

April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2023

# Proverbs

*Sayings of the Wise*

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment & Proverbs?

The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment is about adultery – we should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other. In other words, when God tells us not to commit adultery (to have sexual relations with anyone outside the marriage ring), He tells us this to protect the gift of marriage. Tragically, when adultery destroys a marriage, it also impacts children and the extended family. And when the family deteriorates, it even impacts the greater society.

But what does Proverbs say about sex and marriage? For starters, Proverbs speaks of marriage as 'good.' (See *Proverbs 18:22*) Secondly, Proverbs has a lot of insights about a good marriage (e.g., *a good wife is the crown of her husband - Proverbs 12:4*) and warnings about how a marriage can go bad (e.g., *a continual dripping on a rainy day and a contentious woman are alike – Proverbs 27:15*). However, there is a large section of Proverbs devoted to the 'Adulterous Woman' which we will cover in the next section.

## STUDY 7

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6<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT &  
PROVERBS?

THE WEIGHT OF ADULTERY

THE SEDUCTION OF ADULTERY

MARRIAGE, CULTURE, AND  
PORNOGRAPHY

THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE

## The Weight of Adultery

Proverbs teaches us in Chapters 6 & 7 to weigh the heavy cost of adultery: personal health, reputation, family, career, and our Christian faith. In other words, going down the path of adultery can have devastating effects on all aspects of a person's life. Tragically, the path of adultery can lead to the deadly consequence of leaving the way of 'wisdom' and going down the dark path of spiritual suicide – eternal death.

## The Seduction of Adultery?

It is important to take special note that sexual sins like adultery find you. In other words, many people who fall prey to adultery do not set out with the intent to commit adultery; instead it finds them (see Proverbs 7:15). Furthermore, as we learn in Proverbs 7, the adulterous woman initially comes across very religious, pious, and innocent, *"I had to offer sacrifices and today I have paid my vows."* That is to say; adultery is wily and cunning, as most sin is. Sin covers its fangs with wisdom and righteousness, but in the end, it uses smooth talk to persuade one into its trap. And finally, the encounter with the adulterous woman happens during the cover of night, with the woman's husband being gone. In other words, sin operates under the banner of darkness with the illusion that there will not be consequences. And so, with the adulterous woman in Proverbs 7, we see that sin seeks us out under the banner of righteousness, only to seduce us into its trap where it promises freedom from any consequences. Alas, that is where we must take heed of verses 22-ff. Listen to a paraphrase on these verses, *"Soon she has him eating out of her hand, bewitched by her honeyed speech. Before you know it, he's trotting behind her, like a calf led to the butcher shop, like a stag lured into ambush and then shot with an arrow, like a bird flying into a net not knowing that its flying life is over."*

## Marriage, Culture, and Pornography?

With the emergence of the internet, online pornography has become big business. The sex industry in America is a 12 billion dollar industry, larger than the NFL, NHL, and MLB combined. It is bigger than ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX together. But it comes at a cost.

It is important to understand that when a culture is overtly interested in a particular subject, it isn't necessarily because the culture is overtly experienced in the particular subject. It may also be because it is lacking. To the point; while one would think that today's Americans are really into sex as evidenced by the explosion of internet pornography, that is not necessarily the case. On the contrary, according to some reports, even though the pornography industry is at an all-time high, Americans are having less sex overall. According to several studies, Millennials are reporting fewer sexual encounters on average than the two generations before them. And another study reports that all sex among all generations is at an all-time low over the last 30 years. That is to say, the vast use of pornography may be an indicator not of sexual consumption but sexual starvation. And finally, it is worth noting that this is all happening when marriage is at an all time low in America right now.

## The Gift of Marriage:

If anybody can't live chastely, let him take a wife and go in security to the judgment of the Lord. - St. Augustine

Marriage has a great blessing also in the matter of chastity, for he who has the gift of marriage does not go insane with lust. Those who are devoted to their own wives do not lust for others. - Martin Luther

