

PROVERBS SERIES FIVE
INTIMATE LOVE AND ITS ENEMY
Dr. Roger Barrier
Proverbs 5

In Proverbs 5-9 Solomon shares with us how fulfilling relationships can be. So many of us dream of a happy and fulfilled life. For many that includes hopes for an idyllic marriage of companionship, great sex, long walks on the beach, perhaps children—and one day grandchildren.

Tucked away in the middle of Proverbs 5 Solomon shares the intimacy of fulfilling love. In the verses surrounding that passage he warns of the enemy of intimate love: illicit sex.

Our society has gone overboard on the subject of sex. It is not a pretty picture. Something has gone wrong in America with our appetite for the body. We have taken a very sacred thing which God has designed for the happiness and fulfillment and procreation of man and we have twisted it out of shape.

The father, speaking to his young, unmarried son in Proverbs, is concerned that his son live life with wisdom. No other sin has built into it the deep-rooted damage that sexual immorality does!

THE ENEMY OF INTIMATE LOVE (PROVERBS 5:1-14, 20-23)

Let's define the terms.

Fornication is from the Greek word *pornea* (*πορνεία*). It describes every form of immoral sexual behavior from sex outside of marriage to lust to incest to bestiality to other things that I choose not to mention at this time. It has to do with all sorts of impurity and unnatural vice.

Adultery is a type of fornication. It involves sexual relations between two people, at least one of whom is married.

Marriage as defined by God is “One man and one woman for a lifetime.”

If Solomon were writing today he would widen his definition of what it means to “go near her door.” *Computers; Internet Porn and “after hours” cable television*

Pornea Sex is classic idolatry. Think about it in terms of *worship*.

We give it our *time*.

We give it our *money*.

We run to it for *comfort*.

We *leave God* totally *out* of the picture.

“Internet porn is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction.”

By the way, there are three *at risk* groups in our society for sexual addiction.

1. Those who were neglected and abandoned as children.
2. Those who were sexually abused.
3. Young adolescent males from 12 to 25 (imprinting years).

“It is not good for man to be alone.” Consider how internet sex meets emotional needs alone.

1. Anonymity—relationship with no emotional strings
2. An illusion of friendships without the demands of friendship
3. Emotional control without risk, exposure, or being known
4. As gratification and a sense of being connected flourishes, the person actually grows more isolated, lonely, and relationally unfulfilled.
5. Powerful detrimental effect on human relationships and sexuality (never learn to interact socially with others; program brain to unique, situational performance.)

Sex is the fastest-growing addiction in the United States and the addiction of choice among Christians.

The warning signs of sexual addiction:

1. Loss of control—no longer able to say, “I’ll stop.”
2. Mind obsessed with a constant flood of sexual images
3. Continuation in spite of increasing negative consequences
4. An “adrenalin fix” high from the activity
5. Life out of control in other areas
6. A sense of entitlement – “I deserve this.”
7. Experiencing a feeling of power (especially female)

The Sex Addicts View of Life

1. I am a horrible, terrible person.
2. No one will meet my needs – sex is my most important need.
3. If you really knew me you would leave me (shame).

Healing from Sexual Addiction

1. Connection
2. Accountability
3. Counseling
4. Courage
5. Grace
6. Prayer

THE INTIMACY OF FULFILLING LOVE (PROVERBS 5:15-18)

1. Secure, functional family life
2. No unwanted children
3. Freedom from destructive disease
4. Intimate partnership for a lifetime
5. Ability to love freely and openly
6. Human beings are persons and not objects
7. The Biblical type of the intimate worship of God (Song of Solomon 6:5) is fulfilled.

THE WARNING CONTINUES WITH A TRUE STORY (PROVERBS 7:4-27).

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE SUREST GUARANTEE TO SEXUAL PURITY

Love God and love others.

Make God the object of your affection.

Develop numbers of intimate, fulfilling healthy relationships with others.