

Wisdom Will Keep You (Proverbs 7)

The book of Proverbs doesn't dance around the issue of God's design for sex. It doesn't ignore the temptation we all face to embrace a distorted view of it either. Unwilling to keep silent, unable to ignore the pain and ruin it brings, Proverbs 7 sets out to warn us about this temptation and keep us from giving into it.

1. Wisdom will keep you (Proverbs 7:1-5)

Sex is God's idea – it's wonderfully complex and rich in meaning; he created it for us to enjoy and it's ultimately for his glory. Proverbs 5:15-19

Proverbs 7:4 *"You are my sister,"* = my close companion; "bride"; "lover"

Proverbs 7:5 *"call insight your intimate friend...(why?) to keep you from the forbidden women"*

How do you make God's wisdom your closest companion and intimate friend? Titus 3:3-8; 1 John 2:1-2
It looks like decisively leaning on and delighting in God – who he is and what he has promised.

2. When sexual sin (of all kinds) invites you (Proverbs 7:6-23)

This is reality TV Proverbs style. Meet the young man (7:7) – unsuspecting, unequipped, unaware. *"Simple."* Meet the "forbidden" woman (7:10-12).

Titus 2:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Proverbs 7:24-27 The curtain has been lifted; the lie exposed. Look past the momentary pleasure; beyond the empty promises. Romans 6:23

3. The intimacy we all long for (Proverbs 7:4-5)

Jesus is God's wisdom incarnate/in the flesh; the intimate friend - the only one who *truly* satisfies. All your failures and fears; frustrations and desires are no match for his love and grace.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Proverbs 7:1-5. What pressing concern does the father have for his son in VV1-5?
2. In the book of Proverbs, God's wisdom and human folly (foolishness) are poetically described as women. One we're invited to embrace, the other we're warned against. In Proverbs 7:5 we're instructed to "call insight your intimate friend"? How does intimacy with God keep us from sexual sin of all kinds? Have you experienced this keeping power personally?
3. Read Proverbs 7:6-23. Describe the main characters in this scene. What's happening? How did the young man end up on her street and eventually in her bed? What lies did he embrace?
4. "She" is everywhere. You might find her on the internet, in your circle of friends, in the songs you hear, movies you watch. She'll find you when you least expect it. And, just to be clear, sexual temptation comes through men and women. It's something we *all* face. What are some common lies or excuses we might tell ourselves when we encounter sexual temptation?
5. Lust is *always* hungry for more. Lust's deceit is in its invitation - promising something that it's never going to deliver: satisfaction. How does the gospel confront our lusts with the all-consuming love of God in Christ Jesus? How does that love frustrate, expose and work against those lusts?
6. Read Proverbs 7:24-27. The curtain is lifted; the lie exposed. As we look past the momentary pleasure, beyond the empty promises, what are we left staring at? Why are we given this scene?
7. We all share a longing for intimacy that can only be met in Jesus but the guilt and shame that comes with sexual sin has a tendency to push away from intimacy with him. How does the gospel (the good news of who Jesus and what he did for us) break the power of guilt and shame?

Spend time owning up to sexual sin of any kind, asking God for forgiveness. Based on Jesus' sacrifice, receive his forgiveness and celebrate his mercy. Since love for and intimacy with Jesus is the greatest strength in your fight against sexual sin, call on your "intimate friend" and ask him to "keep you."