?” My dear friend, you were going to be so disappointed. You’re going to live the life, you’re going to say this is the way to joy, this is the way to happiness, this is the way to fulfilment, but it is not. The living Bible translates this verse this way, “Oh if I had only listened, why wouldn’t I take advice?” People say this is what liberates. It doesn’t liberate. Sweden has an open society. They have been liberated sexually, but no nation has a higher suicide rate than Sweden does. Satan offers high wages, but he pays in counterfeit money. And there is that disappointment. You get what you want, and you’re not going to want what you get.

And then number four, there’s **disgrace**. Look if you will in Proverbs chapter 5 and verse 14, “I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.” What does that mean in plain English? The Living Bible says, “For now I must face public disgrace.” You can only hide it so long. One of these days, sir, God is going to expose you. One of these days, young lady, your sin is going to be made known. If not here, at the final judgment, for Luke chapter 12 and verse 2 says, “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” What a disgrace that’s going to be. Your wife, your children, your parents, your pastor, your friends will know. You will not be able to hide this sin. You may be hiding it now, but sooner or later it will be made known. That’s what verse 14 is talking about. I remember reading about a

newspaper that had this motto, "If you don't want it printed, don't let it happen." My dear friend, if you do not want this known, then repent of it, and be done with it, or never get into it. Because there is that disgrace.

And then number five. Not only is there that disgrace, there's that **dominion**. Look if you will in Proverbs 5 verse 22. And he goes on to say, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sin." I don't know of any other sin that enslaves like the sin of immorality. There is a dominion, there is a person who is held, is entrapped by this sin.

I have in my counseling dealt with those who have been living a life of immorality. I would sit down and pray and I would say, "Son, do you see this is wrong?" I'm thinking of one fine young man that I dealt with. "Son, do you see this is wrong?" "Yes sir." "Do you realize that God loves you?" "Yes sir." "Do you know that God wants the best for you?" "Yes." "Don't you want the best for your wife and children?" "Yes I do." "Don't you think that, that, that, that God has the power to deliver you?" "Yes sir, I do." "Don't you want to repent of this sin and go and make it right with your wife and ask her to forgive you and let me counsel with her and see if we can get?" "Yes sir I do, I do." We get on our knees, he cries, he weeps, he prays, he, he says, "Oh God, I want You to forgive me, I want You to cleanse me, I want You to help me." He leaves the office and I lift my hands to God and say, "Oh thank you God. Praise the Lord. Thank you for another victory."

And then two or three months later, I here he's back with that same woman. Back living in that sin and finally that home is broken. My heart is crushed. I say, "Oh God, oh God, we prayed, oh God, he, he said he wanted help." But I think of the chains, the bondage of this sin. I'm not saying there is no help. And I'm not saying you cannot set yourself free. But I'm telling you my dear friend, every other sin that a man commits is without the body. He that commits adultery, sins and fornication, sins against his own body. And there is a bondage there.

The tyrant of Syracuse one time called the blacksmith and said to the blacksmith, "I want to see your art. Would you bring your bellows, would you bring your anvil, would you bring your forge, would you bring your molten metal? I want to see you make a chain." And so the blacksmith there before the tyrant made a chain. When he finished he said, "There sire. There's the chain, there is the work of my art. That chain is so strong that a team of horses attached to either end would not be able to break it." Then the tyrant of Syracuse and a maniacal laugh and in his inherent cruelty said, "Guards! Bind the blacksmith in the chain and throw him in the dungeon." And so it is that men are chained with the very chain that they have forged on the anvil of a hard heart, and the bellows of their lust, as they have disobeyed a holy God. And the Bible says in Proverbs 5:22, my dear friend, there is that dominion of this sin. "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." The very chain that he has forged is the very chain that will bind him.

But not only is there dominion, there is **death**. Look if you will in Proverbs 5 verse 23, "He shall die without instruction." There is moral death, there is spiritual death, and there is eternal death. And the warm flames of lust will turn to the fiery flames of Hell. Do you think that you can live this way and strut into Heaven? I am telling you my dear friend you are going to go straight to Hell. Listen to First Corinthians chapter 6 and verses 9 and 10, "Know ye not that the unrighteousness shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate," that means homosexuals, "nor abusers of themselves with mankind shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven." God says that. I didn't say that. If you want to argue about it, don't come to me after the service. You take First Corinthians chapter 6 and verse 9, and you read it to God and you say, "God you're wrong!" But my dear friend, God is not wrong. If that's your lifestyle, if that's the way that you're living, you do not know the grace of God, you have no right to call yourself a child of God. And you have no hope of Heaven, unless you're willing to repent and turn from that sin.

You say, "What about once saved, always saved?" My dear friend, if you were saved and you lived that way, God would take you to the wood shed and beat the living daylights out of you. You wouldn't be sitting smiling and saying, "What a wonderful life I am living." My dear friend, listen, either you are headed for the wood shed, of you are headed for Hell, but you are not headed for Heaven if you can live that way with no conviction, no compunction, no remorse. You do not know the God of this Bible. And, and, and God says, "Hey, don't kid yourself. Don't be deceived. People who live this way are not going to Heaven." You say, "Can't God forgive?" Of course God will forgive. But my dear friend, you cannot hold onto this sin with on hand and hold onto God with the other hand; it cannot be done. Remember the destruction factor. What is it? Dissipation, disease, disappointment, disgrace, dominion, and death. That's what God says right here.

Now here's the fifth and final factor that I want you to remember. The fifth and final factor is **the intention factor**, the intention factor, and enjoy God's best. Understand what God has for you. What is God's intention for you? Well, number one, it is **a lasting marriage**. Look in Proverbs chapter 5 and verse 18, "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth." What is God's best? God's best is one man for one woman till death do them part. I rejoice with the God of my youth. I love my wife. I thank God for my darling wife. I would not trade our Christian home for anything on Earth. Sometimes I teasingly say to Joyce, "If you ever leave me, I'm going with you." My dear friend listen, she's mine, she's mine to keep and I'm hers to keep. What a lasting marriage the Bible says here. "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth." The same wife that you had as a young man.

Not only is it a lasting marriage, God's best intention is **a loving marriage**. Look in Proverbs 5 verse 19, "Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant row; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love." Oh my dear friend, listen, listen don't get the idea that if you, if you live, if you live according to God's law, you are going to miss out. The problem is if you don't live according to God's law you're going to miss out. These kids talking about going all the way, that's the one thing they don't do. They don't go all the way, they don't know the fulfillment, the joy of a monogamous marriage. The ravishing love that comes by one man committed to one woman until death do them part.

Don't you know that God's laws are for your welfare? God is not some tyrant sitting up there in, in Heaven making a bunch of laws, trying to make you squirm like a worm in hot ashes trying to keep those laws. God loves you. God's laws are for your welfare. And every time God says, "Thou shalt not," God just simply says, "Don't hurt yourself." And every time God says, "Thou shalt," God is saying, "Help yourself to happiness." And God is not trying to keep sex from you; He's trying to keep sex for you. It is God's wonderful gift. And that's the reason God says, "Thou shall not commit adultery." That's the reason God says, "Flee fornication." Because God has something so wonderful for you. And God wants you to, my dear friend, to have a lasting marriage. And God wants you to have a loving marriage. Kids, listen to me, young people, listen to me, keep yourself pure. Save yourself for the one you're going to marry. You say, "Well, everybody else is doing it." Let them do it; you be different. Hmm. God has something wonderful for you, you eat your cake now, and you'll have a crummy tomorrow. You live by God's laws, you'll be wise, you'll be wise.

What is God's best: a lasting marriage, a loving marriage, **a liberating marriage**. Proverbs 5 verse 22 will not be true about you, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins." You see, you're not bound by this; you're free! Free to be all that God wants you to be. Free to be all that you ought to be. You say, "Well, Pastor Rogers, I've already failed. Is there hope for me?" Absolutely! Oh, my dear friend, Romans 5 verse 20, "Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound." If you've committed sin, confess it and God will cleanse you. The Bible says in First John 1:9, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us, and to cleanse us, and to cleanse us from all," not some, but, "all unrighteousness." Thank God, you can be pure.

But if, my dear friend, you living a life of immorality or contemplating that life, I beg you, I beg you, I warn you, save yourself from the heartache, the humiliation, the destruction that comes. And in the name of all that is good, and holy, and wise, get out the instruction manual, learn God's way. Learn why the wisest and the best man that ever lived, the Lord Jesus, who was more than man, who was God Himself, said in Matthew chapter 5 verses 27 and 28, "You've heard it said of old time, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery', but I say unto you, that whosoever looketh upon a women to lust after her, hath committeth adultery with her already in his heart." You see, the Lord Jesus, He just keeps on coming back to the heart. And that's what we need, is a new heart, and that comes by receiving Him.

Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. No one stirring, just bow your head right now, right now. While heads are bowed and eyes are closed, I want you to pray for your home, would you do it? No one stirring, no one moving, just pray for your home. Say, "God, protect my home." Pray for your husband or pray for your wife. Pray for your children. Maybe your children are babies, just pray that God will keep them pure and God will raise up someone pure for them to marry. Maybe you have a teenager today, and you're so concerned because of what's happening in society. You know the best thing that you can do for that teenager is to be a godly man, a godly woman. To live and love and set an example so that you can teach and not just point a finger.

Now, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, if you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."

2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38133 | (901) 382-7900