

### Solomon and Adultery in Proverbs

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Here are a few interpretations from Solomon's discussion of sexual immorality in Proverbs:

- Adultery and fornication are a devastating and disastrous form of immorality, which permanently damage a person with irreversible consequences (6:26). All sin is devastating, but some more so than others. Sexual sins are among the worse. The only thing consistently worse in Scripture is idolatry.
- Sexual immorality is contrary to wisdom. It goes against the way we were made. It is like using my glasses to stir my coffee, etc. (5:1-2).
- Sexual immorality feels good but leads to ruin. Every sexual encounter will be the most pleasing at the start (5:3). As it progresses, it produces less and less pleasure and more and more problems. The intensity of the sexual (romantic) pleasure continues until it can no longer accommodate the problems it is cultivating. When it leaves, its victims are *reduced to a loaf of bread* (6:26).
- Those who commit adultery are personally unstable. Stable people find the wisdom to avoid sexual immorality (5:6). Everyone is tempted to sexual immorality. The wise have enough sense to understand that it will destroy them. Fools think they are the only ones since the beginning of creation who will not have problems because of it, who think they won't be discovered.
- The only way to fight sexual immorality is to not go near it (5:8). Other than your spouse, don't flirt with, counsel with, socialize with, travel with, or be alone with someone of the opposite sex.
- The only proper place for sexual or romantic notions is with *the wife of your youth* (5:15-19). This does not say that your spouse will satisfy you. Men think their spouse will satisfy them physically, and women think their spouse will satisfy them psychologically. It's a determination you must make to make yourself satisfied with your spouse.
- Sexual immorality leads to financial ruin (5:8-11).
- God observes all our ways, and that includes the paths which leads to sexual immorality (5:21). For women, it begins with relationships, and for men, it begins with physical lust.
- Sexual immorality for a man begins with admiring a woman's beauty (6:25).
- Adultery is worse than theft because a thief is punished and that's all. An adulterer is personally destroyed, permanently disgraced, and a target of relentless jealousy (6:25-35).
- In Chapter 7, Solomon tells the story of a young man he observes through his window at night. The man is naïve and led by an adulterous woman *as an ox goes to the slaughter*. She entices him with kisses, sexy clothes, and food (7:14 indicates she has extra food which needs to be eaten right away (Leviticus 7:12-17). Then she informs him that her husband is on a long journey. This is what adultery looks like at its peak of pleasure. This is the decision point from which there is no return. Before this, they have been flirting, after this they will experience living death, and endless regret. The point: never be in the position of the young man in Chapter 7.
- In chapter 9, Solomon presents a different kind of immoral woman. Instead of quietly seducing a young man at night, this woman's *folly is boisterous*. She may be guilty of many sins, but she seems to also be a professional harlot. She offers an advantage: she has no jealous husband for a young man to avoid. When she says, *Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant*, she is probably referring to illicit sexual intercourse. And it is true. There is something about sex that produces greater pleasure when it is illicit, stolen, sneaky, even rough or wild. Sex requires an increased perversion to be satisfying. The point: avoid the professional harlot as well as the adulterous woman. Both lead to the same death.

Illicit sexual intercourse, be it fornication or adultery, is not the only misery producing pleasure on the planet, but it is way ahead of whatever is in second place. It causes affairs, divorce, financial ruin, hatred, outbursts of anger, rage, strife, unwanted pregnancies, abortion, jealousy, gossip, and crime. It leaves children without parents. It destroys families and extended families. It fosters hatred over things like alimony, child support, child visitation, and child custody. Divorced people are the most miserable people in a society and most of it is caused by illicit sexual intercourse.