

The Blinding Nature of Immorality: The Dangers of Indecency

Getting focused

When God created man He saw that it was not good for him to be alone. Thus, God created woman to be his companion. They are to be heirs together in the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7). The relationship between a man and a woman is perfect in design because it originated in the mind of God. However, men can pervert the beauty of God's plan by failing to live within the framework of God's design.

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled (Hebrews 13:4). The marriage relationship is the bond ordained, established, and witnessed by God through which men and women enter into a unique relationship. It is within the confines of this relationship that man can satisfy his romantic desires. Sin, sadness, and pain have been the result of young men and women failing to listen to God's words of wisdom concerning their relationship with each other.

Immorality robs innocence and takes away honor

Read Proverbs 5

As penetrating as a two-edged sword, the deceptive influence of immoral people separate us from reason and understanding. Verse 23 tells us that if we become involved in immorality we will be caught up or trapped by it. The result is spiritual death and a confused emotional state that leads one farther and farther from the truth.

We can detect those who are immoral by listening to the activities they plan (v. 5).

We must find satisfaction and fulfillment through the lawful provisions instructed by God's word. We protect our honor by refusing to have any relationship other than those allowed by God.

“[An adulteress] does not ponder the **path of life**; her ways are **unstable**, she does not know it.”

- Proverbs 5:6

Memorize and meditate

“Treasure my
commands
within you.
Keep my
commands
and live.”

- Proverbs 7:1, 2

*(Take a moment
to also meditate on
1 Corinthians 6:15-20)*

The tragic result in failing to do this is:

- Loss of honor (v. 9)
- Loss of possessions (v. 10)
- Loss of purity and possible infection with disease (v. 11)
- Public humiliation (vs. 12-14)
- Loss of direction and spiritual death (vs. 22-23)

The instruction we receive from God must be given a preeminent place in our heart. If we think highly of or love someone, we find ourselves thinking of them often. This must be our attitude toward the instructions given by God though His word.

Qualities to possess: humility, honesty, integrity and hard work

Read Proverbs 6:1-19

You have probably heard the saying, “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.” The following principles are given between the Lord’s instructions on the effects of immorality and His warning against immoral living. Obviously these characteristics reflect the wisdom of God and will prevent the foolish activity that would destroy our character.

In order to be a person of your word you must carefully consider the commitments you make. Verses 1-5 instruct us to be willing to admit when we make a mistake and be quick to correct it.

The admonitions of verses 6-11 are to be industrious and energetic in our work habits—a principle repeated several times in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; 1 Timothy 5:8).

The wicked or worthless person is one who refuses to take a stand for righteousness. Depicted as a fraudulent person that pretends to be something he is not, the wicked person is not content with his life. His life will be plagued with trouble, and he can never see that his own rebellious disposition is the problem (vs. 12-15).

It is imperative that we learn and understand the things enumerated in verses 16-19, for they are that which God hates. As we examine these abominable conditions, let each of us humbly consider our own character.

Discuss specific behaviors associated with each of these characteristics:

- A proud look
- A lying tongue
- Hands that shed innocent blood
- A heart that devises wickedness
- Feet that run to evil
- False witness
- One who sows discord

Our future walk with God depends upon our receiving this wisdom from above. We must accept personal responsibility for our actions and deliver ourselves by avoiding laziness and identifying those things that God hates.

Wisdom will deliver us from the deception of indecency

Read Proverbs 6:20-7:27

The sexual desires we possess are not evil. The continuance of mankind is a result God's instruction to replenish the earth. However, men have corrupted the beauty of the relationship of a husband and wife by having unlawful relationships. These unlawful relationships are called adultery and fornication. Each of these are sinful and will keep us from going to heaven. But God will deliver us from these if we will receive His instructions.

Though we may not fully understand why God has ordered relationships the way He has, we can be certain His way is the way of life. Guidance from God is a lamp, a light, and the way of life (6:23). This wisdom will keep us from the deception of immorality (7:5).

Comprehending the power of the enticement to commit sexual immorality will help us to understand why God instructs us to avoid its appearance. A man is reduced to a crust of bread. All who were slain by her were strong men (6:26; 7:26).

Your commitment not to commit sexual immorality will only be as strong as your commitment to avoid circumstances that stimulate your desire. You cannot play with fire and not expect to get burned (6:27-28).

The character of people willing to commit immorality is **unstable**. They make promises they cannot keep. They refuse to accept **personal responsibility** for themselves, and their actions are an **abomination** to God.

Though they may present themselves as desiring an **innocent relationship**, they really are seeking to **destroy** your innocence and serve **themselves**.

The crafty, deceptive ways of those who would lure us into immoral living are those who consider us to be a naive person, devoid of understanding (7:7). But through the knowledge and wisdom gained in this study, we will not be taken advantage of or robbed of our innocence.

The enticing words of the immoral are set to deceive the heart of the unprepared. They promise secret pleasures but deliver sorrow upon sorrow.

Questions to consider

1. Is it wrong to be attracted to someone of the opposite sex? _____

2. How can you identify immoral people? _____

3. How are we able to avoid committing sexual immorality? _____

4. How will humility, honesty, integrity, and hard work deliver you from immoral people?

