

Drink the Water From Your Own Cistern

There are three topics that most churches don't like talking about!

Today we are going to talk about sex. Why? Because God's Word has much to say about it (there's a whole book devoted to it), & if the church doesn't talk about it then we're letting the world be the sole instructor on the topic.

Do you remember what you were taught growing up about sex?

For me, it was like when I was on a mission trip in a foreign country & I was told, "No matter what, do NOT drink the water – you'll get a disease & die!"

Can anyone relate? I'm not going to cast blame, but how can one come to understand God's good purpose for sex within marriage unless God's people start talking about it in healthy and helpful ways?

What if we were to take a different approach? Instead of only talking about sex as something to be resisted, what if we started talking about it as something that is truly wonderful, & to be enjoyed within the right context?

Instead of just declaring the message, "DON'T DRINK THE WATER", what if we taught, & modeled, what Proverbs teaches in **Ch. 5:15** – **"Drink the water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well."**

What if sex was talked about as the gift that it truly is from God in marriage, instead of that which is sinful, dirty and destructive?

There's no doubt that we need to continue to guard against the destruction caused by engaging in sex outside of the context it was intended for!

Solomon, the writer of Proverbs can testify to that from his experience!

Solomon, though probably the wisest man to ever live, had 700 wives & 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:4). **The result of which turned his heart away from God.**

Some would say that he should be the last person to consult on this topic, but if Proverbs was written at the end of his life as a memoir of knowledge learned, & wisdom to be applied, then there is great value in heeding his words!

Proverbs is chalked full of warnings against the effects of sexual immorality - adultery, the wayward wife, & other forms of abuse upon this precious gift.

There are 65 verses alone in chapters 5,6,7 of Proverbs on the topic of sexual immorality. Let me read a few of them - **Proverbs 6:27-29; 7:22-27**

Solomon knows this well because he has experienced it! However, this is not all that Solomon has to say on this topic! Consider **Proverbs 5:15-20**

What Solomon is declaring is **"why turn aside to sexual fountains that will run dry & lead to death, when you can drink fully and be ever satisfied from your own well"** - from the marital relationship w/the "wife of your youth"!

Now Solomon did not say, **"be blessed & rejoice in your young wife!"** He's saying to enjoy, & be blessed by, the intimacy shared in that first marital union.

Do you remember your wedding day? Remember how you felt when you looked down that aisle at your spouse-to-be? Remember the love, joy & intimacy you shared there? Is that passion & intimacy still alive & well today?

Charles Bridges said **"Desire after forbidden enjoyments naturally springs from dissatisfaction with the blessing in possession."**

"Let your fountain be blessed, & rejoice in the wife of your youth, a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always by her love!" – blessed, rejoice, fill you, delight, always!
- When was the last time you were intoxicated by your spouse?

Read **Song of Solomon 7:1-10**. Or consider how Solomon & the wife of his youth speak to & pursue one another – **Song of Solomon 1:9-10, 1:12-2:1**

Solomon is remembering & realizing what he had, & what he threw away! This is a lesson for us in marriage - **Remember, cherish, drink, & be satisfied!**

A few other examples of how this "Drink the water" principle works:

- Talking to teenagers about sexual boundaries.
- Responding to my kids when they come home from school hungry.
- God's response to us from Law to Grace - our freedom in Christ.

If you want a beautiful lawn, feed the grass & it will take care of the weeds.

We are so saturated with messages of "no, no, no", & it's not working. Maybe we ought to try saying "yes, yes, yes" to the right things instead!

Drink the water from your own cistern, your marriage will be blessed and your children's, children's, children, etc. will have **a lasting legacy to follow!**

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