

Get Smart: A Study in Proverbs

Study 6: Marriage and Sexuality

Proverbs has a very positive view of marriage. Remembering that the book takes the perspective of a father speaking to a son, it is not surprising that in the book we see marriage from the husbands perspective. As such we see material on the blessings of a good wife and also the grief caused by a bad wife.

The Blessing of a Good Wife:

- Proverbs 5:18-19 *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.*
- Proverbs 12:4 *A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.*
- Proverbs 18:22 *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*
- Proverbs 19:14 *Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.*
- Proverbs 31:10-31 *A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ...30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised....*

The Quarrelsome Wife:

- Proverbs 19:13 *A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.*
- Proverbs 21:9 *Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*

The Unloving Husband:

- Proverbs 30:21-23 *“Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: 22 a servant who becomes king, a fool who is full of food, 23 an unloved woman who is married, and a maidservant who displaces her mistress.*

Sexuality

The book of Proverbs has much to say about sexuality. It is filled with warnings about the dangers of adultery, but there is also much said about the importance of enjoying one's spouse. Keep in mind that the book of Proverbs is mostly written from the perspective of a father speaking to his son. Therefore, most of the advice comes from a male perspective.

Proverbs 2:16-19 *It [wisdom] will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, 17 who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God. 18 For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. 19 None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.*

Proverbs 6:23-29 *For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, 24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? 29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.*

See also Proverbs 5:1-23, 7:1-27, 22:14, 23:26-28, 30:20

Jealousy

Proverbs 6:32-35 *But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. 33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away; 34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. 35 He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse the bribe, however great it is.*

Proverbs 27:4 *Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

Enjoy Your Spouse

Proverbs 5:15-20

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?