

2022.05.07 Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”

Proverbs 7:24–27

“Guarding the Heart from the Romantic Path to Hell”

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- 24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children;  
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:
- 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,  
Do not stray into her paths;
- 26 For she has cast down many wounded,  
And all who were slain by her were strong men.
- 27 Her house is the way to hell,  
Descending to the chambers of death.

Pastor leads his family in a selection from “the Proverb of the day.” In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit urges our attention to guarding the heart from being led by desire into emotional or physical intimacy without the commitment of marriage.

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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Proverbs 7 verses 24 through 27. These are the words of God. Now therefore listen to me, my children, Pay attention to the words of my mouth, Do not let your heart. Turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths. For.

She has cast down Many wondered and all who are slain by her were strong men. Her house is the way to hell. Descending to the chambers of death. So far the reading of God's inspired and an errant. What word? This is talking about the harlot or the loose woman who was like a harlot that was introduced in verses 6 and following.

And in particular, in verse 10, this is talking about the sin of lust and indulging lost. When it comes to marital relations in your heart, or with your flesh, with someone who is not your wife, it applies also to someone who has not your husband, my dear daughters and it applies and it is more frequently, a danger to you in terms of romance of relation and the the kind of sentimental mushiness and intertwinedness that happens in what much of the world and sadly.

Much of the church thinks is innocent. This is one of the reasons we oppose even things, like the so-called English country dancing, and why English country dancing was abominated by the Puritans, not because the Puritans hated joy. They actually loved joy and not because the Puritans hated earthly things, They loved earthly things that were good.

In fact, there were some of the most joyous earthy. People, that there were They worked hard and they had much refreshment and joy in their recreations, but this is something that you need to be vigilant. In is guarding your heart against either emotional or flesh entanglements with those who are not your husband, or who are not your wife, my dear sons.

Now we can see how this is something that does not come naturally to our minds and hearts something in which we need the Word of God to correct. And overrule how we would function, unless we are intentionally thinking about the Bible and what God says and move from that to our decisions.

You see that in verse 24, who says now, therefore listen to me. Children pay attention to the words of my mouth, by urging the listening and the paying attention. He's alerting us to the fact that if we are not meditating upon and taking our direction from the Word of God, then we will fall into exactly what he's warning us against here.

And so, none of us should think that. Just because I'm a generally good person. None of us. Should think that we're generally good people, but none of us should think that. Just because I'm a generally good person or even because I am a mature Christian who has grown accustomed to, hopefully making choices.

Not according to what is permissible, but according to what has helpful and what is obedient to our master. That's what the apostle starts to describe in. First Corinthians 6, when he says all things are lawful, he says, yes, but not all things are helpful and not all things are, and I forget the exact phrasing, but it's basically obedient to the Lord recognizing that the Lord is our master, but we ought to live life in a way that does not go by what is permissible by what by what is helpful and by what most serves the Lord Jesus Christ.

But even if you've gotten into that sort of pattern, you don't then in matters of romance or choosing a spouse, and especially when romance threatens to become physical outside of marriage. But even before that, even in the heart and in the mind You don't assume that you are doing well.

He says now therefore listen to me, pay attention to the words of my mouth And so the scripture warns us how easily we will be led astray by our hearts. If we are not coming to the work and taking our direction from the work Back to the English country dancing thing.

The reason why that is so unhelpful is it has this pattern in it of pairing and unpairing during that which is just pleasure for pleasure's sake and not pleasure in something that the Lord has created for his glory and our good. And so, you match the nature of the thing, pleasure for pleasure's sake with the dynamic within the thing of pairing and unpairing.

And you set your heart at great risk soon. You find yourself noticing with whom you are going to be paired and anticipating being paired for a few moments with that person. And then the next phase is noticing with whom you would like to be paired and maybe even changing positions, so that you can figure out how mathematically to get end up being paired with them more.

And some of the dances even have a particular partner, which puts you at even more risk and soon, the heart is unnecessarily inflamed, which is exactly the kind of thing that this proverb is warning. You again just note my sons that it begins in the heart verse 25. Do not let your heart.

Turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. It's been some time since we did versus 12 through 23, but one of the things you need to watch against is a girl who is trying to get noticed, the more a girl tries to get noticed. The more you must resist with your heart and mind to notice her. Those whom you should notice are those who are not trying to run off with the other.

Girls are not trying to attract the boys, but those who enjoy being with their parents, those who especially enjoy worship and would never find an excuse to leave, the praise of God and the hearing of his word those who are glad to pray and will join their hearts with others in prayer.

Those who enjoy being with the godlier old people in the church. Not all old people are godly. So, just enjoying being with old people, is not necessarily a good thing, although it's much better than enjoying being with the young people, but those who are obviously, valuing, walking with God and maturity, and getting wisdom.

Those whose hands are quick to be of service, but your heart and mind should guard against those who are trying to get noticed, okay, do not let your heart. Turn aside to her ways Do not stray into her paths. For. She has cast down many wounded and all who were slain by her were strong men.

It's not just the girl who's trying to get noticed against you. It's the pride of your own heart. That is against you because each of us will think in our hearts. Sure, there are gullible people who don't know where the limits are. And they are the kind of people who, who end up in that sort of sin.

But this verse verse 26 tells you strong people end up in this kind of sin. You don't say well I'm a fool enough or I'm strong enough or I know well enough where the boundaries are that. I can go a little bit into the way and I will be okay, says, no her her kill count is littered with men who thought they would be.

Okay. History is littered with the spiritual corpses as it were of men who thought that they would be. Okay, distrust your heart. Trust the Word of God, her house is the way to hell. Descending to the chambers of death. You choose a path not by how good the beginning appears.

But by the quality of its ending, One of the things that will be a great part of the temptation, whether it's for the emotionally intertwined romance, or the physically intertwined romance, or some combination of the two, One of the dangers, one of the ways it attracts you is by how good it looks.

At the moment, you need to develop the mental self-discipline of saying what appears good in the moment is the beginning of the path. But what makes the path good or not? Good to enter into is not how the beginning will look. And feel It is where it ends. And so Solomon by the Holy Spirit comes He says I have barely escaped.

The end of that path. Do not go down that path. The end of that path is hell. That's pretty strong. Isn't it? We often say the end of that path is sinning or the end of that path is some misery. In this life, the end of that path is a chain of broken relationships that you will have through the rest of your life, because you get into this habit of common law marriage and divorce.

The end of that path, is getting your feelings hurt, or hurting someone else's feeling the end of that path is venereal disease. The end of that path is a family that is dysfunctional and a society that is broken down. All of those things are actually true but the Holy Spirit here, cuts to the chase and he says the end of that path.

As hell, don't start on the beginning of that path. Guard your hearts from these romantic entanglements before it goes from heart to body to hell. Praise God. That the Lord, Jesus, who is our righteousness. Also gives us of his spirit that he who caused these words to be written on the page would cause them to be written on our hearts.

And may he grant that we would be diverse 24 and impress them, engrave them into our minds so that we can both watch out for the dangers and others who are trying to get our attention and for the dangers in our own hearts. That think that we can survive entertaining that thought or engaging in that relationship.

Just a little bit. Let's pray.

We thank you. Lord, Jesus. That you only ever had thoughts for your church, your corporate bride, whom you would have to unending ages in whom you would present to yourself. Not only convert it but blameless and without spot or wrinkle or any such thing in the last day and that although you had created marriage and you knew from the scripture how pleasant and beneficial, it would be that you walking by the word.

And by what was written of you resisted every temptation perfectly in the art and then in your life. And so, we thank you and bless your name for each. One of us has found the difficulty of resisting the mental and heart portion of this sin. And we have been found out by it and we're so grateful that your obedience as the righteousness that is counted to us.

And so now we come not only through your righteousness and through your sacrifice, but asking for the Holy Spirit to give us of your mind of your character by your Almighty power, so that we may resist the path, that leads to hell. And so that we may enjoy entering into the path in the right

way that leads to a marriage that glorifies you and gladdens us and makes us full of joy and what you have created.

Pray O God that you would continue to bless my and others marriage that we would delight in one. Another as gifts from you unto your glory that we might have much pleasure in the romance of our marriage. I pray for my children that you would guard them from things that seem good at the beginning, but are the way to hell?

And that one day, they may each have the kind of marriage that reflects your delight Lord, Jesus in your bride, and the delight that you are fostering and will one day perfect in your bride that she has in. You Pray, Lord for the one that each one of these children is going to marry that.

Even now you would be helping them that you would be causing them to read your word and hear it taught and preached that your spirit would be writing your word on their hearts that they and these would come to that marriage having engaged in the discipline of having your word, correct?

The tendencies of our hearts that they would be those who not only distrust themselves but that don't thereby live in a constant anxiety. Because the main thing is that they would live trusting you help us O God to live the rest of this day. Trusting you enjoying you glorifying you for.

We ask it through Christ. Amen.