

Sanctity of Marriage (Lectures 8, 9, and 10)

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Session 7

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Abstract

In Session 7 of his Proverbs series, Dr. August Konkel examines lectures eight, nine, and ten from Proverbs 5 through 7, focusing on the sanctity of marriage as a foundational covenant value in biblical wisdom literature. He contrasts the four representative women of Proverbs—Woman Wisdom, Woman Folly, the Foreign Woman, and the faithful marriage partner—to highlight the spiritual, social, and personal consequences of marital fidelity versus unfaithfulness. The session warns young people against the ruinous financial, emotional, and social trap of seduction while celebrating lifelong monogamous love as a refreshing source of strength and satisfaction. Dr. Konkel emphasizes that true wisdom requires proactive decisions to maintain covenant loyalty and preserve family integrity before temptation arises.

Outline

I. Introduction to the Sanctity of Marriage in Proverbs 1–9

- A. Premise of Genesis and Covenant Loyalty
 - 1. Creation foundation: Man and woman as one flesh (Genesis 2)
 - 2. Development of human independence: Leaving parents to establish a family
 - 3. The priority of covenant loyalty in biblical wisdom and fear of the Lord
- B. Reality of Human Failure and the Uncompromising Ideal
 - 1. Acknowledgement of human weakness and marital failure in Torah
 - 2. The wisdom teacher's aspiration to preserve marital unity and integrity

II. The Four Representative Women in Proverbs

- A. Woman Wisdom
 - 1. Introduced in Proverbs 1:20–33; prepares a great banquet in Proverbs 9
 - 2. Companion of God (Proverbs 8:22–31) delighting in humanity
- B. Woman Folly
 - 1. Embodiment of foolishness (Proverbs 9:13–18)
 - 2. Characterized as boisterous, seductive, with stolen bread and water

C. The Foreign Woman (The Wayward/Adulterous Spouse)

1. Introduced in Proverbs 2: Characterized by allurements and flattering speech
2. Choice of death and destruction leading to Sheol

D. The Faithful Marriage Partner

1. Extolled in Proverbs 5:15–19 as the ideal monogamous relationship
2. Reflected in the valiant/strong woman of Proverbs 31:10–31

III. Lecture 8: Loyalty to the Marriage Covenant (Proverbs 5)

A. The Seduction and Danger of the Foreign Woman

1. Wisdom guards and protects from destructive wayward paths
2. Her steps take hold of Sheol (Proverbs 5:5)

B. The High Cost of Unfaithfulness

1. Loss of personal strength, honor, and influence over children
2. Financial loss and economic ruin (legal provisions and separation costs)
3. Permanent emotional regret and destruction of community trust

C. The Satisfying Ideal of Monogamous Intimacy (Proverbs 5:15–20)

1. Metaphor of marriage as a well of cool, refreshing water
2. Complete devotion: Being "lost in love" with one's spouse
3. Contrast between the straight road of divine guidance and the binding chains of folly

D. Modern Testimonies on Marital Fidelity

1. Writings of Lauren Winner (Real Sex) and Dawn Eden (The Thrill of the Chase)
2. Personal journeys affirming marriage chastity as uniquely fulfilling

IV. Lecture 9: The Price of Unfaithfulness (Proverbs 6:20–35)

A. Guidance from the Torah and the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

1. Loving God with mind, desire, and wealth
2. Internalizing Torah as light, protection, and life guidance

B. Affirmation of Family and Marriage Commandments

1. Honoring father and mother; prohibition against adultery

C. Comparison: Prostitution vs. Adultery

1. Prostitution incurs a fixed financial fee
2. Adultery hunts for life itself, leading to total destruction

D. Inevitability of Consequences and Lifelong Shame

1. Analogy of walking on hot coals without getting burned
2. Comparison to a thief: A thief repays goods, but an adulterer incurs permanent disgrace
3. Assurance of divine mercy and redemption despite temporal consequences

V. Lecture 10: The Seductive Trap and Final Warning (Proverbs 7)

A. Intimacy with Wisdom as Defense

1. Making wisdom one's closest companion and confidante

B. The Story of the Seductive Woman and the Naive Youth

1. Context: Husband absent on a distant business trip with money
2. The woman offering peace offerings (shalom) and a celebratory feast
3. Seductive luxury: Linens from Egypt, bed spiced with aloes and cinnamon

C. Graphic Metaphors of Destruction

1. The naive young man enticed into a fatal trap
2. "An ox led to the slaughter": Oblivious to impending death
3. A stag running straight into a snare

D. Practical Application and Conclusion

1. Deciding against temptation in advance before opportunities arise
2. Preserving family cohesion and retaining the fruits of labor (etzev)
3. Reaffirming Malachi's exhortation: Faithfulness to the wife of youth