

# Wisdom and Folly in Marriage

Proverbs 5

## Introduction

Proverbs 5 talks about the problem of infidelity and points us to the solution.

Wisdom

I. We need to take the warning seriously. Proverbs 5:1-6

*"If you think you are standing firm,  
be careful that you don't fall."*

I Corinthians 10:12

Wisdom

This is a warning for both men and women.

The temptations for men and women may be different. For men it is often a physical attraction and for women it is often an emotional attraction, but both are real.

The temptations are many:

- Pornography – Internet, magazines and movies. Matthew 5:27-28
- Romantic fantasies – Books and movies.
- Affairs
- Unrealistic expectations
- Underestimating the sinfulness of our own heart. Jeremiah 17:9

We need a strategy to fight sin.

- Turn off the TV
- Put a filter on your computer – Covenant Eyes. Job 31:1
- Throw away the books or magazines and movies. Philippians 4:9
- Find an accountability partner.
- Invest in your marriage.
- Keep your walk with God strong.
- Don't put yourself in a place of temptation.

II. Think about the consequences of sexual immorality and adultery. Proverbs 5:7-14

*Wisdom*

We put at risk everything that we have worked for. Verses 9-14

- Our wealth and possessions
- Our honor and reputation
- Our health
- Our marriage and children
- Our job and income

It will lead to remorse and regret and public humiliation.  
Is it really worth all that?

“Sexual immorality may not lead to slavery today, but it does lead to alimony, child support, broken homes, hurt, jealousy, lonely people and venereal disease.”  
Bruce Waltke

*Wisdom*

What would happen if you sinned?  
How many people would be affected?

• Wisdom is like a good mate. Proverbs 4:1-9

III. We need to reclaim a Biblical view of sexuality.  
Proverbs 5:15-20

God created us in his image – male and female.  
Sexual desire is God given and it is good.

*Wisdom*

The way that God intends to meet those desires is within the bonds of marriage: one man and one woman. Genesis 2:18-25

Sex is not only for the birth of children. It is an expression of intimacy and love. And it is intended for pleasure. We see that in Proverbs 5:15-19. There is freedom and joy and delight.

Marriage is more than sex. Marriage is love, commitment, companionship, sacrifice, kindness, encouragement, honor and respect.

Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:22-33

The way of wisdom is to love your wife, love God and listen to what he has said.

The way of folly is to listen to the adulteress, despise God and ignore what he has said.

### *Conclusion*

What does this say to the person who is single?

- Trust God to meet your needs.
- Commit yourself to moral purity.
- Wait on God.

What does this say to those who are married?

- Love your wife. Love your husband.
- Be faithful to your spouse.
- Invest in your marriage.
- Read a book on marriage.
- Study the Scriptures and pray together.
- Attend a marriage conference.
- Seek godly counsel.