

Moral Choices that Build Your Marriage

Proverbs 5:15-23

“. . . Moral rules are directions for running the human machine. Every moral rule is there to prevent a breakdown, or a strain, or a friction, in the running of the machine.” (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Proverbs 5 helps believers make moral choices to keep their marriage healthy.

- **Choice #1: MAKE YOUR SPOUSE THE EXCLUSIVE SOURCE OF YOUR SEXUAL ENJOYMENT.**

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.
Proverbs 5:15 (New International Version)

The point: “Enjoy your spouse sexually, just as you might enjoy a good, cold drink of refreshing water that quenches your thirst on a hot day.”

Covenant = a sacred, God-witnessed, public, mutually binding, irrevocable relationship between two parties who willingly promise and understand to live by its terms. (See Ezekiel 16:8; Hosea 2:19; Malachi 2:14-16; and, Ephesians 5:21-33.)

. . . *It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.* Malachi 2:14 (NIV)

- **Choice #2: PROTECT THE SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MARRIAGE PARTNER.**

Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.
Proverbs 5:16-17 (NIV)

Why spill the water of your springs in the streets, having sex with just anyone? ¹⁷You should reserve it for yourselves. Never share it with strangers.
Proverbs 5:16-17 (New Living Translation)

How to Protect Your Marriage from Affairs

- Make your marriage partnership a priority.
- Never be totally alone with a member of the opposite sex other than your spouse.
- When on the road, always have a stated time to call home every day so that you don't develop a separate life.
- Do not expect your marriage to make you happy every day and in every way.
- Develop your spiritual life together.
- Get help and input when you need it.

How to Protect Your Marriage from Pornography

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 5:28 (English Standard Version)

- Resist this sin.
- Always have a filter on your computer at work and home.
- Don't subscribe to premium channels.
- Break isolation in your life.

- **Choice #3: CHOOSE TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN YOUR MARITAL SATISFACTION OVER TIME.**

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. ²⁰Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? Proverbs 5:18-20 (NIV)

Remember that we live out our moral choices under God's gaze.

For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. ²²The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. ²³He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly. Proverbs 5:21-23 (NIV)