

E. There is no leading astray here.

Chesterton: *“Some stupid people started the idea that because women obviously back up their own people through everything, therefore women are blind and do not see anything. They can hardly have known any women. The same women who are ready to defend their men through thick and thin are... almost morbidly lucid about the thinness of his excuses or the thickness of his head. A man’s friend likes him but leaves him as he is: his wife loves him and is always trying to turn him into somebody else.... Love is not blind; that is the last thing that it is.”* (Orthodoxy)

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- To this point in Proverbs the father has not brought up marriage to the son. Why do you think he has waited this long?
- Why do you think that the kind of woman a man chooses to build a relationship with will have a greater effect on his life than even the teaching of his mother and father?
- How do vs. 21-23 show us that God places the responsibility for the man's life squarely on his shoulders, not the woman's?
- What does it mean to say, “Sex is holy,” or, “Sex is tied to worship”? What evidence do we see of this in culture or Scripture?
- Is the danger of the strange woman merely that she might lead the son in to sin, or is something greater in view too? Explain.
- If we understand the water sources consistently as the wife in 5:15-19, what does that tell us of the husband's responsibility to his wife and to their relationship? What do we see here of the intentions of God for sexuality inside of marriage?
- What kind of man or woman is this text calling you to be?

Now it is Time to Find a Wife: *Choose Wisely*

Jerry Cisar — April 26, 2015

Text: Proverbs 5

Introduction

- A. Choose wisely.
- B. Sex is tied to worship.
 - i. The church has always held that sex is holy—set apart to God. To the world, sex is anything but holy.
 - ii. A great irony: The Christian who regards sex as holy knows he must never worship sex, but only God. The world, who mocks the idea of sex being holy is consumed by sex to the point of worship.
- C. Proverbs 5 is not just about who we are *not* to have sex with when we are married, but also about *who* we are to marry and why.

I. Worship and the Strange Woman (5:1-14)

- A. The danger of the strange woman is her ability to lead the son into apostasy.
 - i. Adulterous? Forbidden? Strange? (5:3, 10, 17, 20)
 - ii. The **stranger** of Proverbs 5 has a long and storied past in Israelite history.
 - a) Unauthorized person; foreigner
 - b) Genesis 28:1; Ezra 10

c) Wrong-marriage led to wrong-worship!

➤ Deuteronomy 7:3-4

➤ 1 Kings 11:1-9

➤ 1 Kings 16:30-32

B. The son must choose a godly wife who will have a dramatic impact on his discipleship for good, not ill.

i. 1-5: contrast between *the father's instruction and voice* and *the woman's lips and speech*; the *wisdom* that comes from *the father's mouth* vs. the *deception* flowing from *the strange woman's mouth*.

ii. 7: the effect of listening to the ungodly woman is to depart from the words that come from the father.

iii. 13-14 This son has forsaken the covenant teaching he has received and is on the verge of being cut-off from the people of God.

II. The Danger of the Strange Woman (5:1-14)

A. The Path on which this Woman Walks

i. 4-6 The strange woman is not on the path of wisdom.

ii. Compare 5:6 and 4:19

B. The Ghost of Christmas Future

i. *"in the end"*

a) Job 42:12 *the latter part of Job's life*

b) Psalm 73:17 *final destiny*.

c) Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*

ii. 9-14 describe the **aftereffect** of this relationship.

a) Psalm 54:3; 109:11

b) Vs 11-14 the groaning, the regret, expressed on the lips of the son... in the future.

c) This son who is now laboring in *"the house of strangers"* (10) is now on the verge of being cut off from the community of faith (14).

III. Get Intoxicated with the Wife of Your Youth (5:15-23)

A. What are cistern, flowing water, springs, streams, fountain?

i. *Source of water* (compare Song of Solomon 4:12-15)

ii. The use of animals to represent romantic ideas.

B. The *wife of his youth* would have been a woman from within the community.

C. The husband's responsibility to his godly wife.

i. A mutual responsibility.

Ray Ortlund Jr. *"Keep your hands off every other woman; keep your hands on your wife."*

ii. You need to lay down your own life to pursue your wife caringly and lovingly for a consistent, loving intimacy.

iii. In vs 18 the husband's fountain being blessed is his wife who is blessed. Then their relationship is blessed as they find great joy together.

D. How much joy is available in marriage? (19)

Waltke: *"The father admonishes that inhibitions be left behind in the marriage bed."*

Fox: *"The term connotes no disapproval here, but perhaps it bears a slightly 'naughty' overtone by suggestions of straying' deliciously dazed in the ecstasies of lovemaking."*