

# 8 – *Still Standing* // “Hebrew Delight” // Proverbs 30:18–20; Proverbs 5:15–19

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(Hangover service. For all you that stay out late on Sat night and need Jesus.) **SEND RDU!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> to last week on Proverbs!** Last two weeks talking about another very prominent theme in Proverbs: sex. **Proverbs is written to a young man... no talk to a young man would be complete without the sex talk.**

- Good reminder: Parents... You need to have a talk.
- As a parent, I’m getting sympathetic to how difficult this must be. My girls are not at an age where we really have to get into all this yet, but I feel like meaningful conversations already are pretty difficult. They don’t always turn out like I planned. We were all eating dinner together and having a great meaningful conversation and I was instructing our family on the ways of God and Kharis said, “Do you think Jesus...” and she paused, and, for a brief minute I was... “what’s she going to say?” Something like, “Daddy...do you think Jesus loves us even when we’re bad? Do you think Jesus will let me be a missionary one day?” She says... “Daddy, do you think Jesus... ever passes gas?” I can only think that if that’s the difficulty I’m having now, what it’s going to be like trying to have meaningful conversations about you know what 10 years from now.
- But my point is that we just can’t let our kids learn about sex from 17 magazine and Brittany oops I did it again Spears... BTW, your kids are getting it.
- Get this: 70 percent of all shows on television included some sexual content, averaging about five sex scenes per hour; When your kid graduates from high school, he will have seen no less than 14,000 depictions of and references to sex. (Now you say, “Yeah, but a lot of those are warning him about the dangers of pregnancy, why to use birth control, why they should abstain from sex.” That’s only 165 of the total of 14,000).
- Last year our country spent \$12 billion on pornography; to put that in perspective, we spent \$10 Bill on foreign aid. I been waiting on a presidential candidate to say this: if we really want to help the people in Darfur, we should take the money we spend as a nation on porn and give it away. This is scary: the porn industry markets to 12–13 year olds. They say it only takes 3 days to become an addict. And they know if they can get you hooked as a 13 year old, you’re hooked for life.
- You stand in the line at the supermarket and you’re inundated it: Of the 4 magazines in the supermarket aisle there were 7 articles on sex. (Should you really be looking that? No, I’m a godly pastor; I made Heather my assistant go do it). 17 magazine has articles about sex. BTW, 17 is not written for 17 year old girls... it’s marketed to 11

year old girls who want to be 17.

- My point: You parents must have this conversation, because this conversation is happening whether you want it to or not. If you're kids are thirsty for info on sex, the toilet seat of our culture is always up.
- Well, if you have been reading Proverbs, a chapter a day, with your family, like we asked you to, you would have talked about this about twice a week already with your kids. A great reason to read the Bible together.

**We're going to look at sex for the next 2 weeks... Today**, Solomon is going to deal with 2 cultural myths... People have a tendency, whether in 1000BC when Solomon lived or 2000AD when we lived to both **undervalue and overvalue sex. It's remarkable how people don't change. So**, let's look at how our culture undervalues sex.

***1a. Our secular culture undervalues sex by reducing it to simple physical pleasure (Prov 30:18–20)***

- You feel hungry, you eat. You have sexual desire, you have sex. Sure, we recognize that there are some emotional dimensions to sex, and sex often gets complicated and messy... but, at the end of the day it's mainly just pleasure and if both people are consenting and you use good protection, it is fairly harmless.

***Proverbs 30:18–20*** *Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand:*

- Wonderful: (pa-law) incomprehensible, mysterious. It's even one of the names given to Jesus Christ. He's talking about something mysterious, even divine

*19* *the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a virgin.*

- Points to 3 things, then 4 that are mysterious, beautiful, breathtaking things... watching an eagle soar, a ship glides across the seas; and a serpent, without legs, navigate effortlessly a rock face... 3 things that are unmanageable... the air, the sea, and a mountain face... but for each of these there is a mysterious creature that is able to move effortlessly across it, becoming one with it and being held up by it. And more mysterious and wonderful than all of them is a man and woman in sexual intercourse. Sexual: he uses the word "virgin" and secondly the word "with" in Hebrew really should be translated "in." The mystery of sexual intercourse: The woman is as impossible to navigate as the air, the sea or a rock face. Yet, the bird soars through the sky; the ship sails across the ocean; the serpent glides effortlessly up the rock face; they fit together and sustain each other like a hand in a glove; and what is happening between a man and a woman in sex is no less wonderful or mysterious.

Compare that to the jarring 5<sup>th</sup> image of the next verse, vs. 20: *20* *This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, "I have done no wrong."*

- Extramarital sex, by contrast, is like sloppy eating. This woman, the adulteress,

looks at it her sex like it's just consumption... I had an appetite, I ate. After I'm done, I "wipe my mouth" and it leaves no real traces.

- For her, sex is not mystery—it is commodity; consumption, or gratification.

But God created sex as none of these. Sex is not simply consumption, commodity, or gratification; it is (as Tim Keller says) donation... a component of the complete fusion of souls. It is radical, unconditional, and deeply personal, and it is to be accompanied by union in every other way. When you get married, what you are saying is "I am taking all of you: your future. Your past. Your problems. Your finances. Your debts. All of it: our lives, from here on out, are one. Sex within marriage is becoming one body in the context of total oneness.

When you have sex outside of marriage, you are separating the oneness of the body from the oneness of everything else. You are saying to the person, "I don't really yet want all of you yet... at least I'm not willing to commit to all of you yet. I just want your body."

Some of you may say, "I'm having sex, and I'm not married. But I love them, and I do want all of them." Then why haven't you gotten married yet? I'm not saying you don't love them or are not on some level committed to them, but admit that you haven't given yourself to them yet. You and I both know that as committed as you feel today, you retain the right to walk at any minute. **C. S. Lewis had a great analogy for this:** the guy who wants to have sex with a girl without marrying her feels about the girl the way the bulimic feels about food. The bulimic loves the taste of food, it brings pleasure and comfort to her, but she doesn't want to carry around the calories and fat of the food in her body so she tastes it, and then vomits it back out. That's what the guy is doing. I love the taste of you, but I don't want all of you yet, so we'll have sex but I won't fully unite with you.

**Our culture undervalues sex by failing to see it as the completing, mysterious fusion of souls.** Well, so, so sex is better in marriage. But what's the big deal? **Woody Allen:** "*Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go, it's one of the best.*" Or the Bloodhound Gang: you and me baby ain't nothing but mammals...

That's just it; we're not just mammals. We are made in the image of God, and there is a beautiful, divine fusion of souls happening in sex. And when you have sex outside of a fusion of lives, you are doing damage to the soul. **Take prostitution...** why is prostitution so harmful to a girl? It's because she's taking a piece of her soul and putting it up for sale. She's commodifying herself. Let me ask you this: *Is there really any difference in a girl yielding up her body for \$200 and one yielding up her body for the companionship and attention of a guy?* Not really, it's just the price is different. She's still just giving sex for something she'll get in return. Payment is payment whether it's \$200 bucks left on the table or companionship because you're lonely. You're tearing your soul. **Horcruxes.**

“This all sounds like some mumbo jumbo Christians say.” One of the things that has been interesting to watch in our culture is how many of the proponents of the sexual liberation, free sex movement in the 60’s around Woodstock... have changed over the years. One of the senior editors of *Look* magazine, George Leonard, who had been very outspoken about free sex in the 60’s, came out with a book not too long ago called *The End of Sex*, in which he says “*I see now that every game has its rules. I was a proponent of sexual liberation but now I see that sex has rules, and unless you play by the rules, sex can create a depth of loneliness like nothing else can.*”

1b. Our first point dealt with more of the secular culture, this point speaks more to the religious...

**1b. Our religious culture undervalues sex by failing to see it as a gift of God to be relished and celebrated (Prov 5:15–19)**

A lot of religious people are kind of embarrassed about it. “Let’s don’t talk about it; when we do we’ll try and discourage it; let’s certainly don’t celebrate it.” Solomon flies right in the face of this: **Proverbs 5:15-19** – <sup>15</sup>*Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.* Cistern: powerful image of female sexuality. <sup>16</sup>*Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?* <sup>17</sup>*Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you.* <sup>18</sup>*Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth,* springs, fountain: not hard to see, male sexuality <sup>19</sup>*a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.* (Play with her breasts like they’re your pets; let your sex be so erotic that you feel drunk. I see some guys for the first time underlining stuff in their Bible. Back cover. “Man this book is relevant!”)

- Here’s what’s amazing about this: this was so counter-cultural when Solomon wrote it... The Hebrews didn’t really see romantic sex as one of the main purposes for marriage. Marriage for them was much more functional. Marriage was an asset... it helped you establish a homestead; you could produce children to help with work, to pass on the family name. Lot of purposes for family, but erotic, inebriating sex was not really one of them.
- Our culture is a lot different but you can still find this kind of attitude among a lot of religious people. Our culture has Victorian roots: I read the other day that proper English people would cover the legs of tables lest a man see the legs of the table and lust. (If you look at the legs of a table and lust, you should call 911 immediately).
  - A lot of Christians back through the years back through the years have talked about sex like it was dirty or shameful.
  - Church father **Jerome**: ‘Anyone who is too passionate a lover with his own wife has become an adulterer’... **Even my hero Martin Luther** said “intercourse is never without sin” though he did add “God mercifully excuses it by his grace.”
  - The Catholic Church saw sexual desire, even in marriage, as harmful to

spirituality. So, over the centuries they established days you shouldn't have sex on: Never on Thursdays, the day of Christ's arrest; on Fridays, the day of his death; on Saturdays, in honor of the blessed Virgin; and on Sundays in honor of the departed saints (some of you women are writing this down). Then there were holidays, and fast days... by the time you get through the list. If you take them all, there were only 42 days the church said you could have sex on.

- Totally opposite of the perspective given here: *There are 3 incredible words about sex here you should memorize:*
  - (5:19) *"Intoxicating"*: So enjoyable you feel drunk.
  - (5:18) *"Blessed"*: In sex you are experiencing God's goodness; physical pleasure translates into spiritual worship as you sense God's goodness in every nerve and you know that you don't deserve one minute of it.
  - (5:18) *Lifelong*: "Rejoice in the wife of your youth..." When he says, "wife of your youth," what he's saying is that you should enjoy intoxicating sex with the same woman, without getting bored, for many years. This means that good sex is not just for the young and the promiscuous; the best sex God intends for lifelong, monogamous relationships.
- I've got something here you are not going to believe. **National Health and Social Life Council** completed the most extensive survey of American's sex lives ever. They found:
  - Sexually active singles have the most sexual problems and get the least pleasure out of sex.
  - Married couples by far reported the happiest satisfaction with their sex lives.
  - Men with the most progressive attitudes about sex are 75% more likely to fail to satisfy their partners.
  - The most sexually satisfied demographic group is that of married couples between fifty and fifty-nine! (Shudder)
- One of the questions the Univ of Chicago asked was what religious denominations have the best sex? They said, and I quote, *"We learned that the faithful don't do all their shouting in church."* Conservative Protestant women were by far the ones who enjoyed sex the most. You say, "How are you supposed to know something like that?" Well... you know... Conservative Protestant women were 5 points higher than the closest competitor, who were the Roman Catholics. They were 10 points higher than the non-religious. And, the study found if you're a Unitarian, you might as well be celibate. I heard Danny Akin, president of Southeastern, say this: Based on the statistics, if you are really interested in the best sex possible, you should "find you a born-again babe and keep her around until she's 50 because that's when the best sex happens!"
- *So, some of you were wondering how sex fit into the theme of "still standing..." Now you know.*

A lot of people undervalue sex by not seeing it as a blessing, intoxicating gift of God to be relished and celebrated in marriage.

Before I move to our next point... let me just apply this real quick, especially to the men. If this is what you desire, and I know you do, you're going to have to work at it.

- Guys, they are not like us. You guys: any place, any time. No prep necessary. I've given you a comparison before to guys being like **bottle rockets and girls being like Diesel engines**. Bottle rockets: easy to light, but bang and it's over. Girls, on the other hand, are like diesel engines: ever have a diesel car...? I did, I loved it. They're kind of hard to get started, especially when it's cold, but after you get her running she'll run for hours.
- Got to work at it.
- Kevin Leman says in *Sheet Music*, "The best way to improve your sex life, including your wife's desire for you, is to focus on the other 95% of your marriage and build that up."
- C. J. Mahaney says in *Sex, Romance and the Glory of God*, "Before you touch her body, touch her heart and her soul."
- Guys: write those books down and read them.

**That's how we undervalue sex. Now, let's look at how we overvalue it.** (I first heard Tim Keller explain this...)

## **2. We believe that good sex and physical beauty are indispensable to the good life... and so are to be obtained at all costs.**

Here's a great verse... Solomon at his finest: **Proverbs 11:22**, "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion."

- Here you have a gold ring... Problem is it is attached to hog. Now, say you got a guy who sees that gold ring and says, "Man... I'd really like that ring." So he takes it... but when he takes it into his house and tries to put it in his jewelry case, only then does he notice that it's got a big stinky pig hanging off the other end. You say "Now, what idiot would do that?" Solomon says "that's the guy who thinks that physical beauty is the only thing that matters and would do anything to possess it."
- There are things that determine real beauty much more than physical shape. But some people value can't see that. They prize physical beauty above everything. They think, "***I've got to have it... I don't care what it's attached to. I need physical beauty.***"
- Examples of where this shows up **for men**:
  - Guy in his 50's who leaves his lifelong wife for a younger, sexier woman. What's happening? He is thinking, "At all costs, I have to have beauty." He's driven by it.
  - Guys that are obsessed with how hot the girl is they're dating. Ever get around a guy who will only want to date a perfect 10's? What's really weird is

when the guy is himself is not that good looking? (I've had at least a couple friends like that in the past. "What about so and so... you guys seem to have a lot in common?" "I just don't find her attractive." "Bro, you're not that hot.") You know what this guy's problem is? He so prizes physical beauty... he's got to have it, and couldn't imagine being happy not possessing it.

- One more: Some guys really struggle with porn or one night stands with prostitutes... what are they craving? Beauty. I've got to have beauty, I don't care what is attached to it.
- That's how men overvalue beauty: Here how this shows up **for women**: Some women think physical beauty is so important that they become willing to do anything to have it (because they think only beautiful girls have real value)
- So a lot of girls will do some pretty **destructive things** to their bodies to try and look good. Anorexia and bulimia are usually built on the assumption that only physically beautiful girls have more value than others. I can't have value unless I am a certain shape and size.
- Older women... go through these ridiculous surgeries... trying to restore beauty.
- **A lot of women stay depressed as they age.**
- **A lot of girls are constantly comparing themselves to others... struggle with jealousy.** A lot of you girls **can't be friends** w/ girls that are prettier than you are. You act a good game, but inwardly you're all...
- **A lot of girls are so obsessed with physical beauty that they dress provocatively...** to try to show off their beauty. I used to think girls were just naïve as to the fact that guys think about sex all the time, and that's why they dressed so provocatively because they didn't know. Then my wife told me, **"No, they know. They like to be noticed."** (My wife totally called you girls out)
- Example: Girls that wear those little short shorts which is bad enough but then they write stuff on their butts. I want to say, "Why on earth do you want me reading your butt? Why on earth do you want my eyes looking down there anyway?" I feel like it's one of those "featured items" on a menu...
- Some of you girls walk in here and I feel like we ought to turn down the lights and start going...
- A lot of you girls wear these little shrink wrapped clothes...you look like one of those little packages of beef jerky where the plastic sucks up around the beef and reveals every contour. Then you complain that a guy treats you like a sex object! Look, if you don't want to be treated like meat, don't dress like meat.
- "Well, it's not my fault if the guy thinks about sex." I know. It's his fault if he strikes the match, but you don't have to put twigs at his feet and douse them with gasoline.
- Guys, I don't want to let you off the hook... you ogle girls that dress sexually and don't ever really show any appreciation for your sisters who are trying, as difficult as it is in this culture, to dress modestly. You wouldn't believe how difficult it is for a girl to

dress modestly and stylishly. The two are almost mutually exclusive. Try going to the mall and finding a pair of shorts that's stylish and modest. You can help some of these girls just by telling them how much you appreciate their modesty. Don't be sketchy with this: "Hey... you don't look near as skanky as you did last week." Or, "I'm not tempted to lust at all when you wear that." ... No, I mean tell her how much you appreciate the care she takes. Don't glorify skankily dressed girls.

### ***What does Proverbs say the wise person does? How do you not overvalue sexuality?***

**1. Realize that physical beauty is only a small component of real beauty and prize real beauty.**

- Prov 31 gives you a description of the wife who is a blessing from God and whose worth is beyond that of gold or diamonds... read the chapter, it doesn't talk about physical beauty at all!
- Not saying it is totally unimportant... (I explained that before)... just that there is so much more real beauty than physical shapes. **Prov 31:30** "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."
- I remember the first time I saw the girl who is now my wife... I thought she was physically beautiful. Breathtaking. But I also remember I watched her worship. When she led worship, she made me want to repent. I remember our first real talk... what we both liked and disliked about Calvinism. (cold chills) I thought was so sexy... I was totally hooked. Interested in people. Supported me.
- Now here we are... she's had 3 kids and is pregnant with our 4<sup>th</sup>. She told me inbetween our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> that things she never thought would happen to her body are starting to happen... after our 3<sup>rd</sup> child she worked and worked to get her body back down to her original weight...and she finally did it, and she came in depressed and says, "I weigh the same but my old clothes don't fit any more." Why? "Things have moved." She's still smokin' hot. But when I look at her now, I see a body that she has in some ways sacrificed to give me three children. She can't devote herself all day long to pampering her body because she is taking care of me and my girls. That makes her more beautiful to me than the day I met her. (Oh man, there is nothing as beautiful as a beautiful spirit. Because in the midst of tragedy, I know that she'll be there—she's the one I want in the death of a child. When I get old and my hair falls out, I know she'll be there!... Oh yes, after that little piece on my wife, you can be sure I'll be applying this message tonight.
- Guys: if you're smart, look for that in a wife... not just for... a pair of legs.

**2. Understand that you are being driven by a craving for real beauty**

- We all have a need for beauty in our lives. The guy that gets hooked on porn; the guy that leaves his wife; the guy that can only date really hot girls, is held captive by a need for beauty. Solomon says this:



- **(one slide): ( Proverbs 6:23** *For the commandment is... the way of life,* <sup>24</sup>*to preserve you from... the smooth tongue of the adulteress.)* <sup>25</sup> *Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes...* Don't be captured by her beauty. Some people are held captive by this need for beauty... It's like they can't say no! They have to have beauty so they go to porn. They have to have beauty so they leave their wife. It takes us over. ***How can we keep from being captured?***
- This is the Bible's remedy: **You must be captured by a greater beauty.** Proverbs' presents the path of sin and the way of God as being like 2 women. You're going to be captured by one or the other. The only way to avoid being captured by the beauty of sin is to be enraptured by the greater beauty of God.
- ***To overcome the power of sin in your life you need a greater beauty. That beauty is found in vs. 23, the way of life. That beauty is found in Jesus Christ... in Christ you see that God, who was beauty itself, died to make you beautiful.*** You are made beautiful by the fact that you are treasured by Him, loved by Him... now you possess all of Him. Being possessed by His beauty drives out your need for lesser beauties.

## Conclusion/Summary

### 1. Wise people realize that sex is a wonderful gift of God, and so they obey His instructions for it

- This is God's world... He designed it... and you disobey His instructions, life falls apart. But I have desires... feels so right? So? I have lots of desires that are not good for me. Sometimes I desire to eat unhealthily. Sometimes my heart tells me to lie, to cheat... to ram the guy's car in front of me. Decision you must make: *Am I going to be led by DESIRE OR DESIGN?*
- Proverbs says, *"There is a way that seems right to a man but the ends are the ways of death."*
- And one more thing... Proverbs says not only will you destroy yourself through sin, one day you have to answer to God: <sup>29</sup>*...none who touches (the adulteress) will go unpunished.* Guys: I know that some of you find my reasoning unmoving. You will answer to God for how you treated some of these girls. I think about what I would do to a guy who took advantage of my daughter. What about the Heavenly Father?
- ***At the end of the day, we obey God because He's God.***

### 2. Wise people realize that sex (and physical beauty) are not God, and so do not worship it

- Sex and romance are probably the two biggest idols of our culture that leave more people damaged and disappointed than any other.
- The Gospel probably hits us hardest at our sexuality. This is where most of you have expressed your rebellion and unbelief. I don't trust God's ways, I've got to do things my way to find happiness. And you have have looked for, in vain, in sex what you really can find only in God. Absolute, unconditional, washing,

cleansing, freeing, satisfying love. That is found only in the arms of the Creator who loved and died for you, not in the arms of another human being. The beauty you crave is Christ. The incredible thing is He is ready to receive you. He is what you were created for!

**Some of you say... I have messed up SO MUCH sexually...**

- White garment.
- **At one of the last scenes in the book of Revelation**, called “the marriage feastreception” says that all of Jesus’ people are dressed in white robes. These robes, however, don’t represent our purity but Jesus’ forgiveness of us. Though we were sinful, and our sins were like scarlet, Jesus’ blood has washed us white as snow.

**You can be forgiven, cleansed of your sins today. Bow your heads...** Jesus, I know that I have sinned in this area. But I believe that you can and will forgive me and wash me clean in your blood. And, if you’ve never received Christ as Lord and Savior, say, “Jesus, today I want to give you my life. All of it. And I need you to save me, forgive me, take me to heaven. I give myself to you right now. In Jesus name...” God, what an incredible gift you’ve given in sex; what a more incredible gift you’ve given us in Jesus. We don’t deserve either. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Alrightxxx... Last week I ended by saying, “Well, you know what to do...” same here. We have AWANA starting... a built in date night. Drop your kids off and go apply this message.

**To do:** Search Keller; Power of New Affection, and Song of Solomon sermons

**Possible endings:** Leah and Rachel; neither do I condemn you; 'but I don't feel pure.

## Bullpen:

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**Proverbs 2:16–18** It will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, <sup>17</sup> who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God. <sup>18</sup> For her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead.

- Forsake God and life itself
- Loss of relationship... all for pleasure?

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, <sup>24</sup> *to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.* <sup>25</sup> *Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes...* <sup>27</sup> *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?* <sup>28</sup> *Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?* <sup>29</sup> *So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.*

- Natural punishments... Vv. 27–29 Image of fire

Proverbs 5:20-23 – <sup>20</sup> Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? <sup>21</sup> For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. <sup>22</sup> The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. <sup>23</sup> He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.

- Perverts... takes over you. you get to where you can't repent of it.
- If you can control this, God releases dynamite.

Prov 6:

- Smooth tongue... overpromises
- Vs. 25: do not desire her beauty in your heart; do not let her capture you with her eyelashes...

When you have beauty... you are not held captive

**Proverbs 25:28:** A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

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- Need pleasure above all things, and that beautiful women are the key to that.
- Promises a great relationship... Don't just have sex with anyone... right person at right time.
- Perverts the relationship
- And so we don't really think about the bad consequences of sin:
- Woody Allen: "Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go, it's one of the best".
- To husbands [Jerome] declared, 'Anyone who is too passionate a lover with his own wife is himself an adulterer.'... "In the succeeding centuries church authorities issued edicts forbidding sex on Thursdays, the day of Christ's arrest; on Fridays, the day of his death; on Saturdays, in honor of the blessed Virgin; and on Sundays in honor of the departed saints. Wednesdays sometimes made the list too, as did the 42-day fast periods before Easter, Christmas, and Pentecost, and also feast day and days of the apostles, as well as the days of female impurity. The list escalated until, as John Boswell has estimated, only 42 days a year remained available for marital sex."
- **National Health and Social Life Council** completed the most extensive survey of American's sex lives ever. They found:
  - Sexually active singles have the most sexual problems and get the least pleasure out of sex.
  - Married couples by far reported the happiest satisfaction with their sex lives.
  - Men with the most progressive attitudes about sex are seventy-five percent more likely to fail to satisfy their partners.
  - The most sexually satisfied demographic group is that of married couples between fifty and fifty-nine!
  - One of the questions was what religious denominations have the best sex? "We learned that the faithful don't do all their shouting in church." Conservative Protestant women were by far the ones who enjoy sex the most. You say, "How are you supposed to know something like that?" Well, you know... Conservative Protestant women were 5 points higher than the closest competitor, who were the Roman Catholics. They were 10 points higher than the non-religious. And, the study found, if you're a Unitarian, you might as well be celibate. I heard Danny Akin, president of SEBTS, say this. Based on the statistics, if you are really interested in the best sex

possible, you should “find you a born-again babe and keep her around until she’s 50 because that’s when the best sex happens!”

- More in depth? Last year did Song of Solomon on this. Go to our site, front page, and you can link to them. This would be one of the few good ways to use the internet for sex.
- “If this sermon lasts longer than 4 hours, please see your doctor.”
- Most satisfied with their sex life is married Christian women over 50.
  
- Redbook had 2 this week, and Cosmopolitan had 2, including “50 Sex Tricks;” “The ‘Dirty Sex’ Rule Happy Couples Swear By;” Even Good Housekeeping couldn’t stay out of the fray: article about good sex at 50.
  - Redbook: “Is your sex life normal?”
  - Redbook: “What Men Can’t Say About Love (plus...psst, their secret sex signals)
  - Good Housekeeping: “Be Your Happiest at 30, 40, 50+...what gets better (sex), what gets tougher (sit-ups) and what makes life sweeter...”
  - Self: “Sexier Sex Tonight; Helloooo Satisfaction!

Proverbs 5:1-14 – <sup>1</sup> My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, <sup>2</sup>that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, <sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. <sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; <sup>6</sup>she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. <sup>7</sup>And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. <sup>8</sup>Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, <sup>9</sup>lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, <sup>10</sup>lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, <sup>11</sup>and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, <sup>12</sup>and you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! <sup>13</sup>I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. <sup>14</sup> I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation."

- Starts with words
- We underestimate sex’s destructive power
  
- and you worship and thank Him for it. Found great stuff on this from no less than John Piper...
  - *We sense the echoes of God’s goodness in every nerve... and physical music transposes itself into spiritual music of praise.*

- *Sex teaches us to love like Jesus by learning to take our greatest pleasure in our wife's pleasure; we learn that we can double our joy by wrapping up our pleasure in hers (that's good stuff)*

- *Then, we give thanks to God because we know that we don't deserve 1 minute of this erotic goodness.*

\\((Sex without marriage takes a piece of your soul and divides it... **Kind of like the horcruxes in Harry Potter**... great image. You don't want to end up like Lord Voldemort.))

(horcrux)