



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 6 God’s Design for Sex
By Pastor Jody May 03/13/2022

Proverbs 3:5-8, 13 ESV

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your
paths.
- ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from
evil.
- ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets
understanding,

Proverbs 2:16 ESV

- ¹⁶ So you will be delivered from the
forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her
smooth words,

Proverbs 6:23-24 ESV

- ²³ For the commandment is a lamp and
the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are
the way of life,
- ²⁴ to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the
adulteress.

Proverbs 7:5 & 21-23 ESV

- ⁵ to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her
smooth words.
- ²¹ With much seductive speech she
persuades him;

with her smooth talk she compels
him.

- ²² All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast
²³ till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost
him his life.

Proverbs 5:3-5 ESV

- ³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip
honey,
and her speech is smoother than
oil,
- ⁴ but in the end she is bitter as
wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
- ⁵ Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;

Proverbs 6:20, 24 ESV

- ²⁰ My son, keep your father’s
commandment,
and forsake not your mother’s
teaching.
- ²⁴ to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the
adulteress.

Proverbs 5:7-8 ESV

- ⁷ And now, O sons, listen to me,
and do not depart from the words
of my mouth.
- ⁸ Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her
house



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[INTRO]

If I were to ask you **1st what was the last good romance movie was you saw**, I bet you would be hard pressed to name one.

[80s *Dirty Dancing*, *Footloose*, *Sixteen Candles*, *The Blue Lagoon*, *Top Gun*, *Roxanne*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, 90s *Legends of the Fall*, *Jerry Maguirre*, *10 Things I Hate About You*, *Pretty Woman*, *Ghost*, 00s *Love Actually*, *The Notebook*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Serendipity*, *The Holiday*, more recently though we have great stuff like *Twilight*, *Fifty Shades of Gray*, whatever is current on HBO like *GoT*, Netflix like *Cuties*, and weekly series like *The Bachelor*.]

There is never ending supply of media whereby culture wants to explain to us what love should look like. **My 2nd question for you is in those love stories where did sex come into play?** What we would discover if we were to answer out loud is that there is no **standard answer**; what is too young, too old, with what person, it’s all over the place. The one thing I will tell you is that none of them elevate the position of waiting to have sex until your married, you would have to go back 40 years to find a show or movie that promoted that.

3rd , let me ask you how does this all compare then with the reality of God’s Word as in the Song of Solomon, when it describes sexual attraction but gives the strong warning, **“Do not stir up or awaken love until it pleases”** ([Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4](#), ESV). The teaching of scripture unlike modern culture is that there is a place for sex, and it is a good thing, but it is an experience that is not to happen outside of marriage.

Now while I do believe that we in this room agree with that, the church as a whole has done a poor job of teaching this over the years. Currently, it seems many churches are more concerned about being welcoming so they stay away from divisive topics especially anything dealing with sex or sexual identity for fear of offending someone, or losing an audience and even money.

We don’t have to be afraid family, but we have to be willing to hear the truth, we have to risk being a little embarrassed, and we need to risk being



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offensive to the world. Today’s sermon is not to be comprehensive nor risqué, but it will show that there is Wisdom for all life to be found in Proverbs by showing us how to view sex rightly for scripture IS sufficient for all of our families.

So that we can talk openly this morning let’s rip the band aid off and come at this topic that way the Bible does.

1. Sex is good so let’s not be ashamed.

Genesis 2:25 ESV

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not **ashamed**.

This is a **pre-fall condition**. Sex was a part of the plan it was engaged without prohibition freely between the man and woman. After God had decreed that this was to be, after God rested because it was all “very good”, that was when He added sex and marriage to creation like the icing on the cake.

Proverbs seeks to protect this stance on sex that even after the fall it is to be celebrated and enjoyed by God’s people.

Proverbs 5:18-19 ESV

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.

Proverbs will go onto warn us of falling into the dangers of dealing with sex outside the marriage bed. How sex falls short of what God had intended it to be. **Let me say it this way, modern sex and all its glory is a cheap copy of what God made.** Christian marital sex, between people that love Jesus, cannot be compared to what the world has made of it. Why? The devil cannot, by his nature because he lacks the power to create pleasure, he can only distort it. His modifications do not make things better it mutates them



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and according to the laws of the universe mutations are weaknesses not strengths.

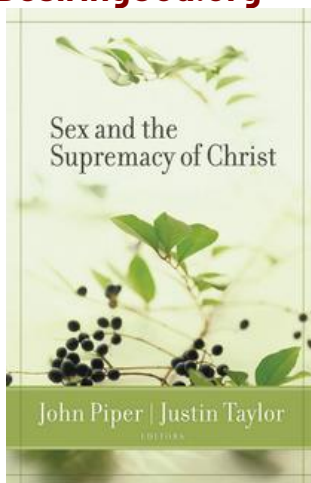
HCC/Christians never be afraid to talk about sex, you are what the world needs right now!

Albert Mohler, President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a talented reformed theologian put it this way about sex and a Christian’s view of it.

“Christians have no right to be embarrassed when it comes to talking about sex and sexuality. An unhealthy reticence or embarrassment in dealing with these issues is a form of disrespect to God's creation. Whatever God made is good, and every good thing God made has an intended purpose that ultimately reveals his own glory. When conservative Christians respond to sex with ambivalence or embarrassment, we slander the goodness of God and hide God's glory which is intended to be revealed in the right use of creation’s gifts.” – Albert Mohler

This is where we need a little more help:

“Sex and the Supremacy of Christ”
DesiringGod.org



Piper's big ideas about sexuality from “Sex and the Supremacy of Christ”.

- Sexuality is designed by God as a way to know God in Christ more fully.
- Knowing God in Christ more fully is designed as a way of guarding and guiding our sexuality.

Now, lets state these again negatively.

- All misuses of our sexuality distort the true knowledge of Christ
- All misuses of our sexuality derive from not having the true knowledge of Christ.

Or to put it one more way, **“All sexual corruption seeks to conceal the true**



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knowledge of Christ, but the true knowledge of Christ serves to prevent sexual corruption.” – Jason Martin

Since depraved sex distorts Christ then the reason why we look at Proverbs is because it prohibits unhealthy, fake, and unfulfilling sex that makes the image of Jesus much clearer for us to see. Proverbs keeps us from distorting the image of Christ by undistorting sex.

That’s good, because likewise in the NT as directions for us it says:

Hebrews 13:4 ESV

⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous:

Sex is good, it always has been, it is required in marriages, and anything or anyone that distorts that image will be judged. Now, let’s take some time and see how people fall so easily to the lure of distorted sex.

2. Sex that is prohibited always looks good.

We find this word “Smooth” in multiple warnings in Proverbs:

Proverbs 2:16 ESV

¹⁶So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her **smooth** words,

Prov. 6:24 ESV

²⁴ to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the **smooth** tongue of the adulteress

Proverbs 7:5 & 21-23ESV

⁵ to keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her **smooth** words.

²¹ With much seductive speech she persuades him;
with her **smooth** talk she compels him.



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All of the adulteress’s words are smooth (ḥalaq) or “slippery” in the Hebrew, perhaps the best translation is to call this seductive flattery.¹

Something we need to realize about the Smoothness of distorted sex: Sexual desires are always appealing, what sex promises never changes. If you do A + B you will get C.... That’s just math folks. We have already agreed and seen that sex is enjoyable, and **so are cars but I don’t let my 12-year-old drive one!** Smooth talk never says you won’t like this as a matter of fact it says:

- To the young man that lacks self-confidence it says there is nothing you have to be other than available, and your confidence will grow.
- To the young woman that desires a man’s approval it says approval is yours for an easy price.
- To the older folks it says age is not a deterrent and it offers a way to hide from the cares of the world.
- To the naïve of all ages, it claims that it’s nothing more than physical enjoyment even while God established it be the binding agent in marriages.
- You see the offer of sex outside the confines of marriage is momentarily always enjoyable, but it adds to the disillusionment in one’s mind, for it never heals. A distorted image of sex is a distorted image of Christ for its’ offer is not to remove your burden but to add to it and only to dull the pain for a while.

Let’s also be realistic in all the above passages Smoothness is the description of the **words** the adulteress uses. In order to be enticed one has to be in ear shot of those words. Many times, people end up in trouble because they play games with boundaries, they get too near to possible consequences of being alone at the wrong times, they date people who are not of the same faith.

Married and unmarried couples alike today it is a good time to question are you too near to the source of seductive words? Are you up too late at night on

¹וּלְהַלֵּק S²⁵⁰⁵ TWOT^{669, 670} GK^{2744, 2745, 2746} **vb. be smooth, slippery** (NH adj. לְהַלֵּק smooth, empty, Arabic خَلَقَ (ḥalaqa) make smooth, lie, forge, fabricate Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). [Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon](#) (p. 325). Oxford: Clarendon Press.



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the computer? Are you interested in tracking too closely that old flame on Social media? Are you always trying to get near that coworker that you know is not a good match?

That may be your condition this morning, perhaps you are flirting with danger. You may even be in the throes of an affair, by definition that is any sexual relationship outside marriage. What can be good news for us all this morning is that the power of God can not only forgive but break the allure of distorted sex, that the power of God can redeem and reshape sex and then protect for our future.

3. Sex is to be protected by adhering to God’s Words.

In Proverbs there is always a formula for how to avoid the enticement of distorted sex. Take a look first at Prov. 26:

Proverbs 2:16 ESV

¹⁶So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her smooth words,

“So”, what is this conjunction referring to? That word in scripture always should send you poking back to somewhere before the verse. Check out the beginning of the chapter.

The Value of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:6 ESV

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Words of God strengthen us. We are to be attentive to it and our demeanor to it should be of reverence and that it is costly. We are to incline our hearts to understanding, we are to want to study scripture and it’s meanings. And when we seek it, Jesus promises what family? (You will find) And then we will understand the fear of the Lord, never wanting to be without Him!



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But the reason, just as many so-called Christians fall and succumb to sexual temptations, is because they do not feast what is on their tables, God’s satisfying Word...

- The allure of cheapened or distorted sex also increases with separation from God. To endure SMOOTH talk, which by the way folks you are never too old to outgrow temptation in this area, recent studies have shown that the **greatest increase in STDs are in retirement villages.**²
- The more time we spend away from His presence the more we will be caught up in what our fantasies can bring us while the encouragement of the gospel we gain is the more time we stay tied to God’s Word the more we steer clear of distorted sex.

Proverbs 7:4-5 ESV

- ⁴ Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”
and call insight your intimate friend,
⁵ **TO** keep you from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her **smooth** words.

Prov. 6:23-24 ESV

- ²³ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,
²⁴ **TO** preserve you from the evil woman,
from the **smooth** tongue of the adulteress

Proverbs 2:10&16 ESV

- ¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
¹⁶ **SO** you will be delivered from the forbidden woman,
from the adulteress with her **smooth** words,

² A study performed by [Berkeley University of California Wellness](https://www.berkeley.edu/health/wellness) uncovered “significant increases in STIs” among adults 65 and over, between 2010 and 2014: Chlamydia infections increased by 52%, Syphilis infections rose by 65%, Gonorrhea cases increased by more than 90%. <https://www.aplaceformom.com/caregiver-resources/articles/sexual-health-in-retirement-communities>



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Being dedicated to knowing and loving our God not only steers us clear from distorted sex outside of a proper relationship but it reshapes and reforms what we do with our spouses. The Bible has a way of showing us our need for Christ in all of life, which reaches all the way into the bedroom for our personal lives are never concealed from our God. As a matter of fact, how you are in your personal times with your spouse, reflects who you are in Christ.

Just a simple thought I want to leave with you this morning, the best thing we can do first for our sex life is to bolster it with a heavy dose of devotional life to God’s Word. This also brings us to why we would want to do this.

4. Sex that is abused never truly satisfies.

Proverbs 5:3-6 ESV

- ³For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
⁴ but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
⁶ she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Proverbs 7:21-23 ESV

- ²¹ With much seductive speech she persuades him;
with her smooth talk she compels him.
²² All at once he follows her,
as an ox goes to the slaughter,
or as a stag is caught fast
²³ till an arrow pierces its liver;
as a bird rushes into a snare;
he does not know that it will cost him his life.



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Giving in always leads to something dying and it leaves such a bitter taste in our mouth. For some of us it has cost us:

- To have a child out of wedlock causing instability in the home.
- We have bonded with the wrong type of person that is incapable of loving us (putting two messed up people together just makes a bigger mess).
- Our married sex-life is riddled with comparisons from past relationships that our current spouse should never have to contend with.
- We set ourselves up for abuse many times based on our interpretation of what sex means (why Christians should not give themselves away, no one in the world sees it like you do).
- Worst case scenarios a baby is destroyed because of unwantedness and shame.
- I am going to tell you something else it kills, your consciousness. It will begin to deteriorate your ability to see what is right and wrong because the allure of free dopamine when you are in pain usually wins out.

Our distorted views of sex we are discovering, not only hurt ourselves but they hurt others. The world says any type of sex is ok as long as it is consensual, but sin never works like that. Any sex that is not fueled by a love for Jesus is detrimental to the health of both participants, it is neglect, and it is wrong.

Undistorted sex should not only be pursued for it is right but it also has the power to heal.

5. Sex should be protected because Christ is reflected in it.

[EXHORTATIONS]

- **To Obey Christ, our Sexuality should be cherished and vigilantly protected.**

Warnings Against Adultery

²⁰ My son, keep your father’s commandment,



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- and forsake not your mother’s teaching.
- ²¹ Bind them on your heart always;
tie them around your neck.
- ²² When you walk, they will lead you;
when you lie down, they will watch over you;
and when you awake, they will talk with you.
- ²³ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,
- ²⁴ to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

This to as we said last week is part of your daily work to be **diligent in this**. To go back to the well of Wisdom and God’s love, learn to love His word first and then you will be able to love others well.

- **To Honor Christ, we should enjoy what he has redeemed for us.**

Principles for Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:3–5 ESV

³The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. ⁵Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- **To Emulate Christ, we can offer through our redeemed Sexuality a clear picture of Him!**

“Christ is the greatest gift we will ever receive, and the climactic union of human sexuality, stands as a foreshadowing of eternal ecstasy in Christ, where we have completely given of ourselves, and he has completely given himself for our right standing and eternal bliss with God. To misuse the gift of



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sexuality, to dabble in sexual things before God has given his seal of approval, is to reject the greater knowledge of Christ for a cheap thrill. Sex is ultimately about the giving of oneself to another in covenant. This is how it is a picture of our covenant "giving" to Christ and He to us." – Jason Martin

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has the best plans for our sexuality.

Go in the name of the Son, that has redeemed our distorted sexuality.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, the glorifies God through our redeemed sexuality.