



July 20, 2014 | Temptation of Another's Flock | Proverbs 5-7

Reading one chapter of Proverbs a day is a great way to grow in wisdom. We're encouraging everyone at Valley to do so this summer. (See the plan at valleycommunity.cc/resources/proverbs.)

[Q] This past week, as you read through Proverbs, did you find something that you can apply to your life? Please share with the group. (We're asking this question each week this summer.)

Read Proverbs 5:1-14. (Keep in mind that temptation is not only a problem for men.)

[Q] What do we learn of the adulteress in verses 3 and 6?

[Q] What will the results be from giving oneself to such a person? (5:9-14)

[Q] Read Proverbs 5:15-21. Summarize what it advises a husband to do.

[Q] Read 1 Corinthians 6:18. How might you **apply** this kind of caution today? (Also Proverbs 5:8.)

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

Paul begins in v.1-2 by encouraging believers to do something they already knew and, to an extent, were already doing. [Q] Why do you think it was so important for Paul to reemphasize this teaching for them?

[Q] In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 Paul compares and contrasts two different lifestyles. What are they and what characterizes each way of life?

1.

2.

[Q] In 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8, what are the implications if you choose lust over holiness and sanctification?

Make wisdom [Christ] your first love.

[Q] Read Proverbs 6:20-23 and 7:1-5. How does treasuring God's Word protect you? Have you experienced this? Please share if appropriate.

[Q] Read Romans 8:5-6. How will you set your mind on the Spirit this week?

[Q] What advice would you give a person younger than you?

For Solomon, every warning against adultery must have been haunted by the memory of his father and mother, David and Bathsheba. He watched the royal family, in the middle of Israel's golden age, implode because this union that brought him into existence had come into existence. God "put away" David's sin (2 Samuel 12:13), determining to bear its condemnation himself (Romans 3:25-26). But he did not remove from David its wounds and disgrace.

Yet, out of the wreckage that was David's family, emerges Solomon. By choosing him, of all the sons, to assume the throne and to write holy Scripture, **God is saying something stunning: he really can work all things, including devastating sin, for good for those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).**

The destruction of adultery is very real. It is to be avoided at all costs. But it still is not more powerful than the grace of God.

To those who, like David, have fallen, take heart. If you have repented and trust Christ, he has borne all your condemnation. And though you view with painful and appropriate regret the damage your adultery caused, keep your eyes open. It is like God to bring something unexpectedly and amazingly good from it. Because the grace of God is stronger than the sin of man. desiringgod.org/blog/posts/amazing-grace-in-the-wreckage-of-adultery

Pray

Resources: *Purity Principle: God's Safeguards for Life's Dangerous Trails* by Randy Alcorn.
Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time by Stephen Arterburn
Song of Solomon video Bible study by Tom Nelson: rightnow.org/Media/Series/59
Biblical, battle-tested real-life help: livingbyfaithblog.com/category/sexual-temptation/marshall.com/2013/10/30/the-big-blog-post-on-adultery