

Your Cheating Heart

(Proverbs 6:20-7:27)

9/13/17; Wed PM Pine Grove

Introduction

The first time that I flew I was a nervous wreck..

Even though I was in my late 20s and we were only flying from Charlotte to Nashville, I was quite anxious..

Even though I knew that I was saved and would go to heaven if we crashed...

Even though I had Tonya and Anna with me to calm my nerves...

Even though I knew it was much safer than driving...

It was just a nerve wracking experience..

Now as we climbed on the plane, I was surprised to find some pretty calm looking people...

They were getting in their seats reading newspapers and books and acting normal...

I, on the other hand, was tuned in to everything....

Where are we sitting?

Is it close to an exit?

And then as the plane began to pull away from the gate, the stewardesses stood up and began to go over the safety instructions...

Unlike the other 90% of the people on the plane, I pulled out the card and read along with her...

I even carefully listened to her instructions for a putting on my life vest in case of a water landing even though we would be flying over the mountains for most the flight...

But that is what we do when we are doing something for the first time...

We are normally really tuned in to what is happening around us..

Our eyes are big and our ears are on full alert...

Yet, by the 3rd or 4th flight and certainly by the 7th or 8th flight, you simply tune out the instruction...

You don't pay attention to the stewardesses...

You don't count the number of rows you are away from an exit...

You simply hope the kids are listening and will put an oxygen mask on you first if the plane depressurizes..

There are other things in life that are very similar...

For the first few months of driving a car, you have both hands on the wheel..

You use turn signals all the time...

You keep a good distance between you and the car in front of you...

But eventually you get comfortable and your attention span shrinks and you drive while texting and putting on your makeup...

That is the danger of getting too familiar and too comfortable with anything in life..

You stop paying attention...

You forget what you were taught and then boom you find yourself in trouble...

There are simply some things in life that you can't be reminded of enough...

There are simply some things that you need to be taught over and over and over again..

Well, the Lord evidently feels that way about sexual immorality and adultery....

Because in the book of Proverbs (and really throughout the whole Bible), we are repeatedly taught about the dangers of adultery...

So far in the book of Proverbs, we have read verses that speak of the dangers and consequences of adultery...

Proverbs 2, Proverbs 4, Proverbs 5, and now Proverbs 6 and Proverbs 7 all speak of the sin of adultery...

If we can measure the order of importance of which sins to teach your children about, adultery must be near the top of the list because Solomon spoke of it early and often to his son..

And tonight, we are going to be taught about it once again...

And it is not like we don't need this instruction...

Not only are we in danger of being led away by the temptation to commit adultery, we live in a culture filled with the consequences of adultery...

Divorce, single parents, lawsuits, murders, domestic violence are just some of the consequences of adultery and sexuality immorality in marriage...

So this is timely teaching and a timely reminder to us all of a very common sin that can be avoided if we listen to the Lord's instruction...

So, let's look at the end of chapter 6 tonight and all of chapter 7 in the book of Proverbs as we look and learn 3 truths about the sin of adultery...

Let's begin with the final half of Proverbs 6 with...

I. The Protection from Adultery (6:20-35)

If you notice on the screen, I have given you a more detailed outline of Proverbs 6 and 7 than I normally would...

And the reason is this...

There is so much good instruction here that we must not overlook any of it by rushing through this...

So, let's just handle these verses tonight in smaller samples but let's learn as much as we can from each sample..

Now in terms of being protected from adultery, it is clear that a great protection comes from parental instruction about the dangers of adultery...

A. Biblical Instruction (20-24)

Let me read verses 20-24...

20

***My son, observe the commandment of your father
And do not forsake the [k]teaching of your
mother;***

21

***Bind them continually on your heart;
Tie them around your neck.***

22

*When you walk about, [l]they will guide you;
 When you sleep, [m]they will watch over you;
 And when you awake, [n]they will talk to you.*
 23

*For the commandment is a lamp and the
 [o]teaching is light;
 And reproofs for discipline are the way of life*
 24

*To keep you from the evil woman,
 From the smooth tongue of the [p]adulteress.*

We have seen this parental pleading before in the book of Proverbs...

This earnest call of a father to a son to obey the commands of the Lord is a constant theme in the opening chapters of the book of Proverbs..

And you see the same pleading here...

Verse 20...Observe the commands of the Lord, son...

Don't forsake your mother's teaching..

Verse 21...Put the commands of the Lord in your heart and around your neck..

Verse 23...the commands of the Lord are a lamp to show you the right path...

And what are the commands to be obeyed this time?

Verse 24...

The commands of the Lord will keep you away from the immoral and adulterous woman...

You see, in times of temptation, sometimes the only barrier to your sin is the word of God that has been stored in your heart...

Sometimes, the Godly words of a mother or father or a Sunday School teacher are what keeps a person from sinning...

That is why it is important to teach our own children and grandchildren about the sins of sexual immorality like adultery...

Yes, it may be uncomfortable...

Yes, it may be awkward...

But guess what?

IT may save their life or marriage and family one day...

That is why it is also important to keep the word of the Lord in front of us as often as possible as well...

Sometimes the Lord gives us specific instruction on a Sunday because we are going to be faced with a certain temptation on Monday..

The word of God is not just meant for the filling of your head but also for the protection of your heart...

And wise parents teach their kids about the dangers and consequences of adultery...

And wise people listen to and keep the word of Lord in their heart so they are led astray as well..

So, the first protection against adultery is proper instruction in the word of God...

The second protection from adultery is...

B. Personal Protection (25-35)

Not only should we teach our kids and ourselves about the dangers of adultery....

We must also think rightly about the temptations of adultery...

The first way to protect your heart is to avoid the temptation of being shallow is avoid being drawn into adultery by outward appearance...

I call this the protection of not being shallow...

1. Don't be Shallow (25-26)

Listen to verse 25-26...

25

*Do not desire her beauty in your heart,
Nor let her capture you with her eyelids.*

26

*For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf
of bread,
And [q]an adulteress hunts for the precious life.*

Adultery often begins with outward appearances
and shallow attractions...

Beauty and batting eyelids are very shallow things
to base a relationship upon, but many people enter
into adulterous relationships in shallow ways...

In fact, the basis of most adulterous relationships
carries the idea of cheapness...

To where one party is not more than a loaf of bread
to the other...

An easy and cheap meal...

Where the adulteress is nothing more than a grocery
shopper in a store or a hunter in the field losing for
an easy kill...

So, don't be shallow in your view of another man's wife or another woman's husband...

They are not a cheap and easy meal or a easy target for your sinful cravings....

They are the committed spouse of another man or woman and should be seen as such...

And you are the committed husband or wife your spouse..

But not only should you not be shallow in your view of another person of the opposite sex, you must understand that adulterous actions are destructive..

2. Don't be Destructive (27-32)

Let's read verses 27-32....

27

***Can a man [r]take fire in his bosom
And his clothes not be burned?***

28

***Or can a man walk on hot coals
And his feet not be scorched?***

29

***So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
Whoever touches her will not [s]go unpunished.***

30

***[t]Men do not despise a thief if he steals
To satisfy [u]himself when he is hungry;***

31

***But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold;
He must give all the [v]substance of his house.***

32

***The one who commits adultery with a woman is
lacking [w]sense;
He who would destroy [x]himself does it.***

The point of the instruction in verses 27-32 is to discourage someone from committing adultery by reminding them that such sin is self destructive...

The questions of verses 27-28 have obvious answers...

No, you can't hold fire close to your body and not be burned...

No, you can't walk on hot coals and not burn your feet...

Therefore, you can't play with the fire of sinful adultery and not get hurt..

There will be consequences to such behavior either now or in eternity...

And then in verse 30, Solomon says look...

People will feel pity for a thief who steals to eat...

But they won't let him off the hook...

He will have to repay what he has stolen 7 times over...

But look, no one will feel pity for the adulterer because he didn't have to commit a sin to live..

He committed a sense of foolishness that doesn't keep him alive but actually leads to his own destruction...

3. Don't be Foolish (33-35)

A final method of personal protection from adultery is don't be foolish...

Verses 33-35..

33

***Wounds and disgrace he will find,
And his reproach will not be blotted out.***

34

***For jealousy [y]enrages a man,
And he will not spare in the day of vengeance.***

35

He will not [z]accept any ransom,

Nor will he be [aa]satisfied though you give many [ab]gifts.

We saw this 2 weeks ago in Proverbs 5 but adultery ruins reputations..

Verse 33 says that the sin of adultery will lead to wounds and disgrace and reproach..

But not only that, adultery can ruin your health when the husband of the adulterous woman discovers the sin...

Verse 34 says that jealousy enrages a man and will lead him to spare no mercy when he finds out...

And his jealous rage can not be bought off according to verse 35...

In other words, don't commit adultery or a crime of jealous rage may be committed against you...

So, there are so protections from adultery...

Biblical instruction and personal protection...

Now, let's begin Proverbs 7 with....

II. The Picture of Adultery (7:1-23)

Though we turn to a new chapter, the teaching on adultery remains...

So in verses 1-5, we see a repeat of what we just saw in verses 20-24 of chapter 6....

Let me read these verses...

*1 My son, keep my words
And treasure my commandments within you.*

*2
Keep my commandments and live,
And my [a]teaching as the [b]apple of your eye.*

*3
Bind them on your fingers;
Write them on the tablet of your heart.*

*4
Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"
And call understanding your intimate friend;*

*5
That they may keep you from an [c]adulteress,
From the foreigner who [d]flatters with her words.*

In other words, the instruction about adultery continues...

My son, keep these words...

Treasure these words I am about to give you..

Verse 2...

Keep these commandments...

Bind them to your life...

Write them on your heart..

Verse 5...And once again son, this teaching is how to avoid the sin of adultery...

So in verse 6, the father begins to instruct his son...

But this time, the father isn't going to teach with words but by an example of adultery that he witnessed...

So let us look at this example of adultery and pull out a few principles to keep us away from this sin as well..

**A. Don't Make Adultery Possible
(1-13a)**

Verse 6..

6
*For at the window of my house
I looked out through my lattice,*
7

*And I saw among the [e]naive,
And discerned among the [f]youths
A young man lacking [g]sense,*

8

*Passing through the street near her corner;
And he [h]takes the way to her house,*

9

*In the twilight, in the [i]evening,
In the [j]middle of the night and in the darkness*

Couple notes to make here...

In this example of adultery, the young man is setting himself up for failure and sin...

The first thing to notice is that he was in the wrong neighborhood at the wrong time..

Now whether this was on purpose or not, it is impossible to tell...

All we see is that this man was coming near the house of a woman as darkness approached...

And there is nothing good that happens near the house of an adulterous woman at night..

Verse 10...

10

And behold, a woman comes to meet him,

Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.

11

*She is boisterous and rebellious,
Her feet do not remain at home;*

12

*She is now in the streets, now in the squares,
And lurks by every corner.*

13

So she seizes him and kisses him

When I was just learning to fish, I had a hard time hooking fish...

Most of the time it was because I wasn't paying attention when I got a bite and the fish would get off before I could jerk and hook him....

Well, my dad told me this...

Don't put a hook in the water unless you expect something to bite it...

Needless to say, don't put yourself in situations where adultery can happen and not expect to be tempted...

So the young man in the example was in the wrong place at the wrong time and the wrong woman meets him and then kisses him...

In other words, the first defense against adultery is not to be an idle person who wanders into situations where sin can happen...

If you lay down with dogs, you get up with fleas, and if you make sinful situations possible, you will get yourself into sin...

That is the weakness of the flesh and so we must always be on guard...

So now the situation has escalated, but the adulteress continues her attack in the second part of verse...

This is where we find our second piece of advice in terms of avoiding the sin of adultery...

B. Don't be Deceived (13b-21)

In the second part of verse 13 all the way to verse 21, the adulteress moves from kissing the young man to persuading him to sin with her...

And so the idea here is that she will pull him deeper into sin with her words...

Verse 13b...

[k]And with a brazen face she says to him:

14

***“[I] was due to offer peace offerings;
Today I have paid my vows.***

15

***“Therefore I have come out to meet you,
To seek your presence earnestly, and I have found
you.***

Now, the persuasive words here are meant to convince the young man that she isn't a “bad woman..”

She had even been to the temple and make a peace offering to God...

She is trying to pull him deeper into sin under the cover of being a religious woman....

Even suggesting in verse 14 that God had blessed her by bringing this man to her..

She then steps up her sensuous speech in verses 16-21...

16

***“I have spread my couch with coverings,
With colored linens of Egypt.***

17

***“I have sprinkled my bed
With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.***

18

“Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning;

Let us delight ourselves with caresses.

19

*“For [m]y husband is not at home,
He has gone on a long journey;*

20

*He has taken a bag of money [n]with him,
At the full moon he will come home.”*

21

*With her many persuasions she entices him;
With her [o]flattering lips she seduces him.*

The adulterous woman is throwing out her best efforts here...

The house is clean and the bed is ready...

My husband is lone gone and will be for a while...

Now, the clear counsel to the young man from the father is this...

Don't be deceived by her words, son...

She is not a God-fearing woman...

The offering she made to God was not given from a singer heart...

She has a husband and despite what she says, God has not brought you to her at just the right time....

She is simply using her lips to kiss you and fill your ears with nonsense that will lead to much trouble for you...

However, in the example that the father is using the young man falls for the bait hook, line and sinker...

Verse 22...

22

Suddenly he follows her

As an ox goes to the slaughter,

Or as [p]one in fetters to the discipline of a fool,

23

Until an arrow pierces through his liver;

As a bird hastens to the snare,

So he does not know that it will cost him his life.

C. Don't be Instinctive (22-23)

The clear thought here is for young men to not like animals in response to the woman's enticements..

Dont be like the ox or the bird that flies into trap being enticed by the food and not thinking about being caught...

In other words, think before you act...

Even if you find yourself in a bad situation, think clearly to get your way out of it..

God always provides an escape route to avoid any sin...

There is always a way out and clear thinking people find it...

But instinctive people rush into trouble without considering the cost or the consequences...

And then chapter 7 closes out this wise teaching about adultery with one final appeal to listen to the Lord on this subject...

III. The Pleading to Avoid Adultery (7:24-27)

Verse 24...

24

*Now therefore, my sons, listen to me,
And 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 many are the [q]victims she has cast down,
And numerous are all her slain.*

27

*Her house is the way to Sheol,
Descending to the chambers of death.*

As the teaching of chapter 7 comes to a close, the father returns to his pleading with his son to listen..

Verse 25...

Please stay away from the paths that lead to the adulterous woman's home...

Verse 26...

Please don't die in your sin with her...

Verse 27...

Please remember that the house of the adulterous woman is not a house of pleasure but a house of pain...

Not a house of fun and games but of death and destruction...

Conclusion

How are we to think about this continual instruction about adultery?

#1 - You can't be reminded of this sin too many times...

Adultery is destructive and the consequences can affect generations of people...

Adultery is also very easy to fall into...

It can start with the batting of the eyes or the simple compliment but it can end with families in ruins..

Adultery is also accessible...

We live in a culture that makes it easier for people to sin and even creates more situations for sin to be hidden..

Therefore, we must do all we can to make it less accessible in our lives...

#2 - You can't expose yourself to this sin in any form...

I want to remind you that we live in a culture filled with adultery..

If you have friends involved in this sin, call them to repentance and don't overlook what they are doing...

But I would also add...

Make sure you aren't exposing yourself and celebrating this sin in your entertainment choices...

Though there are no clear biblical commands on what TV shows and movies to watch and what music to listen to, be careful that you are being entertained by the sin of adultery..

So many forms of entrainment involve adultery, and I never want to be entertained by sins that Christ gave his life for...

#3 - You can't overcome adultery without Christ...

Look, the hope to overcome adultery is found in the power of Christ...

The forgiveness of the sin of adultery is found in Christ..

The motivation to avoid the sin of adultery is found in devotion to Christ..

Ultimately, the love of lust can only be overcome by a greater love for Christ..... Let us pray..