

September 23, 2012
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Selected Proverbs

“Wisdom for the Wed” or “Mashals for the Married”

Intro: The focus of Proverbs is **WISDOM**, “**the ability to live life skillfully.**” The word “**proverb**” (**mashal**) means “**comparison, similar, parallel.**” Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience.

Discussion Questions:

1. Marriage is the most intimate of friendships. What wisdom can you glean from Proverbs re: friends & friendship? Prov. 7:4; 13:20; 16:28; 17:9, 17; 18:24; 22:11; 27:6; 27:9, 10
2. What kind of person should we avoid marrying? Prov. 11:22; 12:4; 14:1; 16:28; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 22:24; 25:24, 28; 26:12; 27:15; 28:24; 30:23
3. What kind of person should we seek to marry? Prov. 11:16, 17, 25; 12:4; 17:27; 18:22; 19:14:31:10, 11, 23, 28, 30
4. Marriage is to be characterized by unity; oneness; working together. How is this unity seen in the following areas:
 - raising children (Prov. 1:8-9; 6:20)
 - sex in marriage (Prov. 5:15-19)
 - faithfulness to marriage vows (Prov. 2:17; 16:28; 17:9; Ps. 55:13)
5. What does God say about sexual purity in marriage? How can we develop and maintain it? Prov. 5:15-19 (cf. Heb. 13:4; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Cor. 7)
6. What does God say about adultery? What warnings are there? How can we keep pure in this area both physically and mentally? Prov. 5:20-23; 6:24-35
7. Charles Bridges, in his commentary on Proverbs, made some strong statements about adultery. Read the following quote and share your reactions / responses to it: "But the sin of the adulterer has no right to sympathy. His plea is not the cry of hunger, but of desire; not want, but wantonness; not the lack of bread, but of sense. He deliberately and intentionally gives himself up to sin. He destroys his own self. He gets a wound -- not like the soldier or the martyr for Christ -- full of honor; but irritates his conscience, and brings disgrace and indelible reproach upon his name. The tremendous passions of jealousy and rage shut out all forgiveness. The face of no one who offered a ransom would be accepted. No compensation, no matter how great, will bring contentment. Such are the many sins, the awfully destructive miseries, flowing from the breaking of God's holy law. 'Oh! how great the iniquity,' exclaimed the godly Augustine, 'is this adultery! How great a perverseness! The soul, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, is thus for the pleasures of an hour given to the devil; a thing much to be lamented and bewailed; when that which delighteth is soon gone, that which tormenteth remaineth without end.' And won't this fearful picture of sin and its consequences (which Solomon, sadly enough was too well fitted to draw) teach us to avoid everything that may be temptation; to be sensitive to the first hints of its becoming so; to close every avenue of sense to the entrance of this seductive poison; to turn away from all communications that spoil the taste, that familiarize the mind with impurity, that arouses keen interest in associations that a pure imagination recoils from with disgust? Let us learn to seek God's divine strength to 'keep watching and praying' continually; and let him who thinks he stands, 'take heed lest he fall.'"
8. How can we be a blessing to our spouse and children? Prov. 12:25; 13:22; 14:1; 20:7
9. What specific steps will you take this week to develop a stronger friendship, greater unity, and deeper intimacy with your spouse this week?
10. What steps will you take to pass on God's wisdom to your children and your children's children about marriage? Pray with your spouse about the legacy you want to leave for future generations. Ask God to make your marriage a blessing and an example to others.