

And it's simply this. Listen to the wisdom of God's words, so that you stay clear of free love's empty words.

Listen to the wisdom of God's word, so that we stay clear of free love's empty words. Verse 7.

Now then, my sons, listen to me. Do not turn aside from what I say. Keep to a path far from her.

Do not go near to the door of her house. Verse 20. Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

[7 : 19] For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths. Be careful of the sweet words from honey lips.

Sexual freedom is good for you. It's your body and your choice. If it feels good, then it must be good.

Don't wait. Just do it. An explosion of TV shows entice us to follow our desires.

Believe it or not, this is what is on your TV screens. Naked attraction. Love island. I kissed a boy or I kissed a girl.

Too hot to handle. Dating naked. The bachelor. Ex on the beach. The great sex experiment. And add to that the plethora of dating apps, porn sites, romance novels.

[8 : 27] For the lips of the adulterous man or woman drip honey. And their speech is smoother than oil.

What harm is there in a one night stand? Why limit yourself to just one person? You're free to scroll through endless porn videos on your phone.

You're free to experiment and see what you like. But there's a problem with all of that. Honey lips only tells us one side of the story.

Look at verse 4. Verse 5. In the end she is bitter as gall. Sharp as a double-edged sword. It's like biting into a lemon.

Your mouth is immediately full of sweet sensations driving you wild. But the bitter aftertaste lingers long.

[9 : 35] Verse 5. Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to the grave. Oh the promise is for so much pleasure.

But a life of destruction is the price for momentary satisfaction. So whether we are young or old. Whether we are married or single. Be careful of honey lips. So what are we to learn from Proverbs 5 today?

Well first. The big thing that we need to learn is the folly. Or the stupidity. Of sexual freedom.

Verse 8. Keep to a path far from her. Or him. Do not go near the door. Of their house.

[10 : 37] Stay away from honey lips. Don't engage with free love's offer. Because it's not free.

It's costly. It will cost you relationally. Verse 9. Lest you lose your honour or your relationships to others.

And your dignity. Your respect. To one who is cruel. The husband who has an affair. The wife who fantasises about the man at work.

Is never ever private. It costs you your relationships. Your relationship with your spouse. With your children.

With your friends. With your colleagues. Peace. Well why do you say that? Well because through your actions. You've broken trust.

[11 : 36] You've told lies. You've cheated. And as you give yourself to one. So you are always withholding your love from others.

It's the same. For teens and young men. Hours of watching porn means. You actually lose the ability to relate to women as you should.

Teen boys just become angry with their mothers. Young men treat women as just mere physical objects of pleasure. To serve their needs.

Some kind of conquest exercise. For young women who give their bodies freely in search of love. Well it leads to a hatred of self.

As they are used by one partner after another. You look in the mirror. And you don't like what you see. Sexual freedom is not free.

[12 : 42] It costs you relationally. All those programs and TV are but a lie. Seductive words that entangle you in a broken mess.

Not just relationally. But it can cost you financially. Verse 10. Lest strangers feast on your wealth.

And all your toil. All your hard work. Your well-earned money. Enrich the house of another. We've seen it.

An affair can quickly turn to blackmail. A one-night stand to a child that needs ongoing support and financial care. Breakups.

Separation and divorce. Leads to a division of assets. Where no one wins. After the solicitors take their cut.

[13:46] Sexual freedom can lead to addiction. And the buying of sex. Whether that's online or with real people. Soon your stability becomes an uncontrolled debt.

Sexual freedom is never free. It costs us financially. In fact, it will lead to a life of desperate, deep regret.

Verse 11. At the end of your life, you will groan when your flesh and body are spent. When you're left and you can do nothing but just sit.

Verse 12. You will look back and reflect on your life and you will say, How I had hated discipline. How my heart had spurned correction. I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors.

I wish I could have started all over again. I wish I had made better choices in my life. Why didn't I listen when I heard that sermon on Proverbs 5?

[15:03] The folly of sexual freedom is this. It is costly. It is costly. And it leaves us with deep regret.

Verse 23. For lack of discipline, they will die. Led astray by their own great folly.

Be careful of honey lips, whether it is him or her. And their seductive words. It leads to a broken mess.

Second, the joy of faithful marriage. You see, while sexual freedom is wrong and destructive, there is a context where sick sex is good and beautiful.

Look at verse 17. Let them be yours alone. Never to be shared with strangers.

[16:14] He's talking about marriage. And it's within marriage that we find joyful sexual pleasure. But not just as we want.

Because first, there is boundaries for sex. Verse 15. Drink water from your own cistern. Running water from your own well.

The imagery is poetic and clear. It's simply saying, have sex with your own wife. Enjoy intimacy with your own husband.

Quench your thirst for sexual pleasure with the one you are married to. Our bodies are not to be shared around.

Verse 16. Should your springs overflow in the streets? Your streams of water in the public squares? If you're married, don't go giving yourself to anyone else.

[17:19] You belong to your spouse. Guard your marriage. Protect your marriage. Don't exchange your lover with the images on screen or the fantasies within your head.

You see, sex is God's idea, not ours. And the only right and good context is within a marriage.

A union of one man and one woman. For life or until death parts.

So there are boundaries that we must take note of. But with boundaries in place, there is pleasure.

Sometimes we can get the impression, certainly from social media and from what we listen to other places, from other places, that God is anti-sex.

[18:18] That sex is only for making babies. Well, look at how the author delights in his wife. Verse 19. A loving doe.

A graceful deer. I often wondered what Kirsty would think if I called her a graceful doe or a loving deer. I'm not quite sure what response I would get.

But obviously there was some romantic image, their slenderness, their sleekness. But as we go on, it needs no explanation, does it?

May her breasts satisfy you always. May you ever be intoxicated with her love. We are reading the Bible.

That is what it says. God designed men and women differently so wives and husbands can take pleasure in each other. Look at the end of verse 19.

[19:18] May you ever be intoxicated with her love. Yes, there are boundaries. Yes, there are boundaries. But within marriage you are free to enjoy each other.

Which brings us to the second application. And I think perhaps this is where it hits home for most of us.

Yes, we need the warning. But perhaps for most of us, it's cleansing. We look back on our life.

[26 : 12] We look at our present life. And we see the devastating impact of our sinful choices. You see, not one of us here in this room can say, I am pure.

Verse 21. For our ways are in full view of the Lord. And he examines all our paths.

God sees all my actions. He knows all about my thoughts. In fact, for most of us as we listen and as we think about this, we can become overcome with guilt and shame because of our sexual sin.

We feel ashamed and dirty. We long to be washed and made clean. We want to be pure.

Well, that's the wisdom of God's word to us today. And where it is pointing us, it is leading us to Christ who will clean us of every stain and blemish.

[27 : 25] You see, the marriage that we were looking at, the joyful marriage, is a relationship pointing to a better and greater marriage to come.

The sexual pleasure of marriage is only just a foretaste of the ultimate joy of being in a right relationship with God and being with him in his eternal kingdom forever.

Turn with me, please, to Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians chapter 5. Ephesians chapter 5.

Here Paul has been talking about marriage. A wonderful gift from God. He's been talking about how the wife gives herself to her husband and how the husband gives himself to his wife in every way.

But this marriage relationship points to something better, to someone who is greater. Let's pick it up in verse 25.

[28 : 58] Husbands, love your wives. Well, how do we do that? Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

You see, our earthly marriages, if we can call it that, are pointing to a greater marriage between Christ and his people.

Verse 26. To make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word or through the gospel.

To present her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish.

But holy and blameless. Do you see what he's saying here? In all that we have said so far?

[30 : 02] You who are overcome with guilt and shame, you who have the stain of sexual sin, is saying come to Jesus.

Because he loves you. Because God sent his son, Jesus Christ, into the sexual chaos of this world. He came to rescue us from the brokenness of our sinful choices. Jesus Christ, in love, verse 25, he gave himself up for her.

Jesus gave himself up for us. That is, he died for us on the cross. He takes all of our impurity on himself so that we in turn might receive his purity.

He did this so that we would be made beautiful for him like a bride dressed for her husband. How wonderful is that?

[31 : 06] Come to Jesus. Let us confess our most hidden and secret sin. Trust in him and he will cleanse us.

He will wash away your sin forever. Verse 27. He will present her to himself as a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

You see, as we entrust ourselves to Christ, we are in Christ, the only one who is truly beautiful and right and pure. And so God will look at you and see the beauty and purity of his son and you will remain in his presence and enjoy his good gifts forever.

You see, through Christ, all our sin and guilt is dealt with. We are now pure, ready as a bride for that ultimate marriage to come when Christ comes again and takes his church to be with him in the new heavens and the new earth.

A life with Christ, a life with Christ where there is joy and pleasures now and forevermore. Don't listen to the silky words of sexual freedom.

[32 : 43] It will destroy you. Instead, let us together listen to the wisdom of God's words because they are good and they will save you.

Let's pray. Thank you.