

## Instructions for the Game of Life (Part 5) (Proverbs 5:3-5)

### *Instructions for Bringing Back Morality*

**Introduction:** As we turn to Proverbs, where we are finding the instructions for the game of life; we find language that is refreshingly clear and direct.

The writer here is making a plea for morality to his son because he knows *the pleasures and pitfalls of immorality are not worth the price, therefore, there must be a plan to avoid it!* He tells him up front...

#### I. There is pleasure in immorality: (v.1-3)

- A. **No one is denying that sexual immorality is pleasurable** – (In fact the opposite is true.) That is why...
- Pornography is a \$multi-billion dollar a year industry....
  - There are more porn outlets today than there are McDonalds restaurants in America, and more X-rated movies and videos distributed each year than the entire population of the U.S.)
1. **But not all immorality is sexual** – Here the immoral woman may represent anything from an actual prostitute to a symbol of sin, the evils of the world, false religion, idolatry, love of money or any other seductive temptation, etc. that we may meet.
2. **Because what makes temptation, so tempting** is that it inflates our ego or fulfills our selfish desires.

But the book of Proverbs emphasizes the importance of listening to wisdom and looking ahead to see where your actions will lead you.

- B. **All forms of immorality can be avoided** - Solomon points out that those who pay attention to sound advice & learn from the experiences of others develop true discretion. (Prov. 11:3; Js. 1:19)
1. Nothing but the word of God is an adequate safeguard against the seductions and delusions that are so rampant in our day. (This is why Paul exhorted Timothy (2 Tim.3:13-17) and Jesus confronted the church of Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17)
2. The direct desired result of Satan and sin is the destruction of body and soul. This is why Jesus instructed the disciples and us to pray, "...*Lead us not into temptation.*" [or protect me from my own temptation...] (Mt. 6:13)

#### II. There is a price for immorality: (v.4-5)

- A. **At first immorality seems pleasant and desirable,**( But consider the serious consequences, Solomon says ("In the end..." when the season of fun is over...)
1. **she is bitter like wormwood** – a symbol of suffering. (Duet. 29:18)
2. **She is like a sharp sword** – a symbol of death. Here the word end is a reversal of the promise – what started out delicious ends as disgusting; it is far worse than just disenchantment...
- B. **There is an enormous price for practicing immorality** – guilty conscience,

remorse, lost testimony, scandal, venereal disease, wrecked marriage, broken home, mental disturbance, and a whole host of other ills.

#### C. **If any are entrapped it is not for lack of warning, but for willing neglect of instruction.** For God's word tells us

**Today we have the instruction of Solomon's wisdom** and Jesus is our example of what we should do and how we should live in this world.

**(Eph. 4:13-15)** focus on growing in Christ...

**(Jn. Jn 12:28)** seek to glorify the name of God...

**(Jn. 17:4)** finish the work the Lord has sent us to do...

**The Apostle Paul made it clear:**

- **These are the works of the flesh** (Gal. 5:19-21)
- **These are the fruits of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22-24)
- **This is how you decide which one you will choose** (Gal. 5:16)

Therefore...

#### III. **There must be a plan for morality: (V.1-2)** Heed the Apostle Paul's advice (1 Cor. 10:12), and start taking these precautions...

1. **Monitor your spiritual pulse** –
2. **Guard your marriage** -
3. **Take precautions** –
4. **Guard your mind** –
5. **Regularly rehears the consequences** –

And remember, weak moments lead to ruined lives!