

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 3/29/92 PM  
Proverbs 5:15 "Practical Counsel about Marriage from Proverbs"

**Intro:** Marriage is a wonderful thing.

Illust: Jokes about marriage. . .

--"Tied the Knot." "He bit the dust."

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Unfortunately, marriage has fallen on rough times these days. You know the stats--1 out of every 2 couples that marries these days ends up calling it quits.

Q: What can couples that say "I do" do to make sure they won't some day say "I don't" to each other?

God's Word has the relevant and practical answers to that question.

Where? Let's turn to the Wisdom Book, Proverbs. We're involved in a topical series entitled, "How to Be Wise in Life." Our text is this OT book of 31 chapters.

Let's review quickly. . .

### Proverbs: God's Wisdom for Daily Living

How to be Wise. . .

1. In Life--An Introduction (1:1-7)
2. In Developing Friendships (1:10-19; 22:24; 17:17)
3. In Your Marriage Relationship
4. As a Parent (6:1ff)
5. In Your Finances
6. On the Job
7. In Dealing with Temptation (23:26-27)
8. When It Comes to Alcohol (23:28ff)
9. In Handling Your Tongue (15:1-4; 18:4-8)
10. By Being the Man or Woman God Wants You to Be

Challenge: How to get the most out of our study. . .

1. Read Proverbs daily (a chapter a day for the next 3 months)
2. Use of Role Plays/Dialogue in our Study--Constantly be thinking, "How does this apply to my life?"

Q: What does Proverbs have to say about Marriage?

Key: This will be helpful for all of us to see. If you are married, you need it. If you're not married, you know people who are. Young people considering marriage some day. Couples who tied the knot 25 years ago. We all need to know what God says about marriage, and how to be wise in the marriage relationship.

Think about the Wonder of Marriage:

30:18-19 "There are 3 things too wonderful for me. . . the way of a man with a maid"  
But do you know what is a great tragedy?

30:21-23 "For 3 things the earth is disquieted. . . an odious woman when she is married." (NIV "an unloved woman who is married.")

Tragic: Couples that merely "exist" together. Alienated roommates. Strangers living under the same roof.

Q: How can we experience what God intended in marriage?

**Proposition: Tonight we want to learn from Proverbs God's counsel for how to be wise in the marriage relationship.**

I. God's Counsel for Men

A. Before Marriage: How to Get Off on the Right Foot

1. What to Know (17:1; 18:22)
2. Who to Avoid (31:3)
  - a. The Brawler
  - b. The Strange Woman

B. In Marriage: How to Prosper (5:15-21)

1. Cultivate an Appreciation for your Wife (15)
2. Be Captivated by the love of your Wife (18)

II. God's Counsel for Women

- A. The Motivation (14:1)
- B. The Model (31:10-31)

First, the men. . .

**I. God's Counsel for Men**

Q: Men, what does God want us to know about marriage?

A: If you survey Proverbs, you'll find 2 practical areas addressed--How to prepare for marriage, and how to prosper in marriage.

A. Before Marriage: How to Get Off on the Right Foot

There are 2 things Proverbs tells a man about how to get off on the right foot.

*1. What to Know (17:1; 18:22)*

17:1 "Better a dry morsel. . . than a house full of sacrifices. . ."

NIV "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet, than a house full of feasting with strife."

My Paraphrase: "I'd be better off if I had bread and water for supper and loving relationships with my wife and children, than having nightly gourmet dinners accompanied by gripe sessions with the family."

Some men spend more time and effort planning for a purchase of a car than they do in preparing for marriage. Proverbs informs us that a successful marriage doesn't just happen. It takes effort and preparation.

It starts with finding the right woman.

Men, most of us have a problem. We forget the truth of the next verse.

18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife finds a GOOD thing, FAVOR from the Lord."

How should a man view his wife?

She is a GOOD thing, a FAVOR from God.

Illust: Drew Baker told me before marriage, "I try to view my wife like a precious vase. You don't kick it around. You prize it. You treat it delicately. It's a beautiful thing. When in public, you hold it up with great respect and appreciation."

Tragic: Men, some of us are more proud of our job (or truck!) than our wife.

Illust:

## 2. *Who to Avoid (31:3)*

31:3 "Give not thy strength unto women..."

There are 2 types of woman Proverbs warns men to avoid (by application, woman ought to avoid these type of men too!):

### a. **The Brawler**

What do I mean by the "brawler"?

Illust: Not the ladies on the old "Roller Derby"!

Let's scan several texts:

19:13 "the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping."

21:9 "It is better to dwell in a corner. . . than a brawling woman."

21:19 "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentuous and angry woman"

25:24 "It is better to dwell in the housetop, than with a brawling woman"

27:15-16 "A continual dropping. . . and a contentious woman"

NIV "Restraining her is like restraining the wind"!!

Illust: The Arabs have a proverb that goes like this, "Three things make a house intolerable: "tak" (roof leaks when it rains), "nak" (a wife's nagging), and "bak" (bugs)." (from Kidner, 133)

"brawling" = from Hebrew root "to judge"; scolding, nagging

Discuss: Describe a contentious, brawling person. . .

The point is this. Unmarried fellows (and ladies), listen to Proverbs. There's more to a good spouse than what you see on the outside. You're in for a life of heartache if you marry a complainer, no matter how vivacious her appearance may be!

Illust:

There's someone else a man should avoid.

### b. **The Strange Woman**

I found something interesting when preparing this message. As I scanned the book of Proverbs, I wrote down all the references having to do with marriage. What I thought would be 2 columns (husband, wife) soon turned into a third that far exceeded the others.

Transp: The Marriage Relationship in Proverbs

<u>Husbands</u>	<u>Wives</u>	<u>The Strange Woman</u>
5:15-21	11:22	2:16-19
17:1, 6	12:4	5:3-14
18:22	14:1	6:24-34

19:13-14	31:10-31	7:5-27
20:29		9:13-18
21:9, 19		22:14
25:24		23:27-28
27:15-16		29:3
31:3		30:20

Listen. Proverbs is clear. There are dangers that destroy marriages. Some are within the home itself. But one deadly one is lurking nearby on the outside. I want you to sense the sober warning of Proverbs.

Q: What are the marks of a strange woman?

A: I jotted down 14. She is unfaithful (2:16). Disobedient to God (2:17). Seductive with her words (2:16). Deadly (2:18-19). A Smooth-talker (5:3; 6:24; 7:5, 21). Nearsighted (5:6). Immoral (6:24; 30:20). Physically Attractive (6:25). Sexual (6:26). Immodest in her dress (7:10). Loud and defiant (7:11; 9:13). Won't stay at home (7:11). Pseudo-Religious (7:14). Persuasive (7:21).

22:14 "The mouth of a strange woman is a deep pit." (her mouth a great weapon!)  
 READ 7:6-27

Quote: Leroy Eims, "If this tragic story which Solomon do dramatically recounted were staged by our film industry and made into a motion picture, it would probably not be a tragedy. The harlot would probably be the star of the show. The audience would be regaled with laughter as she tricked the young country bumpkin into her snare. Her evil ways would be trumpeted as a victory for a lifestyle of fun and frolic, the carrying out of the new morality and freedom of the modern age." (127)

Illust: Story about axe (D. Jeremiah, 92)

So Prov tells us first how to get off on the right foot in marriage--what to know, and who to avoid. Now to phase 2, the marriage itself.

Q: How can I prosper in marriage?

B. In Marriage: How to Prosper (5:15-21)

We're not going to exegete this text. I want to stimulate your thinking men so you'll spend time mulling over its principles, and then apply them.

Q: What must we do if we're to prosper in marriage.

A: Prov 5:15ff

*1. Cultivate an Appreciation for your Wife (15)*

5:15 "Drink waters out of thine own cistern. . ."

Contrast with. . .

5:20 "Why wilt thou be ravished with a strange woman. . .?"

Discuss: How can we cultivate an appreciation for our wives?

--Do special things for them, with them

Q: Men, how do you treat your wife when in public?

Illust: Spouses putting down o.a. in public. That's devastating!

2. *Be Captivated by the love of your Wife (18)*

5:18 "Let thy fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

NIV 5:20 "Why be captivated, my son, by an adultress?"

When we marry someone, we become ONE with them. That oneness involves emotional, mental, intellectual, spiritual, as well as physical ties.

Key: The physical aspect of marriage is not "dirty." Our culture has so distorted and abused sex that we NEED to restore the biblical teaching concerning it. God designed physical intimacy for 2 persons who have committed their lives together in the marriage covenant.

Illust: God devoted an entire book to reveal the mystery and marvel of physical attraction as God designed it in marriage

Men, let's make 2 commitments tonight. First, I am going to cultivate an appreciation for my wife as never before. And second, I am going to be captivated by the love of my wife.

Discuss: What are some things that rival for our love for our spouses?

Discuss: What must we do practically to implement these commitments?

Tran: There's a quick survey of God's counsel for the Men. Secondly. . .

## II. God's Counsel for Women

The first thing Prov has to say to women concerns the area of. . .

### A. The Motivation (14:1)

Q: What does a wise woman do?

14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house. . ."

A wise woman is one who makes her home her priority. Building a God-honoring home is her greatest mission in life. She is devoted to:

1. Her husband--12:4 "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband."
2. Her children

That's her motivation.

Illust:

Q: But what does that kind of woman look like? Give us a living color picture of such a virtuous woman!

What passage comes to mind when you think of the virtuous woman? Prov 31

### B. The Model (31:10-31)

What a great description! Prov 31 is:

--Hebrew acrostic, aleph to tav (22 marks of a woman that pleases God)

Note: "Everything you need to Know about being a Godly Woman, From A to Z"

Let's scan the passage a verse at a time.

What are the marks of a woman that receives God's commendation?

- v 10 Noble
- v 11 Trustworthy
- v 12 Good to her husband
- v 13 Industrious
- v 14 Hardworker
- v 15 Committed to her family
- v 16 A Planner
- v 17 Strong
- v 18 Wise in Conducting Business
- v 19 Good with her Hands
- v 20 Generous to the Needy
- v 21 Makes sure family is Clothed
- v 22 Appropriate Attire
- v 23 Supportive of her Husband
- v 24 Creative
- v 25 Honorable
- v 26 Wise Speech
- v 27 Not Idle
- v 28 Praised by her Family
- v 29 Excellent
- v 30 Fears the Lord
- v 31 Praised

Discuss: What can a woman do to develop into this kind of person?

Illust: