

## MARITAL INFIDELITY

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Lesson #15

Proverbs 2:16-19; 5:1-23  
6:23-29; 7:1-27

**Introduction:** Proverbs addresses the problems associated with marital faithfulness. Solomon's wisdom challenges the reader to guard marital relationships. Concerning the illustrations of "the woman" pictured as the "adulteress" the reader must remember two perspectives: 1. Solomon uses the true facts of adultery revealing to his son the dangers of adultery, and 2. by application Solomon reveals a picture of the opposite of wisdom.

### **1. THE ALARMING LABELS** (What kind of corruption is associated with infidelity?)

A. Proverbs 2:16 (5:3,20; 6:24; 7:5) = "strange" woman (NASV, NIV "adulteress")

B. Proverbs 6:24 = "evil" woman (NIV "immoral")

C. Proverbs 6:26 = "whorish" woman (NASV "harlot," NIV "prostitute")

D. Proverbs 6:26 = "adulteress" woman

E. Proverbs 7:10 = "harlot" (NIV "prostitute")

### **2. THE ABNORMAL PERSONALITY** (What are the character traits surrounding infidelity?)

A. Proverbs 2:17 = forsakes the guide of her youth (leaves the companion of her youth)

B. Proverbs 2:17 = forgets the covenant of her God

C. Proverbs 2:18 = inclined unto death (her tracks lead to death)

D. Proverbs 5:6 = does not ponder the path of life (gives no thought to the path of life)

E. Proverbs 5:6 = ways are unstable and does not know where they will lead

F. Proverbs 6:26 = hunts for the precious life (NIV preys upon another's life)

G. Proverbs 7:11 = loud (NASV "boisterous")

H. Proverbs 7:11 = stubborn (NASV "rebellious," NIV "defiant")

I. Proverbs 7:11 = her feet do not remain in her house

J. Proverbs 7:18 = desires to fully experience sexual relationships with others

### **3. THE AMBITIOUS METHODS** (What methods do the unfaithful use to cause infidelity?)

A. Proverbs 6:26 (7:23) = hunts for the precious life (NIV preys upon another's life)

B. Proverbs 7:7 = preys upon the unknowing, inexperienced, foolish, or naive

C. Proverbs 7:9 = uses the cover of night or takes advantage of the time when one is tired

D. Proverbs 7:10 = subtle heart (NASV "cunning heart," NIV "crafty intent")

E. Proverbs 7:14-17 = uses sight and smell along with ambiance and romance

F. Proverbs 7:19-20 = waits for the mate to be gone

**4. THE ATTRACTIVE LURES** (What compels someone to fall into infidelity?)

A. Proverbs 2:16 (6:24; 7:5,15) = words of flattery

B. Proverbs 5:3 = the lips like honeycomb

C. Proverbs 5:3 = the mouth smoother than oil

D. Proverbs 6:25 = exposes or emphasizes beauty

E. Proverbs 6:25 = accents the eyes or eyelids

F. Proverbs 7:10 = uses attire that exposes or emphasizes the physical parts of the body

G. Proverbs 7:13 = takes hold physically and uses kisses

H. Proverbs 7:13 = uses facial expression with her speech to attract

I. Proverbs 7:19-20 = removes the fear of getting caught

Summary note: notice how modesty and marketing relate to morality in the above statements. Why should parents be concerned with how their daughters dress and appear?

**5. THE ACCEPTING VICTIMS** (Who is caught in infidelity?)

A. Proverbs 6:25 (5:20) = those who have a problem with lust or strong desire

B. Proverbs 7:7 = simple ones (NASV "naive," Hebrew word is "foolish")

C. Proverbs 7:7 = the youths (NIV "young men")

D. Proverbs 7:7 = young men void of understanding (NIV "lack judgment")

E. Proverbs 7:13 (7:23) = those who allow themselves to be caught

F. Proverbs 7:21 = those who are able to be coerced

**6. THE AWFUL ENDING** (Where does infidelity take the participant?)

A. Proverbs 2:18 (5:5; 7:27) = death and hell are associated with the course of infidelity

B. Proverbs 2:19 = none that practice immorality are ever the same again

C. Proverbs 5:4 = the end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword

D. Proverbs 5:9 = will give your honor unto others

E. Proverbs 5:9 = will give your years unto one who is cruel

F. Proverbs 5:10 = your wealth (or strength) will be given to strangers

G. Proverbs 5:11 = your flesh and body will be consumed and you will mourn

H. Proverbs 6:27-28 = will be affected by the relationship

I. Proverbs 6:29 = will not be innocent (NASV "will not go unpunished")

J. Proverbs 7:23 = an arrow will pierce through the liver

**7. THE ALERTFUL EVASION** (How could infidelity be avoided?)

A. Proverbs 2:10,16 (5:1-2,7,12-13; 7:1-3,24) = follow wisdom and knowledge

B. Proverbs 5:8 = remove your way from immorality and infidelity

C. Proverbs 5:15-17 = only allow your mate to fulfill your desires

D. Proverbs 5:18-20 = be blessed, rejoice in, be satisfied, and be ravished by your mate

E. Proverbs 5:21 = remember though no one else may know, the Lord watches over you

F. Proverbs 6:25 = do not lust after other women

G. Proverbs 7:25 = do not allow yourself to follow after immorality and infidelity

**Conclusion:** Solomon writes that many have been cast down, many wounded, many slain by infidelity and immorality. Good men and women have fallen into sexual sins. A pastor from Des Moines, Dr. Paul Tassell once remarked "How could this happen? Feeding the sexual appetites of the flesh starts with private 1. **fantasizing**, which then moves on to a subtle 2. **flirtation**, which leads on to 3. **folly**, and ends in a bold 4. **flaunting** of one's sin."