

The Book of Proverbs

Responsibility, Opportunity, Unity 6:1–19

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him . . . one who sows discord among brothers.

Proverbs 6:16, 19

Why Our Sexuality Matters God 6:20-7:27

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?

Proverbs 6:27

Sexual Sin Is Destructive (Prov. 6)

- **Proverbs 6:1–11** relate to wealth and work.
- **Verses 12–19** related to “the wicked people” mentioned in the book of Proverbs.
- **Verses 20–35** deals with adultery and points out what people will lose who commit this heinous sin.

In chapters 5-7 each of the warnings against adultery is prefaced by an admonition to pay attention to the Word of God (**5:1–2; 6:20–24; 7:1–5**).

Our trusting and obeying God’s truth keeps us from believing the enemy’s lies

Sexual Sin Is Destructive (Prov. 6)

Chapter 6 deals with three enemies that can destroy a person financially, physically, morally, or spiritually:

- unwise financial commitments (**vv. 1–5**),
- laziness (**vv. 6–11**), and
- lust (**vv. 20–35**).

It is not unusual for one person to be guilty of all three, laziness and lust often go together; people who can easily be pressured into doing foolish things.

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21).

Proverbs 6:1-19

We do not come to church to fine-tune our own righteousness or to airbrush our appearances.

We come because we want to grow and change.

- We want to know as much about God as he will tell us:
- We want to know as much about ourselves as he will tell us.
- We want his extreme grace for our extreme makeover, one step at a time.

Proverbs 6:1-19

Proverbs 6:1—19 shows three steps God wants us to take.

God speaks here into three areas of our lives —

- how we handle money (**vv. 1—5**),
- how we discipline ourselves (**vv. 6-11**), and
- how we build community (**vv. 12—19**).

He uses negative examples to teach us positive wisdom.

His thought seems to progress from

- a bad example in verses **1—5**,
- to a worse example in verses **6—11**.
- to the worst example in verses **12—19**.

Proverbs 6:1-19

First, the wise father-figure speaks to his son who needs correction.

We see “my son” in verses 1 and 3.

Then the father speaks to the sluggard (v. 6), but he does not call him a son.

Finally the father speaks about a disruptive person, without even addressing him.

In fact, the father feels so strongly about community- destroyers that he doubles up on this third bad example.

Verses 12—19 break down into two parts,
verses 12—15 and **verses 16—19**,

but the theme is the same:

“continually sowing discord” (v. 14),
“one who sows discord” (v. 19).

God our Father is calling us to take new steps of faith and repentance into responsibility, opportunity, and unity, for the sake of

Christ.

Proverbs 6:1-5 Responsibility

***My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor,
have given your pledge for a stranger,
if you are snared in the words of your mouth,
caught in the words of your mouth,
then do this, my son, and save yourself,
for you have come into the hand of your neighbor:
go, humble yourself, and plead urgently with your
neighbor.***

***Give your eyes no sleep
and your eyelids no slumber:
save yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter,
like a bird from the hand of the fowler. (Prov 6:1—5)***

Proverbs 6:1-2 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

***1] My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken
thy hand with a stranger,***

***2] Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken
with the words of thy mouth.***

What is “putting up security” or “giving your pledge” for someone else?

- It is cosigning a loan putting yourself up as collateral.
- It is underwriting someone else’s speculative risk.
- It is getting into a partnership when your partner’s default can bring you down.

Two things which are good advice any time:

1. Beware of signing a friend’s note.
2. And never become ‘unequally yoked’ - a partner with a stranger. **2 Co 6:14**

The fellow apparently has been boasting; he wants to appear outstanding in the financial realm: we are to beware of that.

Proverbs 6:1 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

(Pro 6:1 ISV*) ¶ My son, if you guarantee a loan for your neighbor, if you have agreed to a deal [Lit. have clapped your hands; i.e. have shaken hands] with a stranger,

(Pro 6:1 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} if^{H518} thou be surety^{H6148} for thy friend,^{H7453} if thou hast stricken^{H8628} thy hand^{H3709} with a stranger,^{H2114}

(Pro 6:1 NASB) My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, Have given a pledge for a stranger,

(Pro 6:1 NIV) My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have struck hands in pledge for another,

[surety for thy friend] Pledging to stand good for anyone tends to relieve the borrower of the responsibility he should feel, and often lowers the respect of a co-signer in the sight of the one he helps.

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Proverbs 6:2 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

(Pro 6:2 NASB) If you have been snared with the words of your mouth, Have been caught with the words of your mouth,

God is saving in verses 1 and 2,

“If you’ve done this, you’re not in danger of becoming ensnared, you’re already ensnared.”

The Bible is clear in two ways.

One, God wants us to be generous.

Two, God does not want us to gamble

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Proverbs 6:1 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

(Pro 6:1 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} if^{H518} thou be surety^{H6148} for thy friend,^{H7453} if thou hast stricken^{H8628} thy hand^{H3709} with a stranger,^{H2114}

Five facts about surety:

1. The command against surety (**Prov 22:26**)
2. The command to get out of surety as quickly as possible (**Prov 6:1-5**).
3. Surety is a sign of lack of understanding (**Prov 17:18**).
4. Suffering and disappointment are what is promised in surety (**Prov 11:15**)
5. To refrain from surety is the only safe way (**Prov 11:15**).

[stricken thy hand] Shaking hands was considered the ratification of a verbal contract or promise, and thus a man became ensnared with the words of his mouth (**Prov 6:1-2; cp. Job 17:3**).

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Proverbs 6:2 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

The Old Testament commanded a culture of generosity.

In Deuteronomy God told his people to loan money to the poor freely, and every seven years all debts in the nation were canceled, erased forever.

God had been generous to his people, so he wanted them to create a culture of generosity here within a world of tightfisted, grudging exactitude.

In the New Testament, when the Apostle Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon, he said, **“If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account” (Philemon 15).**

Paul covered Onesimus' past debts.

But Paul did not promise to cover any future debts.

That is the warning here in Proverbs 6 when it says not to “put up security for your neighbor.”

God wants every one of us to take responsibility for himself.

But if you put your financial future in the hands of someone the banks already think is a bad risk, you are acting irresponsibly yourself and encouraging irresponsibility in the other person.

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Proverbs 6:3-5 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

3] Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4] Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5] Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

The first law of holes: stop digging!

Have you made a financial mistake? Cut your losses—now.

Look at the urgency of verses 3—5.

“Take decisive action. Get out of that obligation before it’s too late!”

Proverbs 6:3-5 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

The Hebrew verb translated “**humble yourself**” in verse 3 suggests

getting down on the ground and letting the other guy trample all over you and call you every bad name, but you go ahead and let him do it and admit how stupid you have been, but get yourself free.

The verb translated “**plead urgently**” means to pester, to badger.

It means leaving a string of messages on the answering machine.

Proverbs 6:3-5 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

Just hoping things will work out is foolish.

If you are in a credit arrangement holding you hostage, you must get free.

Take back your own responsibility for your life.

If you have asked someone else to do this for you, you need to set him free.

Proverbs 6:3-5 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

Here is the good news for every one of us. In the book of Job, that suffering saint says to God,

“Be my surety ... for who else will pledge himself for me?” (Job 17:3, REB).

In other words, “God, I’m a bad risk. I need you to do for me what I wouldn’t do for someone like me.

I need you to cover all my debts, past, present and future.”

At the cross Jesus not only wrote “Paid in full” across the record of our debts, he also tore up the ledger in which our debts could be written thereafter:

“This he set aside, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:14).

If you are in Christ, you are free and clear with God forever.

Now you can make something of your life.

Proverbs 6:3 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

(Pro 6:3 ISV*) 3) ¶ *then do this, my son, and deliver yourself, because you have come under your neighbor's control.* [Lit. into the hands of your neighbor] **Go, humble yourself! Plead passionately with your neighbor!**

(Pro 6:3 KJV+) 3) *Do*^{H6213} *this*^{H2063} *now,*^{H645} *my son,*^{H1121} *and deliver thyself,*^{H5337} *when*^{H3588} *thou art come*^{H935} *into the hand*^{H3709} *of thy friend,*^{H7453} *go,*^{H1980} *humble thyself,*^{H7511} *and make sure*^{H7292} *thy friend.*^{H7453}

(Pro 6:3 NASB) 3) *Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself; Since you have come into the hand of your neighbor, Go, humble yourself, and importune your neighbor.*

(Pro 6:3 NIV) *then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor!*

Continue to press the one you are surety for to pay his debt, or you will be left to pay it.

If you are ensnared and obligated, make every effort, as the antelope taken in a net or a bird in a snare, to free yourself from captivity (**Prov 6:3-5**).

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Proverbs 6:4-5 The Folly of Guaranteeing Loans

(Pro 6:4 ISV*) ¶ *Don't allow yourself to sleep or even to close your eyes. 5) ¶ Deliver yourself like a gazelle from a hunter's hand, [So MT; LXX Syr Targ read from the hunter; or a noose] or like a bird from a fowler's hand.*

(Pro 6:4 KJV+) *Give*^{H5414} *not*^{H408} *sleep*^{H8142} *to thine eyes,*^{H5869} *nor slumber*^{H8572} *to thine eyelids.*^{H6079} **5) Deliver thyself**^{H5337} **as a roe**^{H6643} **from the hand**^{H4480 H3027} **of the hunter, and as a bird**^{H6833} **from the hand**^{H4480 H3027} **of the fowler.**^{H3353}

(Pro 6:4 NASB) *Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids; 5) Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hunter's hand And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.*

(Pro 6:4 NIV) *Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids. 5) Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.*

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Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

6] Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7] Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8] Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

The ant is a great example: *diligence* in preparing for the winter, without supervision...

What is a sluggard?

Think of the way syrup oozes slowly out of a bottle when it is cold.

That is the sluggard—sluggish and slow and hesitant when he should be decisive, active, forthright.

His life motto is. "Don't rush me."

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Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

"As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed" (Proverbs 26:14).

He is lazy, constantly making the soft choice, losing one opportunity after another after another after another, day by day, moment by moment, until he lies there helpless in his wasted life.

Let's all admit it—there is a bit of the sluggard deep inside each of us.

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Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

What does Proverbs say about the sluggard?

- First, the sluggard will not make up his mind.:
“How long will you lie there? When will you arise from your sleep?”
But that is too definite for the sluggard.
He has no answer.
He will not give an honest refusal, but he deceives himself by an endless sequence of little compromises.

Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

What does Proverbs say about the sluggard?

- Third, the sluggard will not face things as they are.
Rather than embrace the challenge of life, he dreams up excuses:
“The sluggard says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!’” (Proverbs 22:13).
A lion down on Main Street ?!!
What’s really out there is a life, a job, a mission to fulfill for Christ.

Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

What does Proverbs say about the sluggard?

- Second, the sluggard will not finish things.
On the rare occasions when he finds the motivation to get going, it is too much for him, and the impulse dies:
“The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth” (Prov 26:15).
He does not stick with a task all the way through to a strong finish.
He is a shallow person.

Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

What should the sluggard do?

Go to the ant and take notes.

How humiliating!

The sluggard likes to debate and speculate and bandy big ideas around with his buddies.

But wisdom is saving, “Go watch an ant!”

Anyone with a PhD in Antology?

We all want to study big important things.

Proverbs 6:6-8 The Folly of Laziness

The Hebrew word for “ant” is in the feminine gender.

We guys need this, because we are too often passive.

We are so accustomed to being wait-and-see, hang-back, and critical and guarded, analyze everything from nine ways that we do not even feel the shame of it anymore.

A church filled with men energized, men working, men engaged, men with intensity, men of conviction and action — that is exactly what the world needs to see in us today.

To display Christ that strongly, we need to humble ourselves and admit our need and accept God’s simple remedy.

It is humbling that we, whom God created to rule over creation, need to go learn how to live from an ant.

Proverbs 6:6 The Way of the Ant

(Pro 6:6 ISV*) ¶ Go to the ant, you lazy man! Observe its ways and become wise.

(Pro 6:6 KJV+) Go^{H1980} to^{H413} the ant,^{H5244} thou sluggard;^{H6102} consider^{H7200} her ways,^{H1870} and be wise.^{H2449}

(Pro 6:6 NASB) Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,

(Pro 6:6 NIV) Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

[ant] The ant is a remarkable creature — an emblem of industry in the East (cp. **Prov 30:25**).

Proverbs 6:6 The Way of the Ant

Fifteen Ways of Ants

1. The most laborious insects in existence
2. The most highly industrialized
3. They collect food in proper seasons (**Prov 30:25**).
4. Fondly attached to their young
5. They have keen foresight for others.
6. They work quietly without show.
7. They work tirelessly until the work is done.
8. They work together in astonishing systems of organization to the best good of the whole community.
9. They are ingenious carpenters and masons, building their own system of homes and underground tunnels.
10. They keep their homes scrupulously clean.
11. Each has a specific job to help meet the needs of the community.
12. They fight to death to protect their own homes and young from enemies.
13. Their social life compares with that of human beings in many respects.
14. They are intelligent and wise (**Prov 6:6**).
15. They carry out life’s work without being forced to do so by a guide, overseer, or ruler (**Prov 6:7**).

Proverbs 6:7 The Way of the Ant

(Pro 6:7 ISV*) ¶ It has no commander, officer, or ruler, 8) ¶ but prepares its Provisions in the summer and gathers its food in the harvest.

(Pro 6:7 KJV+) Which^{H834} having no^{H369} guide,^{H7101} overseer,^{H7860} or ruler,^{H4910} 8) Provideth^{H3559} her meat^{H3899} in the summer,^{H7019} and gathereth^{H103} her food^{H3978} in the harvest.^{H7105}

(Pro 6:7 NASB) Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, 8) Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her Provision in the harvest.

(Pro 6:7 NIV) It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8) yet it stores its Provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

Proverbs 6:7 The Way of the Ant

What then can we learn from an ant?

First, inner motivation.

(Pro 6:7 NASB) Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,

There is no Boss Ant standing over the others with a whip.
Ants do not report in to anybody.

No one has ever seen a foot-dragging ant.

An ant has within herself all the motivation she needs to make something of her life, and she never lets up.

Proverbs 6:8 The Way of the Ant

What then can we learn from an ant?

Third. future preparation.

(Pro 6:8 NASB) Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her Provision in the harvest.

The ant works today for tomorrow.

She is not hoping life will go her way.

She gets out ahead of the next season of life.

Proverbs 6:8 The Way of the Ant

What then can we learn from an ant?

Second, hard work.

(Pro 6:8 NASB) Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her Provision in the harvest.

You are at a Fourth of July picnic, you are relaxing, but the ants are carrying off the sugar one grain at a time, and they will be back for the Fritos.

I do not know if ants sweat, but if they do they do not care. They do not complain. They do not even wait. They are not above hard work and in fact seem to love it!

Proverbs 6:7-8 The Way of the Ant

There is a winter blast coming your way.

I do not know when, I do not know how.

And you do not need to go looking for it; it will come find you.

But the winter of your discontent is coming.

Are you getting ready, right now in this day of harvest?

Are you stocking up on God's Word?

Are you exploiting today as an opportunity from God to become wisely prepared for tomorrow?

One year from today, are you going to be a more fruitful follower of God?

How is that going to happen?

What is your growth plan?

Proverbs 6:7-8 The Way of the Ant

A Christian family should be like an anthill, everyone busily accomplishing something.

A healthy church is like an anthill, everybody actively achieving together.

Wise people love goals and strategies to leverage their present into a better future.

The sluggard procrastinates.

He treats each precious moment of God-given life as no big deal.

He is not astounded that the grace of God is giving him one more moment to live for Christ.

Eighteen Facts about the Slothful (Prov 19:24)

1. They are unteachable, careless, and indifferent (**Prov 6:6-9**).
2. They love excessive sleep (**Prov 9:9; 19:15; 24:33**).
3. They are irritating to others (**Prov 10:26**).
4. They are servants to others (**Prov 12:24**).
5. They are too lazy to cook food (**Prov 12:27**).
6. They are wishful thinkers (**Prov 13:4; 24:34**).
7. They have a life full of troubles (**Prov 15:19**).
8. They are great wasters (**Prov 18:9**).
9. They are lazy (**Prov 19:24; 24:30-34; 26:14-15**).
10. They refuse to work (**Prov 20:4; 21:25**).
11. They make the most senseless excuses for their laziness (**Prov 22:13; 26:13**).
12. They are void of understanding (**Prov 24:30**).
13. They permit property to ruin (**Prov 24:31-34; Eccl 10:18**).
14. They are too lazy to move themselves (**Prov 26:14**).
15. They are conceited (**Prov 26:16**).
16. They are unfaithful to trust (**Matt 25:26**).
17. They are unbelievers (**Heb 6:12**).
18. They lack business ability (**Rom 12:11**).

Proverbs 6:9 The Folly of Laziness

(Pro 6:9 ISV) ¶ How long will you lie down, lazy man?
When will you get up from your sleep?*

(Pro 6:9 KJV+) How long^{H5704 H4970} wilt thou sleep,^{H7901} O sluggard?^{H6102} when^{H4970} wilt thou arise^{H6965} out of thy sleep?^{H4480 H8142}

*(Pro 6:9 NASB) How long will you lie down, O sluggard?
When will you arise from your sleep?*

*(Pro 6:9 NIV) How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep?*

Questions 4-5. Next, **Prov 6:27**.

[**sluggard**] Hebrew: **ṭatsel** (OT:6102), slothful; sluggard.

Proverbs 6:10-15 The Folly of Laziness

10] Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11] So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

12] A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

13] He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

14] Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

15] Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

A description of a wicked man, a son of Belial.

“Frowardness” is perverseness.

Everything he says has a double meaning.

Notice that he “soweth” or casts forth discord.

God desires a holy life: *because He is holy!*

Proverbs 6:10 The Folly of Laziness

(Pro 6:10 ISV*) ¶ *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,*

(Pro 6:10 KJV+) *Yet a little^{H4592} sleep,^{H8142} a little^{H4592} slumber,^{H8572} a little^{H4592} folding^{H2264} of the hands^{H3027} to sleep.^{H7901}*

(Pro 6:10 NASB) *"A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"—*

(Pro 6:10 NIV) *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—*

This is the feeling and practice of a sluggard as well as his language.

Just a little more, always just a little more.

But "a little" is not a little.

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Proverbs 6:10 The Folly of Laziness

(Pro 6:11 NASB) *Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.*

Verse 11 foresees the eventual cascade of consequences crashing into his life with inescapable force.

Some of us have been settling for "a little," and not even noticing it.

If so, how long will you lie there?

When will you arise from your sleep and accomplish something great for Christ?

Stop telling yourself you are a loser.

Stop telling yourself your dad let you down.

Stop making excuses.

God has given you Christ, his very best.

What are you going to do with your huge advantage, Jesus Christ?

As we get traction in this new way, we can expect counterattack.

One of the devil's favorite strategies is to disrupt church unity:

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Proverbs 6:11 The Folly of Laziness

(Pro 6:11 ISV*) ¶ *and your poverty will come on you like a bandit and your desperation like an armed man.*

(Pro 6:11 KJV+) *So shall thy poverty^{H7389} come^{H935} as one that travelleth,^{H1980} and thy want^{H4270} as an armed^{H4043} man.^{H376}*

(Pro 6:11 NASB) *Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.*

(Pro 6:11 NIV) *and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.*

This is the result of slothfulness.

[poverty]

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8 Hebrew Words Translated Poor and Poverty

1. **Reysh** (OT:7389), lack, need, want. Translated "poverty" (*Prv 6:11; 10:15; 13:18; 24:34; 28:19; 30:8; 31:7*)
2. **Ruwsh** (OT:7326), in want of necessities of life. Translated "poor" (*Prv 10:4; 13:7,8,23; 14:20; 17:5; 18:23; 19:1,7,22; 22:2,7; 28:3,6,27; 29:13*)
3. **Dal** (OT:1800), impoverished; reduced to poverty. Translated "poor" (*Prv 10:15; 14:31; 19:4,17; 21:13; 22:9,16,22; 28:3,8,11,15; 29:7,14*)
4. **Machcowr** (OT:4270), to be in want (*Prv 6:11; 21:5; 22:16*). Translated "poor" (*Prv 21:17*); and "poverty" (*Prv 11:24*)
5. **±Aniy** (OT:6041), wretched. Translated "poor" (*Prv 14:21; 30:14; 31:9,20*)
6. **°Ebyown** (OT:34), destitute; helpless. Translated "poor" (*Prv 14:31*)
7. **Yarash** (OT:3423), dispossessed. Translated "poor" (*Prv 30:9*); and "poverty" (*Prv 20:13; 23:21*)
8. **Checer** (OT:2639), poverty or want. Translated "poverty" (*Prv 28:22*)

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Proverbs 6:12-15 The Folly of Causing Strife

Unity

***A worthless person, a wicked man,
goes about with crooked speech,
winks with his eyes, signals with his feet,
points with his finger,
with perverted heart devises evil,
continually sowing discord;
therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly;
in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.
(Proverbs 6:12—15)***

Proverbs 6:12 The Folly of Causing Strife

(Pro 6:12 NASB) A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a perverse mouth,

The Bible looks at a sneaky, disruptive person and calls him “worthless”.

The Hebrew is **beliyyacal**, meaning “without benefit or profit or use.”

That Hebrew word comes over into the New Testament as a name for the devil himself:

“What accord has Christ with Belial?” (2 Cor 6:15).

It is wonderful to have doubters and skeptics alongside believers in church.

But in some churches in America today, we have members and even leaders who are not on Christ’s side.

Everyone sins stupidly.

But some church people sin aggressively, intentionally.

People sin aggressively in little ways, but with huge impact.

Proverbs 6:12 The Folly of Causing Strife

***(Pro 6:12 ISV*) ¶ A worthless man, a wicked man,
goes around with devious speech,***

***(Pro 6:12 KJV+) A naughty^{H1100} person,^{H120} a wicked^{H205}
man,^{H376} walketh^{H1980} with a froward^{H6143} mouth.^{H6310}***

***(Pro 6:12 NASB) A worthless person, a wicked man, is
the one who walks with a perverse mouth,***

***(Pro 6:12 NIV) A scoundrel and villain, who goes about
with a corrupt mouth,***

[naughty] Hebrew: **beliyaal** (OT:1100), worthless or wicked; a man of Belial; a good-for-nothing.

Proverbs 6:13-14 The Folly of Causing Strife

(Pro 6:13 ISV*) ¶ winking with his eyes, making signs [Lit. scraping] with [The Heb. lacks with] his feet, pointing with his fingers, 14) ¶ planning evil with a perverse mind, [Or heart] continually stirring up discord.

(Pro 6:13 KJV+) He winketh^{H7169} with his eyes,^{H5869} he speaketh^{H4448} with his feet,^{H7272} he teacheth^{H3384} with his fingers;^{H676} 14) Frowardness^{H8419} is in his heart,^{H3820} he deviseth^{H2790} mischief^{H7451} continually,^{H3605} H6256 he soweth^{H7971} discord.^{H4066}

(Pro 6:13 NASB) Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, Who points with his fingers; 14) Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, Who spreads strife.

(Pro 6:13 NIV) who winks with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, 14) who plots evil with deceit in his heart— he always stirs up dissension.

We see, in verse 13, the little acts of non-verbal communication —winking, signaling, pointing, all to sow discord.

Proverbs 6:15 The Folly of Causing Strife

(Pro 6:15 ISV*) ¶ Therefore, disaster will overtake him suddenly. He will be broken in an instant, and he will never recover.

(Pro 6:15 KJV+) Therefore^{H5921 H3651} shall his calamity^{H343} come^{H935} suddenly;^{H6597} suddenly^{H6621} shall he be broken^{H7665} without^{H369} remedy.^{H4832}

(Pro 6:15 NASB) Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.

(Pro 6:15 NIV) Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

God is saying, in **verse 15**, “I will punish that behavior, because my Son died to bring you together in unity!”

Judgment will suddenly overtake the one who commits the seven sins of **Prov 6:12-14**

and the seven sins of **Prov 6:16-19**.

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Proverbs 6:16-19 What God Hates

Look how intensely God feels about this:

There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a king tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. (Proverbs 6:16—19)

When the Old Testament uses this literary device (x // x + i), as in “three // four” (**Proverbs 30:18—19, 29—31**) or “six // seven,”

it is the last item in the list that matters most.

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Proverbs 6:16-19 What God Hates

16] These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

God hates?!! God loves good, but hates evil.
Seven = number of completeness.

They are all the works of the flesh.

They are things that reveal the total depravity and the utter degradation of the human species.

- **“A time to love, and a time to hate?” (Eccl 3:8).**
- **“Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth?” (Deut 16:22).**
- **“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness?” (Ps 45:7)**
- **But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate?” (Rev 2:6).**

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Proverbs 6:16 What God Hates

(Pro 6:16 ISV*) ¶ Here are six things that the LORD hates—seven, in fact, [The Heb. lacks in fact] are detestable to him: [Lit. to his soul]

(Pro 6:16 KJV+) These^{H2007} six^{H8337} things doth the LORD^{H3068} hate:^{H8130} yea, seven^{H7651} are an abomination^{H8441} unto him:^{H5315}

(Pro 6:16 NASB) There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

(Pro 6:16 NIV) There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

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20 Things That Are an Abomination to God

1. The froward man. Hebrew: **luwz** (OT:3868), perverse; one who turns aside (**Prov 3:32; 11:20**)
2. A proud look (**Prov 6:16-17**)
3. A lying tongue (**Prov 6:17; 12:22**)
4. Hands that shed innocent blood (**Prov 6:17**)
5. A wicked scheming heart (**Prov 6:18**)
6. Feet quick to sin (**Prov 6:18**)
7. A false witness that speaks lies (**Prov 6:19**)
8. A sower of discord (**Prov 6:19**)
9. Wickedness (**Prov 8:7**)
10. A false balance (scale, **Prov 11:1**)

20 Things That Are an Abomination to God

11. Sacrifice of the wicked (**Prov 15:8; 21:27**)
12. The way of the wicked (**Prov 15:9**)
13. The thoughts of the wicked (**Prov 15:26**)
14. The proud of heart (**Prov 16:5**)
15. Justifying the wicked (**Prov 17:15**)
16. Condemning the just (**Prov 17:15**)
17. Diverse weights (**Prov 20:10,23**)
18. Diverse measures (**Prov 20:10**)
19. Refusing to hear the law (**Prov 28:9**)
20. Prayer of the rebel (**Prov 28:9**)

Proverbs 6:17-19 What God Hates

(*Pro 6:17 ISV**) ¶ **Arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, and hands shedding innocent blood; 18) ¶ a heart crafting evil plans, feet running swiftly to wickedness, 19) ¶ a false witness snorting lies, and someone sowing quarrels between brothers.**

(*Pro 6:17 KJV+*) A proud^{H7311} look,^{H5869} a lying^{H8267} tongue,^{H3956} and hands^{H3027} that shed^{H8210} innocent^{H5355} blood,^{H1818} 18) An heart^{H3820} that deviseth^{H2790} wicked^{H205} imaginations,^{H4284} feet^{H7272} that be swift^{H4116} in running^{H7323} to mischief,^{H7451} 19) A false^{H8267} witness^{H5707} that speaketh^{H6315} lies,^{H3577} and he that soweth^{H7971} discord^{H4090} among^{H996} brethren.^{H251}

(*Pro 6:17 NASB*) **Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18) A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19) A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

(*Pro 6:17 NIV*) **haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18) a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19) a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.**

His seven sins (Prov 6:17-19):

1. Froward (perverse) speech (cp. **Prov 6:17**)
2. Winketh with his eyes (cp. **Prov 6:17**).
3. Speaketh with his feet (cp. **Prov 6:18**).
4. Teacheth with his fingers (cp. **Prov 6:17**).
5. Frowardness (deceitfulness) of heart (cp. **Prov 6:18**)
6. Continual plots, schemes, and plans of sin (cp. **Prov 6:18**)
7. Soweth discord in families, churches, communities, or nations (cp. **Prov 6:19**).

Points 2 through 4 refer to sign language used to convey evil intentions and sinful practices of partners in sin.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

1) A proud look ("Eyes of loftiness"):

"Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place (Job 40:12).

#1 on His list:

He puts it ahead of murder and ahead of drunkenness!

Origin of pride: Satan...

I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:13,14

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

3) Hands that shed innocent blood:

God says the murderer should be punished because he took that which God said is sacred—the human life.

The popular idea today is completely opposite.

After a man has been killed the murderer is brought to trial, then suddenly *the murderer's life* is considered to be precious.

God says that human life is precious and that when a murderer kills a man, he is to forfeit his own life.

Capital punishment is the teaching of the Word of God.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

2) A lying tongue:

"I said in my haste, All men are liars?" (Ps 116:11);

"Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue?" (Ps 120:2);

"Behold, thou desirest Truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom?" (Ps 51:6);

"Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of Truth?" (Ps 31:5).

There is far more said throughout the Bible about the abuse of the tongue than is said about the abuse of alcohol!

The abuse of the tongue is something that is common to all races and all languages.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

4) A heart that devises wicked imaginations:

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Mt 15:19).

The Lord Jesus said,

"It is an ugly brood that comes out of the human heart."

By the way, have you ever confessed to God what you have in your mind and in your heart?

We all need to be cleansed.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

5) Feet swiftly running to mischief:

“Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths” (Isa 59:7).

God is dealing with the anatomy of evil and iniquity.

It includes the eyes, the tongues, the hands, the heart, and the feet.

6) A false witness that speaketh lies: More on this later.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

7) He that sows discord among brethren:

“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.” (Prov 13:10);

“A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.” (Prov 18:6);

“Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.” (Prov 22:10).

The seventh thing the Lord hates is the one who sows discord among brothers,”

It is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

What he hates about haughty eyes is that their arrogance sows discord among brothers,

What he hates about a lying tongue is how its gossip and slander sow discord among brothers, and so forth.

God hates all discord with a passion.

That's what “abomination” means.

It turns his stomach.

Proverbs 6:17-19 God's Hate List

But God delights in unity:

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

Christ himself dwells in the midst of unity as we demote Self for his sake and exalt him more.

He who was in the form of God made himself nothing: he humbled himself down to our level, even down to the level of a servant, all the way down to the level of a condemned criminal.

Therefore, God delighted to exalt him (***Philip 2:1—9***).

Prov 6:20-7:27 Why Our Sexuality Matters God

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Proverbs 6:27

Why does our sexuality matter so much to God?

Especially in our manhood and womanhood, such an earthy aspect of our existence, why does God care so much?

Our sexuality certainly matters to us, even intuitively.

What is it about that person you notice first, without even thinking about it?

Don't you notice whether that person is a man or a woman?

And if you cannot tell, don't you take a second look?

When you meet someone with a newborn baby, don't you ask, "Is it a boy or a girl?"

What's the difference the newborn baby is precious either way.

The child's sex won't change your life in the foreseeable future will it?

Prov 6:20-7:27 The Romance of God

Our manhood or womanhood means something, it is worth something, it says something glorious.

All of this matters to us, and it matters to God too.

We are men and women playing out this drama of human romance over and over again because of who God is.

- Romance is not an evolution-generated mechanism for the survival of the human species.
- Romance came from God.
- Romance reveals God.

Ultimate reality is not cold, dark, blank space out there going on forever with no meaning or message or emotion. Ultimate reality is romance.

God loves us, not with a platonic love but with a romantic love.

God loves us not with chilly indifference but with hot passion.

The gospel reveals that is who God is.

Prov 6:20-7:27 Why Our Sexuality Matters God

This wonderful truth means a marriage is not just another mutation in human social development.

Marriage is a divine creation, pointing to something beyond us.

A man and woman falling in love, committing themselves with lifelong vows of faithfulness, uniting sexually, living life together "til death us do part"

—it is all pointing to the mega-romance of Christ and the church in love forever.

Prov 6:20-7:27 Why Our Sexuality Matters God

A man and a woman in love display the ultimate story of the Son of God coming down to win to his heart, with great suffering, a bride from the wrong side of town.

God created the universe for the purpose of telling that love story.

More than any other reason, that is why our sexuality matters, whether married or single.

Just being a man is a gospel privilege.

Just being a woman is a gospel privilege.

What we are is about the gospel.

That is why we need to learn gospel sexuality.

Prov 6:20-7:27 Why Our Sexuality Matters God

In Proverbs 6:20—7:27 the sage counsels his son about this massively significant area of life.

The counsel is addressed to a son but applies equally to women.

There are two major sections.

- In 6:20—35 the father warns us about the consequences of sexual folly.
- In 7:1—27 the father warns us about the strategies of sexual temptation.

Sexual Sin Is Destructive (Prov. 6:20)

Children have the obligation to honor their fathers and mothers (6:20; see 1:8),

God's children have the responsibility and privilege of bringing glory to their Father's name.

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4 NKJV).

The Word should be bound to the heart (*Ps. 119:11*), because the heart is ***“the wellspring of life” (Prov. 4:23 NIV)***

God's truth should control the neck, because a man might be tempted to turn his head and look at a beautiful woman for the purpose of lusting (*Matt. 5:27—30*).

We cannot avoid seeing something the first time, but it's our looking the second time that gets us into trouble.

Sinners lose (Prov. 6:20-35)

If a person has enough money and “clout,” they might be able to survive an adulterous scandal, but life is still never quite the same.

However, sinners can be sure that their sins will find them out.

Indulging in sexual sin is always a losing proposition.

*Num 32:20-24 NASB So Moses said to them, “If you will do this, if you will arm yourselves before the LORD for the war, (21) and all of you armed men cross over the Jordan before the LORD until He has driven His enemies out from before Him, (22) and the land is subdued before the LORD, then afterward you shall return and be free of obligation toward the LORD and toward Israel, and this land shall be yours for a possession before the LORD. (23) “But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, **and be sure your sin will find you out.** (24) “Build yourselves cities for your little ones, and sheepfolds for your sheep, and do what you have promised.”*

Prov 6:20-26 Parental Counsel about Immorality

20] My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21] Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22] When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23] For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

24] To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25] Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

26] For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

Prov 6:20-26 Parental Counsel about Immorality

Back to the great sin in our contemporary society — the sex sins which can wreck the life of a young man more than anything else.

No one can calculate the lives that have been absolutely wrecked and ruined because of them.

Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”
(Mt 5:27-28).

Proverbs 6:20 Parental Counsel about Immorality

(Pro 6:20 ISV*) ¶ Keep your father’s commands, my son, and never forsake your mother’s rules, [Or laws]

(Pro 6:20 KJV+) My son,^{H1121} keep^{H5341} thy father’s^{H1} commandment,^{H4687} and forsake^{H5203} not^{H408} the law^{H8451} of thy mother:^{H517}

(Pro 6:20 NASB) My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

(Pro 6:20 NIV) My son, keep your father’s commands and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

Compare **1:8; Deut 6:6-8.**

Proverbs 6:21 Parental Counsel about Immorality

(Pro 6:21 ISV*) ¶ by binding them to your heart continually, fastening them around your neck.

(Pro 6:21 KJV+) Bind^{H7194} them continually^{H8548} upon^{H5921} thine heart,^{H3820} and tie^{H6029} them about^{H5921} thy neck.^{H1621}

(Pro 6:21 NASB) Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck.

(Pro 6:21 NIV) Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.

Three places to bind truth:

1. Upon the heart
2. Around the neck (**Prov 3:3**)
3. Upon the fingers (**Prov 7:3**)

Proverbs 6:22 Parental Counsel about Immorality

(Pro 6:22 ISV*) ¶ During your travels wisdom [Lit. wisdom; i.e. wisdom personified as a woman] will lead you; she will watch over you while you rest; and when you are startled from your sleep, she will commune with you.

(Pro 6:22 KJV+) When thou goest,^{H1980} it shall lead^{H5148} thee;^(H853) when thou sleepest,^{H7901} it shall keep^{H8104 H5921} thee; and when thou awakest,^{H6974} it^{H1931} shall talk^{H7878} with thee.

(Pro 6:22 NASB) When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.

(Pro 6:22 NIV) When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

Truth is personified here as a guide, guardian teacher, and companion.

Proverbs 6:23-29 Consequences of Sexual Folly

*The commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,
to preserve you from the evil woman,
from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.*

*Do not desire her beauty in your heart,
and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes:
for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread,
but a married woman hunts down a precious life.*

*Can a man carry fire next to his chest
and his clothes not be burned?*

*Or can one walk on hot coals
and his feet not be scorched?*

*So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife:
none who touches her will go unpunished.*

(Proverbs 6:23—29)

Proverbs 6:23-29 Consequences of Sexual Folly

Verses 20—35 work together to make one basic point—the high price of committing adultery.

We need to be told, and we need to take it to heart:

“Bind [this teaching] on your heart always” (v. 21).

How then does wisdom counsel us. when we men notice a beautiful woman who is not our wife?

Wisdom says, Don't even go there in your thoughts:

“Do not desire her beauty in your heart” (v. 25).

When a wise man sees a beautiful woman who is not his wife, here is how he thinks:

“Yes, she is beautiful. Thank you, Lord! She is beautiful but I have nothing to do with her beauty - mentally or otherwise”

The wise man keeps going straight on ahead, for Christ, into a destiny of greatness.

Proverbs 6:23-29 Consequences of Sexual Folly

If evil were always ugly, life would be simpler.
If everything were color-coded to make it obvious,
if there were warning labels on all the poisons.

But in this world disaster can be attractive.

“Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14).

He is magnificent.

But the devil does not know how to build a relationship.

He seems so successful, but doesn't know how to live?

The truth is, he is a fool,

He wants to make us his fools as we step on his well-concealed land mines.

Proverbs 6:23 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:23 ISV*) ¶ Because the command is a lamp and the Law a light, rebukes that discipline are a way of life—

(Pro 6:23 KJV+) For^{H3588} the commandment^{H4687} is a lamp;^{H5216} and the law^{H8451} is light;^{H216} and reproofs^{H8433} of instruction^{H4148} are the way^{H1870} of life.^{H2416}

(Pro 6:23 NASB) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

(Pro 6:23 NIV) For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

Proverbs 6:23 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:23 NASB) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

The force of the argument here is real-life consequences.

it is not primarily an ethical argument, a right-versus-wrong argument.

it is a practical argument

“... the reproofs of discipline are the way of life” (v. 23)

— not meaning what we mean by “way of life,” that is, cultural norms, but rather the practical path to life (**Psalm 16:11**).

[the way of life] The way of eternal life (**John 6:63,68**).

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Proverbs 6:24 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:24 ISV*) ¶ to protect you from the evil [So MT; LXX reads married] woman, from the words of the seductive woman.

(Pro 6:24 KJV+) To keep^{H8104} thee from the evil^{H7451} woman,^{H4480 H802} from the flattery^{H4480 H2513} of the tongue^{H3956} of a strange woman.^{H5237}

(Pro 6:24 NASB) To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

(Pro 6:24 NIV) keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.

[To keep thee from the evil woman]

[strange] Hebrew: **nokriy** (OT:5237) (**Prov 2:16**).

Solomon had suffered much by sinning with foreign women, so could give warnings from experience (**1 Ki 11:1-13**).

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Proverbs 6:23 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:23 NASB) For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

Three things that truth is:

1. A lamp (**Ps 119:105**)
2. A light (**Ps 119:105,130**)
3. Reproofs of instruction (**2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12**)

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Proverbs 6:24 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:24 NASB) To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

Seven things to be kept from:

1. The evil woman (**Prov 6:24**)
2. Her flattery
3. Lust after her beauty (**Prov 6:25**)
4. Captivity by her eyelids
5. Poverty through her (**Prov 6:26**)
6. Death by sin with her
7. Sin with her (**Prov 6:27-29**)

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Proverbs 6:25 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:25 ISV) ¶ Do not focus on her beauty in your mind, nor allow her to take you prisoner with her flirting eyes,*

(Pro 6:25 KJV+) Lust^{H2530} not^{H408} after her beauty^{H3308} in thine heart,^{H3824} neither^{H408} let her take^{H3947} thee with her eyelids.^{H6079}

(Pro 6:25 NASB) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelids.

(Pro 6:25 NIV) Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes,

[**eyelids**] Modern makeup or lipstick was unknown in the East, but they did line the eyes with a preparation of antimony to give them luster.

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Proverbs 6:26 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:26 ISV) ¶ because the price of a whore is a loaf of bread, and an adulterous woman stalks a man's precious life.*

(Pro 6:26 KJV+) For^{H3588} by means^{H1157} of a whorish^{H2181} woman^{H802} a man is brought to^{H5704} a piece^{H3603} of bread.^{H3899} and the adulteress^{H802 H376} will hunt^{H6679} for the precious^{H3368} life.^{H5315}

(Pro 6:26 NASB) For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, And an adulteress hunts for the precious life.

(Pro 6:26 NIV) for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life.

[**piece of bread**] Here it seems that a man is brought to poverty by a prostitute, but in the Septuagint, Vulgate, Syriac, and Arabic versions it reads,

"For the value of a harlot is as much as of one loaf."

There were so many prostitutes in the land that they hired themselves out for a bare living.

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Proverbs 6:27-35

27] Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

28] Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

29] So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

30] Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

31] But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

32] But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

33] A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

34] For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

35] He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

The Book of Proverbs

Sexual Sin Results in Losses

- They lose the Word of God *Prov 6:20-24*

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:6-9

1 John 1:5-10

"walking in the light" assures us of hearing the Word of God, "walking in darkness" causes us to lose His Word.

There is a gradual erosion of the spiritual life, from light to darkness, and with this erosion comes a deterioration of Christian character.

The Book of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs

Sexual Sin Results in Losses

- **They lose wealth *Prov 6:25-26***

Scandal? a lawsuit? a divorce? AIDS? the price will not be cheap...

- **They lose enjoyment *Prov 6:27-31***

Sex is a good gift from God but, like fire, if it gets out of control, it becomes destructive.

What begins as a “warm” experience soon becomes a burning experience, like holding a torch in your lap or walking on burning coals.

Sexual Sin Results in Losses

- **They lose their good sense *Prov 6:32***

Ahithophel—advisor to Absalom in his rebellion, was Bathsheba’s unforgiving grandfather!

He was the father of Eliam, the father of Bathsheba (**2 Sam11:3; 23:34,39**).

Uriah the Hittite and Eliam, being both of the king’s guard (consisting of 37 officers), were friends, and Uriah married the daughter of his brother officer.

You can understand Ahithophel’s sense of wrong toward David, the murderer of his grandson by marriage and the corrupter of his granddaughter!

The people’s loyalty was naturally shaken toward one whose moral character they had ceased to respect.

Sexual Sin Results in Losses

- **They lose their good sense *Prov 6:32***

King David was a brilliant strategist on the battlefield and a wise ruler on the throne, but he lost his common sense when he gazed at his neighbor’s wife and lusted for her (**2 Sam 12**).

He was sure he could get away with his sin, but common sense would have told him he was wrong.

Every stratagem David used to implicate Bathsheba’s husband failed, so he ended up having the man killed.

Surely David knew that we reap what we sow, and reap he did, right in the harvest field of his own family.

Sexual Sin Results in Losses

- **They lose their peace *Prov 6:33–35***

Sinners can be sure that their sins will find them out.

Indulging in sexual sin is always a losing proposition.

Proverbs 6:27 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:27 ISV*) ¶ Can a man scoop fire into his bosom without burning his clothes?

(Pro 6:27 KJV+) Can a man^{H376} take^{H2846} fire^{H784} in his bosom,^{H2436} and his clothes^{H899} not^{H3808} be burned?^{H8313}

(Pro 6:27 NASB) Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

(Pro 6:27 NIV) Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?

Questions 6-7. Next, **Prov 8:1**.

If the sage were making his case with an ethical argument, he might arouse in us a nit-picky response about how far we can go before we cross a line into sin.

Instead he helps us get right to the point.

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Proverbs 6:27 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:27 NASB) Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

Two things about the practical consequences of sexual folly.

- First, the pain experienced is inevitable:
“Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?” (v. 27).

People who play with fire inevitably get burned.

Fire can only burn. The pain is inevitable.

- Second, the offense committed is unsatisfiable: “Jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge” (v. 34).

That is a realistic look at how an offended husband reacts when he finds out someone has had sex with his wife.

If you are the offending man, do not expect forgiveness, expect revenge.

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Proverbs 6:27 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:27 NASB) Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

An offended husband will not spare, because adultery attacks his home, his marriage, his honor, his manhood.

If a man steals money to keep from starving, it is wrong but understandable (v. 30).

But if a man steals another man’s wife, if he sneaks into another man’s personal sexual world, the Bible says that “**disgrace will not be wiped away**” (v. 33).

Even if that man repents and is restored to God through Christ, a memory in the family history will be, “Grandpa was the one who committed adultery.”

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Proverbs 6:27 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:27 NASB) Can a man take fire in his bosom And his clothes not be burned?

The truth about sexual sin is that it matters to God, and it matters to us.

No one but God levels with us.

Sexual folly carries inevitable, unsatisfiable consequences.

The difference between an unconverted man and a converted man is not that one has sins and the other has none;

but that the one chooses to side with his cherished sins against a dreaded God, and the other chooses to side with a reconciled God against his hated sins.

God wants to be your ally against your sins.

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Proverbs 6:28-29 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:28 ISV*) ¶ *Can a man walk on hot coals without scorching his feet? 29) ¶ So also is it with someone who has sex with his neighbor's wife; anyone touching her will not remain unpunished.*

(Pro 6:28 KJV+) Can^{H518} one^{H376} go^{H1980} upon^{H5921} hot coals,^{H1513} and his feet^{H7272} not^{H3808} be burned^{H3554} 29) So^{H3651} he that goeth in^{H935} to^{H413} his neighbour's^{H7453} wife,^{H802} whosoever^{H3605} toucheth^{H5060} her shall not^{H3808} be innocent.^{H5352}

(Pro 6:28 NASB) 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 go unpunished.

(Pro 6:28 NIV) Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? 29) So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.

Just as a man cannot take fire into his bosom or walk on hot coals without being burned, so he that seduces his neighbor's wife shall not go unpunished. (**Prov 6:27-29**).

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Proverbs 6:30 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:30 ISV*) ¶ *A thief isn't despised if he steals to meet his needs [Lit. to refresh his soul] when he is hungry,*

(Pro 6:30 KJV+) Men do not^{H3808} despise^{H936} a thief,^{H1590} if^{H3588} he steal^{H1589} to satisfy^{H4390} his soul^{H5315} when^{H3588} he is hungry,^{H7456}

(Pro 6:30 NASB) Men do not despise a thief if he steals To satisfy himself when he is hungry;

(Pro 6:30 NIV) Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.

[**despise**] Hebrew: **buwz** (OT:936), to disrespect; utterly despise; consider insignificant.

People will not think it insignificant for a thief to steal when he is hungry.

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Proverbs 6:31 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:31 ISV*) ¶ *but when he is discovered, he must restore seven-fold, forfeiting the entire value of his house.*

(Pro 6:31 KJV+) But if he be found,^{H4672} he shall restore^{H7999} sevenfold,^{H7659} he shall give^{H5414} (H853) all^{H3605} the substance^{H1952} of his house.^{H1004}

(Pro 6:31 NASB) But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house.

(Pro 6:31 NIV) Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.

If caught, the thief shall restore sevenfold, even it means being sold into slavery (**Ex 22:1-4; Lev 25:39**).

The law does not clear a thief, regardless of how desperately in need he is.

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Proverbs 6:32 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:32 ISV*) ¶ *Whoever commits adultery with a woman is out of his mind; by doing so he corrupts his own soul.*

(Pro 6:32 KJV+) But whoso committeth adultery^{H5003} with a woman^{H802} lacketh^{H2638} understanding.^{H3820} he^{H1931} that doeth^{H6213} it destroyeth^{H7843} his own soul.^{H5315}

(Pro 6:32 NASB) The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.

(Pro 6:32 NIV) But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.

Solomon returns to his often repeated warning against adultery and giving one's self to a prostitute (**Prov 2:16-19; 5:3-6,8-11,15-23; 6:24-29,32-35; 7:5-23,25-27; 9:13-18**).

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Proverbs 6:32 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:32 NASB) *The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.*

Six evil effects of adultery:

1. Spiritual death (**Rom 8:12-13**)
2. Physical death (**Lev 20:10; Deut 22:22**)
3. Eternal death (**1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8; 22:15**)
4. A wound and dishonor (**Prov 6:33**)
5. Lasting reproach
6. Blinding rage of the husband (**Prov 6:34-35**)

Proverbs 6:33 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:33 ISV*) ¶ *He will receive a beating and dishonor, and his shame won't disappear,*

(Pro 6:33 KJV+) *A wound^{H5061} and dishonour^{H7036} shall he get,^{H4672} and his reproach^{H2781} shall not^{H3808} be wiped away.^{H4229}*

(Pro 6:33 NASB) *Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach will not be blotted out.*

(Pro 6:33 NIV) *Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away;*

Among the Romans one caught in the act of adultery was delivered to the injured husband to be punished with infamy, disgrace, and even death if he chose (**Prov 6:33-35**).

Proverbs 6:34-35 Consequences of Sexual Folly

(Pro 6:34 ISV*) ¶ *because jealousy incites^[The Heb. lacks incites] a strong man's rage, and he will show no mercy when it's time for revenge. 35) ¶ He will not consider any payment, nor will he be willing to accept it,^[The Heb. lacks to accept it] no matter how large the bribe.*

(Pro 6:34 KJV+) *For^{H3588} jealousy^{H7068} is the rage^{H2534} of a man.^{H1397} therefore he will not^{H3808} spare^{H2550} in the day^{H3117} of vengeance.^{H5359} 35) He will not^{H3808} regard^{H6440 H5375} any^{H3605} ransom,^{H3724} neither^{H3808} will he rest content,^{H14} though^{H3588} thou givest many^{H7235} gifts.^{H7810}*

(Pro 6:34 NASB) *For jealousy enrages a man, And he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35) He will not accept any ransom, Nor will he be satisfied though you give many gifts.*

(Pro 6:34 NIV) *for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. 35) He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse the bribe, however great it is.*