



## ST. PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY

*Ecclesiastes*  
7:23-29

### ***Pastor's Notes***

V. 23-29 This is a unit.

Solomon is dealing with a big challenge—how to figure out women.

V. 25 We must keep in mind that Solomon experimented with life—he left no stone unturned. However, his experimentation was with the ugly side of life. This means that Solomon lived on the edge—he pushed the limits. He lived the life that we pray our children won't live.

With this in mind, our attention turns to women. As we see in 1 Kings 11:3, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Not a good boy!

V. 26 As we look into the following verses, two words of caution. 1) Solomon is still trying to figure things out while he is writing this. 2) What Solomon states does not apply to all women. 3) Solomon is describing not a godly woman but a woman who is foolish and an unbeliever.

So what kind of woman are we dealing with? The woman that is worse than the bitterness of death is a woman who entraps a man in her shackles and then takes all the man's belongings. She takes more than his money; she takes his manhood. This is a true ball and chain scenario. She is a woman who is on the prowl. Her lust is for control of a man and control of material goods. (See Proverbs 7:21-27)

Note the words in verse 26: snare, nets, fetters, taken, etc. This is a dangerous woman. Too often a man will fall for the prowling pursuit of a foolish woman that Solomon describes; however, it will be too late for him. He may not be able to escape.

This is why the best places to meet a future wife are at the library, church, and produce section of the grocery store—generally speaking you will not find the kind of woman that Solomon is describing at these places.

V. 27-28 These verses show that Solomon is still working this section out.

V. 29 Setting aside the differences between men and women, what Solomon is basically saying in verse 29 is that it is hard to find an upright man/woman after the fall into sin. If you have a good man and a faithful wife, consider yourself blessed!

### Special Focus: Marriage

Consider Ephesians 5:21-33 on the vocations of Husbands and Wives.