

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Have you learned anything new about how you or God view lust? How does your view of lust differ from God's?
- God is love and he created sex. How does your view of sex agree with God's view? How does it disagree?
- When our view on something differs from God's, what is the likelihood that you are right and he is wrong?
- Where your views differ from God's on lust, love, or sex, are you willing to change your views to accept his?

PRAYER

- Pray that your mind will be renewed to think like God thinks in the areas of love, sex, and lust.
- Ask God for the humility to recognize that when your opinion and his differ, he is always right.
- Pray that you may be renewed and transformed to the likeness of Christ in thought and deed.

NOTES



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WEEK 3: LOVE AND LUST

CONNECT

- How would you define lust? How would you define temptation? How are the two connected?
- How do you think people in NYC view sex and sexuality? Do you agree or disagree with this view?
- Do you think that the way magazines, TV ads, and other forms of media use sexuality is moral, immoral, or amoral? Why do you think that?

WHAT

There are many things that can draw our attention away from God and influence us to hold views that are contrary to his. Lust is one of those things. King Solomon, the author of the Proverbs, cautions us to avoid getting in bondage to lust. He warns us to see lust for what it is so that we can avoid being drawn away from God's intended design for us. The culture around us often shapes our thinking in ways that we are unaware of and not always in agreement with. Let's take a look into lust and its implications through the wisdom of Solomon.

WORD

“For your ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all your paths. The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.”

Proverbs 5:21-23 (NIV)

1. The description of lust.

“For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter than as gall, sharp as a double edge sword.”

Proverbs 5:3, 4

Here Solomon is describing the adulterous woman. Her lips are described as smoother than oil and sweet like honey which both at the time, were signs of luxury. Lust is seductive, inviting, and most of all, it is very deceptive. While lust is pleasing to the senses, it becomes very bitter in the end. Not only that, but it also leaves behind a painful wound.

2. The devastation of lust.

“The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.”

Proverbs 3:5

Our ways are in full view of the Lord. He sees and examines each and every action we take. Lusting after another man or woman is very costly. Lust will lead us astray and enslave us (Proverbs 5:21-23). The Bible does not sugar coat sexual immorality. In fact, it is very direct in saying that our sexual immorality will eventually lead our feet to death and straight to the grave (Proverbs 5:5).

3. The delight in married life.

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

Proverbs 5:15-19

“Water from your own cistern” is a euphemism for sexual relations. The expression of sexual love is intoxicating (although “intoxicated” typically means to go astray or to do wrong, here it means to be infatuated). We were created by God as sexual beings and he has designed our sexuality as natural and good. He wants us to be blessed and to rejoice in his gift but, we also have to understand that God’s original design for our sexual expressions of love should always remain in the context of marriage.
