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“Flee the Fire, Drink the Water!” Proverbs 5

Introduction

The statistics relating to moral purity are downright discouraging. In the groundbreaking book *The Day America Told the Truth*, James Patterson and Peter Kim found that a shocking 53% of the interviewees agreed with this statement, “I will cheat on my spouse, after all, given the chance, he or she will do the same.” In that same research they wrote, “A third of married men and women confessed to us that they've had at least one affair.”

The data regarding premarital relationships or intimacy outside of marriage is equally disturbing. A study released this week indicated that teenage pregnancy is up for the first time in several years in our country. Children are being exposed younger and younger to all sorts of moral perversion with the many of the top searches on the internet among school age children being words relating to that which God has designed for marriage only.

Even among Christians, the news is not encouraging. 50% of the men who attended Promise Keepers back in the 1990's admitted to viewing pornography the previous week. Other surveys indicate that the morality of Christians in America is almost indistinguishable from that of non-Christians. In this area of moral purity, it is harder to tell where the world ends and the church begins. But an unholy world will never be won by an unholy church.

We are pushing the envelope of permissiveness further and further in our country. Witness one of the headlines in today's USA Today (Jan. 20, 2010) - "Sex on TV: it's increasingly uncut and unavoidable." And many Christians admit to great struggles in this area of moral purity.

Today we want to seek biblical wisdom for living in a broken and foolish world as we turn again to the book of Proverbs, chapter 5. There is no topic in Proverbs to which more emphasis is given than that of moral purity. The irony, of course, in this is that Solomon was ruined by his impurity. Yet Solomon devotes 65 verses to the theme of sexual purity in chapters 5-7. All of chapter 5, the last 12 verses of chapter 6 and nearly all of chapter 7 deal with the subject of marital faithfulness or the sin of adultery. Then there are other verses scattered throughout the book that deal with moral purity very bluntly and soberly. The mere fact of such extensive teaching indicates the importance of this topic. Wise is the parent who recognizes, that lust is a major temptation in the life of young people and poses a tremendous threat to moral purity in marriage.

So this is not a topic to avoid, although we must handle it carefully. Duane Garret in his commentary on *Proverbs* strikes the correct tone:

The Bible does not hide from or obscure the power of the temptation to illicit sex. In language that is refreshingly clear and direct without itself indulging in titillation, the text warns the reader of the debacle that awaits him should he succumb in this area and at the same time promises profound sexual joy to those whose hearts are chaste and loving. If the church is to do its duty, it must be no less clear in its teachings. To assume that nice, Christian young people do not struggle in these areas or to speak only in whispers and innuendo on the grounds that they are inappropriate for the Christian pulpit is no less than gross neglect of duty on the church's part (New American Commentary).

We will do so in a similar way that Solomon under inspiration does—in images that communicate truth in a discreet and wise way, yet in a way that is practical and straightforward—realizing that this congregation is composed of all ages—children, singles, and married people.

Two caveats before we read the text and expound upon it. First, these words (particularly Proverbs 5-7) come originally in the form of a father to his son. This reminds us of the the duty of parents to teach their children about the facts of life. They should proclaim the right use of God's gift of intimacy as a expression of marital love. They should warn children of the grave dangers of misusing this gift, of opening this gift too early. Parents, we live in a dangerous world today and we shouldn't pull any punches as we prepare our children for the temptations they will face. I trust this message will encourage you to have healthy, biblically-oriented conversations with your children about this. They need to be aware of the wiles of seducers (whether of the same gender or opposite). They need specific instruction from you about what to do when they are lured or tempted. Naïve children are vulnerable ones. Please, parents, do not abdicate this responsibility to the schools, your children's friends or the entertainment industry who will all be glad to seek to shape your children's moral convictions. To abdicate is to contribute to the ruin of your child.

However, let me remind you it is not just young children and young adults who need this message—we all need the exhortations and warnings of Proverbs 5.

The second caveat is this: This passage, as does most of Proverbs, deals with adultery—specifically of a married man being lured by another married woman. But this is just illustrative of all the other dangers that lurk in this realm: of a man seducing a woman to unfaithfulness, temptations to homosexuality, incest, premarital relationships and other immoral situations. Furthermore, this passage applies to mental immorality including issues of pornography and simply fantasizing about such impurity.

Randy Alcorn summarizes the biblical teaching on moral purity in this way:

- Purity is **a million times better** than impurity
- Purity is **always right**, impurity is always wrong
- Purity is **always smart**; impurity is always stupid
- Purity is **always safe**; impurity is always risky
- Purity **always helps us**; impurity always hurts us.

With this introduction, let us hear the Proverbs that call us to moral purity.

“My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner, and at the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed, and you say, “How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation.” Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.” (Proverbs 5)

I believe Anthony Selvaggio summarizes the teaching of Proverbs 5-6 when he simply states “Flee the fire, drink your own water!” I am going to follow that analogy this morning, explain 3 more compelling reasons in chapter 5 to pursue purity, and then end with some practical strategies and resources to help train your children and battle this sin in your own life.

Flee the fire

After the opening call to his son— a call to wisdom, understanding, discernment, and knowledge, this wise father wastes no time speaking about the an unfaithful wife seeking a relationship with a married man. Over in chapter 6, he uses the picture of fire to describe this illicit relationship.

Of the forbidden woman Solomon writes “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. People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry, but if he is caught, he will pay sevenfold; he will give all the goods of his house. He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away. For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge.” (Proverbs 6:25–34)

● **Fire allures**

Fire and immorality have several parallels. First of all, fire allures. Infidelity and unfaithfulness are alluring—just like fire. Think about it for a minute: Few things grab our attention as fire does. First, it startles us about but soon we feel compelled to learn more about it. We focus on it more closely. We want to satisfy our curiosity. We desire a

personal involvement and experience with it. Isn't that true of children? Isn't that true of us?

We are fascinated with fire. We are allured by it. We have a gas fireplace in our living room and this time of the year we often turn it on—not so much for saving energy as for coziness, the warmth, the idea of just watching a fire. There is just something that attracts us to it. We had a “real” fireplace growing up as well and we just loved it when we could burn some wood in it.

And you know what? Most children are drawn to fire, aren't there? We see their eyes dance when a fire is lit, even a candle. And so we teach them about the proper use of fire. But we also have to tell every child about its dangers because they are so lured by its warmth, attraction and highly unusual capabilities.

As fire allures so does the offer of immorality. But Solomon says in chapter 6,

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.

And in chapter 5, the allurement is pictured in terms of sweet speech: suggestive or flattering speech by someone to whom you are not married can be like honey—the finest of honey dripping off the honey comb or it can be like olive oil—the smoothest substance known to ancient Israel—words that soothe, soften, and smooth every moral objection there is. It was the speech of Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39 as she attempted to lure Joseph into bed.

Rarely do people start off intending to break their marriage vows or to lose their virginity. It often begins “innocently” with kind words, a little extra attention, or a sense this person understands me better than anyone I have ever met. But watch out because in the end such immorality is “bitter as wormwood and sharp as a two-edged sword.” Immorality, marital unfaithfulness, and premarital relationships seem sweet at first but there is always an aftertaste—like eating a sweet, hot pepper or drinking a diet cola—tastes good at first but wait a few seconds. The honey may be sweet, but the bee stings.

There are always lingering consequences to an illicit relationship—promised sweetness turns to wormwood—the legendary substance that was used to ward off maggots and moths from eating woolen garments. Even the lowest of life forms couldn't stand it. Often ingesting small portions of it resulted in death.

The alluring speech of man or woman with whom you commit immorality is like a two-edged sword. There is no safe edge to a double-edged sword. You don't manage any cut it gives. In other words, there is no “best foot forward” side to immorality. Try as you may you will not be able to put the “best face” on it.

- **Fire spreads**

Secondly, fire spreads and so does unchecked lust. "And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless," (Proverbs 5:7-9).

This father is pleading with this son again. Pastor John Kitchen says, "Every child needs to learn early to take with utmost seriousness the warning cry of his parents rather than ignoring it and assuming they are overreacting. The same is true of every true child of the heavenly Father."

Just like you don't see how close you can get to fire that is spreading, so you want to "keep your way far from this forbidden woman, and not go near the door of her house." Rather, flee lust! The "house" of such a woman used to be in maybe some sleazy part of town, but now you don't need to even leave your own home anymore with what is available on TV and the computer. This fire has spread to every corner of our culture so that any surface that can display any kind of image is a candidate for immodesty and indecency, if not outright pornography. You don't have to roam the streets any longer. It is everywhere.

But this fire, once lit in your heart, will spread. Immorality has devastating effects. You will end up giving your honor—the strength and vitality of your youth, the productivity of your best years to others. Immorality saps your energy through guilt, might rob you financially, your dream turns into a nightmare and forces you to live with "what if" and "if only."

"The merciless" might include an enraged spouse, the judge who sets child support, the person who blackmails you so your secret isn't exposed, or perhaps the other woman herself. As the poet said, "Hell knows no fury like a woman scorned." If you don't believe Solomon, you might want to ask public figures like Mark Sanford, Tiger Woods, or John Edwards.

● Fire burns

Thirdly, fire burns. Fire is alluring. And we all know it spreads if given more fuel. But that is only theoretical till it touches our lives either personally or materially. Solomon continues, "lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner." (Proverbs 5:10). Who are the strangers? It could be referring to the "other woman" upon whom you lavished gifts, others again who are blackmailing you, or it could be the high cost of divorce and continuing support for years to come. People have been known to lose their savings in such situations and few things are more expensive in our day than divorce—alimony, child support. Not to mention the broken home, hurt and jealousy who exact a great price.

"At the end of your life you groan, when your flesh and body are consumed," (Proverbs 5:11). You may be groaning and be consumed literally with STD's or AIDS or you may be groaning with the desperate echo of an inner emptiness—the cry of anguish looking back on a destitute life. Immorality isn't glamorous! Hollywood lies to you!

Your conscience will burn the rest of your life as you say, "How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation." (Proverbs 5:12-14). How sad it will be to come to the end of your life and know that you have played the fool! How sad to have spent your life listening to what you wanted to hear and chasing after sin only to find yourself without comfort of soul.

"Ruin in the assembled congregation" most likely speaks of a reputation that has been lost. The good name that you spent a lifetime protecting can be lost in one night.

Sexual sin will affect you physically (5:9, 11; 6:34-35), ruin you financially (5:10; 6:26a, 30-31; 29:3); destroy your reputation (5:14; 6:33), break apart your family (5:16-17), and will find you out (6:27-29; num 32:23)

As Warren Wiersbe has said, "The most expensive thing in the world is sin!" You might think that intimacy outside of marriage will solve your problems but your brief moments of pleasure bring a harvest of pain.

Sexual sin is a fire! Run from it like you would run from a house on fire! Flee it like you would a rattlesnake! Flee it like you would if you saw a grenade lobbed toward you.

Drink the water (vv. 15-20)

But the Bible doesn't just show the sordid side of immorality. It also displays the beauty and exhilaration of marital love. The answer to your desires in this area is not abstinence like false teachers promote. We have all read or heard with pain the results of enforced celibacy in certain religions and churches. That's not God's answer. The biblical answer is found in places such as Proverbs 5:15-20 which teach that we should find our fulfillment and marital happiness in our spouse alone. Marital intimacy is a gift from God. It is good when used as God intended!

● Enjoy your own water

"Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well." (Proverbs 5:15). Husband and wife are to find their fulfillment in each other. They are to practice intimacy as an expression of their love and commitment toward one another. And drink the flowing water of their own well and not go out and get it somewhere else.

● Contain the water

"Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you." (Proverbs 5:16-17).

Don't disperse your energy in this most intimate of areas to any one except your spouse. Your body and eyes and thoughts belong to your spouse and only your spouse. Any act or thought which is not directed at your spouse is sinful and destructive. Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:27-28).

Listen there are only two mutually exclusive relationships that humans enjoy: your relationship with your spouse and your God. You have more than one parent, parents may have more than one child, you will have more than one friend, and so on--but only one spouse and only one God!

It is a private matter, marital love is like a secret garden (Song of Song 4:12-15; 5:1)

“Intimacy within marriage is a beautiful river that brings life and refreshment, but outside of marriage it is a sewer that defiles everything it touches.”--Wiersbe

The commitment of marriage is like the banks of the river that keep the river from becoming a swamp. God’s holy law confines the waters within the banks, and this produces power and depth. Extramarital and premarital affairs don’t satisfy because they’re shallow, and it doesn’t take much to stir up shallow water.

- **Drench yourself with your water**

"Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?" (Proverbs 5:18-20).

Marital intimacy is to be exhilarating; Monogamy is fully satisfying! Full satisfaction within marriage! It is a gift from God! God blesses your physical relationship with your spouse, this verse says! The marriage bed is a source of rejoicing God says.

The word “delight” could be translated “be overwhelmed, let your thirst be quenched!” thirst quenched” with the wife you married in your youth! “Drench yourself until satisfied in a healthy physical relationship within covenant marriage.”

The word “intoxicated” means to be “exhilarated, totally satisfied, deliciously dazed”. This is speaking of the thrill of marital intimacy!

God's design is that one man and one woman in the covenant of marriage satisfy each other! Paul concurs in 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

"But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

Now listen to this: It is as much a sin to deprive your mate of intimate pleasure as it is for your mate to seek it elsewhere. That is very clear in Proverbs 5 and 1 Corinthians 7. In fact in Proverbs 5-7, there are actually three women who are mentioned: the adulteress who will kill you, Lady Wisdom who can save you from immorality, and your wife who can protect you from immorality.

3 more compelling reasons for purity

The last three verses of this chapter lay out the three most compelling reasons for purity. Solomon saves the best for last. We have looked at several temporal and practical reasons to be pure, but these three are the three greatest motivators. Behind all the utilitarian arguments for keeping yourself pure till marriage and pure during marriage, there are these biblical ones. They are spiritual and more vertically oriented.

- **The presence of God:**

"For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths." (Proverbs 5:21). You never ultimately sin in secret. God sees every sin—including every sin of immorality. And make no mistake about it, adultery or any related sin breaks the commandment of God. It breaks the first greatest command because **you aren't loving God first** and you it **breaks the second greatest** because you certainly aren't loving the other person with whom you are committing this sin nor your spouse whom you vowed faithfulness

- **The bondage of sin (v. 22)**

Secondly, there is the bondage, domination and addiction of sin. "The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin." (Proverbs 5:22). Notice here part of the punishment of this sin is not some thunderbolt from heaven that strikes the unfaithful spouse but rather the natural effect of sin—entrapment. Sin deceives! And sin enslaves. Sin is addicting. And sin of this nature is especially addicting.

The more one sins in this area, the stronger the bondage of sin becomes. Sin deceives us into thinking we can indulge in immorality in thought, fantasy, or physically and that we can stop whenever we want. Just one look! Just one fling! Just one fantasy. But then there is one more, and another and pretty soon to our amazement we aren't able to break free any more.

The word "paths" in verse 21 refer literally to the ruts worn by the travel of wagons over roadways. What a picture that is. We promise ourselves, "Just this once" when we start down a path of sin but seldom do we recognize the addictive nature of this sin. God not only sees our individual acts of sin, but He see the destructive habits they will become. If we learn anything from Proverbs 5-7, it is that immorality is gradually destructive, eventually disastrous, and ultimately deadly.

- **The certainty of death**

"He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray." (Proverbs 5:23). Immorality, adultery, homosexuality and every kind of intimacy outside of a marriage is a walking death!

Now these warnings are ominous and they are serious, but they are also gracious. God's heart in this is not to threaten, but to warn us—to remind us that he is holy and that sin, even the forgiven sin of believers in Christ, can have serious consequences. God commands our faithfulness in marriage, he calls us to purity, for our good!

Practical steps to take

I want to wrap this message up by spending a few moments on giving some concrete applications to help you walk the path of biblical wisdom regarding purity in your life. Many of these are taken from Randy Alcorn and his extensive writing on this both on his website and his book I will mention in just a minute.

- Choose purity in advance
- Develop wise strategies for purity [Guardrails on a highway]
 - #1: Flee impurity. He who hesitates loses
 - Anticipate and prevent temptations
 - Guard your heart
 - Memorize Scriptures
 - Pray and don't give up
 - Practice accountability
 - Control what you watch and where you go physically and on the internet. "You can't keep the birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair."--Martin Luther
- Confess and forsake impurity

Anthony Selvaggio has some helpful counsel in this regard:

No one is immune to the danger of sexual sin. Every Christian has committed some form of it, particularly as defined by Jesus. But whatever your situation, no matter how far gone, no matter how shameful or shocking, in Christ there is hope, forgiveness, and mercy. Even David, a man after God's own heart, committed adultery. While David had to pay the earthly costs for his transgression, Psalm 51 reminds us that, after confessing and repenting of his sin, he experienced God's forgiveness. God created a new heart in David and he can do the same for you.

Maybe you are the spouse who has experienced the incredible hurt of marital unfaithfulness. In either case there is much to be learned from an even that occurred in John 8:3-11.

One day, a group of powerful men brought before Jesus a woman who had been caught in adultery (John 8:3-11). Jesus turned to these men and said, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Jesus understood what was in the hearts and minds of men. He understood that we all struggle with sin, and that sexual sin in one's though life can be a common occurrence. Indeed, not one man was willing to throw a stone, and gradually they began to leave.

If you have been unfaithful in marriage, mentally or physically, see yourself as that adulterous woman. For when all her accusers had gone, something remarkable happened. Jesus turned to her, forgave her, and presented her with this command, "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11). As you turn to him in repentance, Jesus will freely forgive you, too, and will give you the very same command. "God now and leave your life of sin."

You can't delete all the old bad files from your brain, but you can restrict the number of new bad files.

- Forgive

Selvaggio continues,

If it is your spouse who has been unfaithful, see yourself as those who accused the adulterer. Certainly, there is no question that you have suffered and been betrayed. But recognize this also: each of us are capable of any sin if we are put in the right circumstances. Even you. Moreover, each of us have sinful tendencies in particular areas. It can be very hard to understand the power of one person's temptations if you also are not weak in those areas. Yes, your spouse has failed horribly, but this gives you no right to cast a stone or to insist on condemnation. Christ has forgiven you for countless sins against his own holiness, and kept on loving you freely and fully. You likewise have grace from God to forgive your spouse, and to love him or her with the love that comes from your Savior, who suffered on the cross for you, your Christian spouse, and all who would believe.

- Count the cost (from Randy Alcorn's blog)

- Grieving my Lord; displeasing the One whose opinion most matters.
- Dragging into the mud Christ's sacred reputation.
- Loss of reward and commendation from God.
- Having to one day look Jesus in the face at the judgment seat and give an account of why I did it.
- Forcing God to discipline me in various ways.
- Following in the footsteps of men I know of whose immorality forfeited their ministry and caused me to shudder. List of these names:
- Suffering of innocent people around me who would get hit by my shrapnel (a la Achan).
- Untold hurt to my wife, my best friend and loyal wife.
- Loss of my wife's respect and trust.
- Hurt to and loss of credibility with my beloved children ("Why listen to a man who betrayed Mom and us?")
- If my blindness should continue or my family be unable to forgive, I could lose my wife and my children forever.
- Shame to my family.
- Shame to my church family.
- Shame and hurt to my friends, and especially those I've led to Christ and disciplined. List of names:
- Guilt awfully hard to shake—even though God would forgive me?
- Plaguing memories and flashbacks that could taint future intimacy with my wife.
- Being haunted by my sin as I look in the eyes of others, and having it all dredged up again wherever I go and whatever I do.
- Undermining the hard work and prayers of others by saying to our community "this is a hypocrite—who can take seriously anything he and his church have said and done?"
- Laughter, rejoicing and blasphemous smugness by those who disrespect God and the church (2 Samuel 12:14).
- Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the Enemy of God.

- Heaping judgment and endless problems on the person I would have committed adultery with.
- Possible diseases: gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, and AIDS (pain, constant reminder to me and my wife, possible infection of my wife, or in the case of AIDS, even causing her death, as well as mine.)
- Possible pregnancy, with its personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of sin to me and my family.
- Loss of self-respect, discrediting my own name, and invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself.

- Cultivate your marriage
 - Don't keep seemingly innocent secrets
 - Be sensitive to your spouse's intimate needs
 - Spend time alone with your spouse
 - Pray with and for each other
 - Take care of your health and keep yourself in as good of shape as possible

- Teach your children
 - Be responsible for educating your children in this area
 - Protect your children (don't put a TV or internet in their bedroom)
 - Screen your children's clothing
 - Exercise gracious but firm control over your children's friends
 - Teach and model modesty in the home

Resources to go

- Rediscovering Sexual Purity
(http://www.lifeaction.org/static/uploads/media/pdf/summithandouts/Rediscovering_Sexual_Purity.pdf)
- Guidelines for sexual purity
(http://www.epm.org/artman2/publish/sexual_purity/Guidelines_for_Sexual_Purity.shtml)
- *The Purity Principle* by Randy Alcorn (the best book on this issue)
- Shepherds Press blog: Talking to your Children about Sex and Marriage
(<http://www.shepherdpress.com/blog/shaping-influences/>)
- Others in our library

As we wrap up this message on , "Flee the fire, drink your own water" let me repeat what I said earlier. This wraps up the gracious teaching of God's word regarding purity and will help you live wisely in a foolish world:

- Purity is a **million times better** than impurity
- Purity is **always right**, impurity is always wrong
- Purity is always **smart**; impurity is always stupid
- Purity is always **safe**; impurity is always risky
- Purity always **helps**; impurity always hurts.