

Proverbs On Marriage and Adultery

Proverbs puts forth a vision of marriage that is compelling and joyful. It also exposes one of the greatest lies of all: that adultery is worth it and to your own advantage.

The Value of a Good Wife and Joy of Marriage

To be married is to find a blessed and beautiful thing, and it is a gift from God (18:22)

A prudent wife is a unique gift from God (19:14)

An excellent wife bring honour to her husband (12:4)

She is a rare treasure, and is known for her: industriousness (31:13-15, 18-19, 27), her foresight and shrewdness (31:16, 24, 27), her compassion (31:20), her strength and fortitude (31:17, 25) her wise and rich provision (31:21-22), her inner beauty (31:26), her glad and thankful family (31:11-12, 28) Marriage is pictured as a fountain which is to be enjoyed, to the point of a kind of intoxication. (5:18-19)

The Pains of a Bad Marriage

Contentiousness is wearisome (19:13)

An embarrassing and shameful spouse is like an inner decay (12:4)

The wrong kind of woman destroys the very thing she is to be building (14:1)

The Pains of Adultery

The Immoral Woman Promises Pleasure, but the end result is bitterness, pain, death and poverty (5:3-20)

Adultery will bring ruin, dishonour, a retribution. The consequences of adultery are unavoidable and inevitable. To pursue it is to sin against your own soul (6:23-35)

A foolish young man first toys with temptation (7:7-9). The adulterous woman dresses to allure, she has refused to submit to any authority, she feigns religiosity, she tempts him physically, she assures him of no consequences (7:10-21). However, he is as one who has been darts with poison (22-23).

Proverbs warns against going at all in her ways (24-27)

Adultery seems to have a sweet promise (9:17), but it leads to death (9:11-18)

Beauty without discretion is not fitting (11:22, 31:30)

Going after the loose woman is a deep pit of destruction. 23:26-28

The adulteress has become calloused in her conscience (30:20)

Proverbs is not only counselling against marital unfaithfulness, but pre-marital unfaithfulness. It is warning against sexual immorality in general, and pointing out the scarring it brings: shame, dishonour, poverty, possible disease, revenge, and eventual death. Nations given over to immorality are walking down a path of destruction.

Nations built upon strong families, which are built upon faithfulness and mutual joy, can expect honour, joy, provision, and general gladness.