

Proverbs: Boundaries, 7/29/18

Sermon is rated PG-13 today.

Story from Emerald Isle- We ignored the radar, ignored the warning signs because we believed we knew better. Nate, that is pretty stupid man. Preach about wisdom, that's not so wise...and yet how many of us are ignoring the warning signs when it comes to sexual temptation. This is our theme from Proverbs today. Now some of you who are new here might be thinking, another preacher out of touch, probably saved himself until he got married, what does he know? NO- that's not my story...although I wish it was. Running headlong into sexual temptation is a part of my story, pornography was a part of my story and so I am talking not only what the Bible has to warn us and guide us about this subject, but from experience and regrets and problems that this created in my life. Now if you are here, and sex addiction, pornography, affairs, or sexual brokenness and regret is part of your story, I want you to know there is hope. I don't want you walking out of here burdened and ashamed. There is forgiveness, hope and restoration. Stick with me through this message.

Some might say, why are we talking about this? Can't we skip this subject in Proverbs? I brought a friend today...But entire chapters are dedicated to this in Proverbs so we aren't going to skip it. This is a topic we don't shy away from here at BVBC. I have preached on this in Feb. 2016 and March 2017, God's design for sex and how to live in purity, I'm not going to do message today on full biblical ethic of sexuality, it's design... I would encourage you to go back and listen to those messages on that topic and the books I recommended. But let me quickly give you cliff notes-

-God made sex to be good and a blessing (Genesis 2:24)

-Sex inextricably designed for marriage.-God invented sex as a very practical, visible, beautiful way to say to your spouse, with whom you have made a covenant (for better or for worse, till death do us part)- "I belong completely and exclusively to you."

-Therefore, Sexual Immorality- encapsulates any and all sexual activity outside of the God-ordained marriage relationship between husband and wife.

-Jesus ups the ante. He says that root of sexual sin begins in our hearts, not our actions.

Matthew 5:27-29

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Proverbs 5-7 contain three poems all aimed at the subject of sexual temptation. Sexual temptation is personified as "the woman of harlotry" a prostitute in this poem. "Well that seems misogynistic." It's not. The immediate context is Solomon talking to his sons coming into adulthood, with raging hormones so this woman is the personification of temptation for a young man. Wisdom is also personified as a woman, here and in Proverbs 31. But what we read is not just for young men and not just about prostitutes, the application is for all of us with every form of sexual temptation- pornography, sex outside of marriage, extra-marital affairs, fantasizing about a co-worker. Let's see what God's wisdom has to say. We are going to look at Sexual Temptation's Danger, its deception and our Defense

Its Danger

About giving into sexual temptation-Proverbs 6:27-28

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

We tend to minimize the significance of sexual sin. It doesn't hurt anyone, but God takes sexual sin very seriously, and there are consequences.

-Brings Shame, Loss and Regret

Proverbs 5:9-14

lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people."

Regret your decisions and look back with sorrow, in isolation, in embarrassment, being disciplined by the Lord.

-Brings Enemies

Proverbs 6:32-35

Not just Hollywood...Story recently in DE of affair that took place. The wife who was cheated on went to the house of the woman who was having an affair with her husband, waited for her and killed her.

-Brings Ruin

Proverbs 5:4-5, 7:22-27

Through Addiction

Proverbs 5:22-23

The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

Cycle of addiction. Pornography is Fastest growing addiction in America. And I could bring statistic after statistic of how old or young you are, or whether you are a Christian or not. Christian use of pornography mirrors that of non-Christians, 50%. The average age of exposure to pornography is 11. ¼ of Divorces are due to infidelity. We have a sex epidemic, the MeToo movement points this out. 81% of women and 43% of men have been sexually harassed or assaulted. Death...

If sexual temptation is so dangerous, why do we act on it?

Its Deception- Seduced by Looks, Language, Location**Looks**

Proverbs 7:25

Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes.

This is what started it for King David on the roof.

Language

Proverbs 5:3 (rep. 6:24-25, 7:5)

For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil

Some of us can probably think of a relationship you were in that you had no business being in and it was poisonous, but but you stayed because they were smooth talkers.

Proverbs 7:13-21

She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: "Today I fulfilled my vows, and I have food from my fellowship offering at home. So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you! I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon." With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.

Doesn't this sound like the serpent in the garden? Sexual Temptation talks to us and makes it sound like a good time and preys upon our vulnerabilities. Single- I don't have a spouse so I deserve to have sexual fulfillment this way. Pornography doesn't hurt anyone? My spouse isn't really satisfying my needs and it feels good to get attention from someone else. He really makes me feel happy and I'm just not happy with my husband. I've worked really hard, I deserve to have some fun. I need this porn to relieve stress and keep me from doing something else. No one will ever know. It doesn't hurt anyone.

Location

How did the young man find himself in this place to be seduced?

Proverbs 7:6-23

At the window of my house I looked down through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.

Affairs happen, people get hooked into porn, people get into dysfunctional relationships over a series of small, seemingly unimportant compromises...until we find ourselves in a bad place and say, how did I get here? Are we lingering on the internet? Are you with your girlfriend/boyfriend late at night alone? Are we at bars or night clubs? Watching movies or reading romance novels? Are you finding an excuse why you need to take the longer way to breakroom so you can pass by the co-worker's desk that you flirt with? It all looks innocent, fun- but the end is destructive. Clip of Portuguese Man O' War

Our Defense

Listen for the Voice of Wisdom Calling!

In between these instructions on sexual temptation is the call to LISTEN! Son...(parents can relate)

Proverbs 5:1-2

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight.

v. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.

6:20-23 My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

7:1 My son, keep my words.

7:24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.

Are we listening to the Word's of Wisdom? The Holy Spirit guides us into truth and a speaks to our conscience in temptation. "Don't go there. Don't click on that link. Go to bed. Don't browse those movies. Don't keep talking to that guy and keeping him on the hook. Time to leave."

For Married Couples- Work to Develop your Love Life**Proverbs 5:15-20**

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

Set Boundaries**Proverbs 5:8**

Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.

Proverbs 6:24

Keep away from your neighbor's wife.

Proverbs 7:25

Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.

Do not play The Price is Right when it comes to sexual temptation.

My boundaries...I live by Billy Graham rules.

-Guard my conversations.

-Not alone in the building with a woman.

-I don't do ongoing counseling or meetings with a woman.

-I don't go out for lunch or dinner with a woman alone.

-I don't ride in a car alone with a woman.

-My wife has access to my calendar.

-We have restrictions on our TV at home, don't have HBO, Cinemax, etc.

-If I travel alone, I ask the hotel to restrict my cable.

-Ever Accountable on my Phone, Computer and Tablet, Shannan gets report.

Image of God that he is just trying to make our life miserable, that he doesn't want us to be happy. Emerald Isle- it's beautiful, we're happy! God is not just sending us warning signs because he wants to ruin our vacation. He's not trying to rip you off. He loves you...do you trust his wisdom?

Recap- Sexual Temptation is Dangerous, Its Deceptive, But God's Wisdom helps us Defend against it. You say, well it's too late for me. I've already fallen...I'm like that fish that got eaten...

Illustration of art instructor who brings something beautiful out of what you have done wrong. Pastors out of pornographers, Great fathers out of fornicators, Saints out of the sexually immoral. Jesus stepped in between the woman and men with their rocks. Which of you hasn't sinned... No one is here to condemn you. Then neither do I...go and sin no more. This woman who lives in shame and isolation became one of the greatest examples of restoration.

The Gospel is: Through Jesus

God Loves Unconditionally

God Forgives Fully

God Restores Ultimately