

Temptation of Beauty

Proverbs 5:15-18

Introduction: Bible has lofty view of husbands and wives
In ancient culture: women bought, no social status
Purpose of marriage was social status and children
But Proverbs says you should be crazy in love

I. Marriage is Honored By God

Proverbs 5:15-20 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

Protect your relationship: treasure your spouse
She/He is created for you

Proverbs 30:18-19 There are three *things which* are too wonderful for me, Yes, four *which* I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a maiden.

Awesome to see the ways and powers of romance
Good couples, strange couples

God created Adam and Eve: bone of my bones, flesh of flesh
Abraham & Sarah, Isaac Rebecca, Jacob and Rachael/Leah

II. Commodified Relationships

Proverbs 30:20 This *is* the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "**I have done no wickedness.**"

Commodification: economic exchange between vender & consumer.
You know your grocer, mechanic but if quality goes down, you find another place.

For history society has been commitment based
Friends, family, children, marriage: relationship is end in itself
Living in relationship as a consumer is lonely
But it becoming more and more common (meet my needs)
Divorce, pornography, abuse

Bible says marriage is not commodified
Don't give body w/o giving whole self, whole person part
The Bible calls it one flesh in marriage

Sex outside of marriage is exchange of product, not of self
Bible sex not self gratification, self expression, it self donation
We under value self when we have sex outside of marriage.
Prov. 11:22 a beautiful woman that lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout
Critique of men: objectify, dehumanize, commodify women.

Pro 11:16 beautiful women obtain wealth (honor), violent men get rich.

Hebrew word for wealth "kabob" meaning glory, significance, importance.

III. Grow Your Marriage

A. Angela Burrell illustration: Let's make this work

B. Proverbs 30:18-20 wonders of creation like the work of men/women
Fix up house, get nice car: make you spouse lucky

C. Your relationship is holy
Eph. 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might [a]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish
Husbands love wives, as Christ loved the church. Husbands and wives: Christ died to make you and spouse beautiful.