

Ancient wisdom that works today

Proverbs 5 – Sweet and Sour

1. Look (1 – 6)

- Pay Attention, Listen well
- It looks good but...
- God calls us into form and freedom.
- ‘God gave us our sexuality both to focus our romantic joy and to unleash it’! (R. Ortlund jr – Proverbs Wisdom that Works)
- We live in a world of sexual foolishness.
- ‘She gives no thought to the way of life’ (6)

2. Consider (7 – 19)

- Keep to a path far from her
- Sex is all around us. Inside and out.
- Guard your heart it is the wellspring of life (4:23)
- Don’t tell yourself you can get involved just a bit!
- There is a wider impact that comes from sexual folly (9-11)
- Regret and despair (12 – 14)
- A contrast is made (15 – 17)
 - Drink deeply from what is yours
 - Self control, but form and freedom
- A prayer for his son (18 – 19)

3. Choose! (20 – 23)

- Stupid is as stupid does
- Why be captivated?
- The Lord is observant – he examines all his paths
- Sexual wisdom is not only physical or social it is spiritual

Trapped? – There is freedom

Weak willed? – There is hope

Led astray? – There is a way back

Digging Deeper

Read Proverbs 5

1. What is involved in paying attention and listening well? Look back at 4: 20 – 27 what can we do to ensure we do pay attention and listen well?
2. 'God calls us into structure and freedom.' Which are you more comfortable with and how is that seen in your life?
3. What steps do we need to put in place in our life that would be a better balance between structure and freedom?
4. Why do we struggle to look for the long term impact of our life choices?
5. What are the social, financial and personal costs Solomon points to that will follow from sexual immorality?
6. What were the lessons we remember from the Song of Songs that also speak into our sexual relationships?
7. Is the truth that 'A man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths' a comfort and help?
8. How do we practically support and help one another in this area of our lives so those around us see a difference in a Christian's sexual behaviour?