

– Proverbs 5.1-23 –
Words to Teens 8
The Opposite Sex

Prov 5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, 2 That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. 6 Lest you ponder her path of life -- Her ways are unstable; You do not know them. 7 Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, 9 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one; 10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner; 11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, 12 And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! 13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! 14 I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation." 15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. 16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. 20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress? 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. 22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. 23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

* What major temptation does Solomon deal with here? How do we know he considered it very significant? How does he go about addressing it?

* What is this passage really about?

* Who is this young man?

* What is at the root of the young man's folly?

* Who is this young woman? With each of the following, what does the Hebrew actually mean?

• “Immoral woman” (vs 3)

• “Seductress” (vs 20)

• “Loud and rebellious ... her feet do not remain at home” (Prov 7.11)

* What is at the root of the young woman's folly?

* How do these two teens mirror one another?

* Is this kind of folly restricted to singles? Will marriage cure it?

* Is this kind of folly restricted to the world?

* What is the role of illicitness and secretiveness in all of this? (Prov 9.17)