

Immorality is the Sin of the Wicked

Part 1

A REALLY DUMB IDEA THAT MOST CHRISTIANS STILL BELIEVE

- ✓ Immorality is primarily the sin of the wicked.
In reality, among Christians, it's usually the sin of the fool.
 - There Are Two Kinds Of Fools:
Lucky fools and unlucky fools – the only difference is luck.
 - If We Buy The Lie:
We'll end up harshly judging others & taking foolish risks.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS: WHO FALLS AND WHY THEY FALL

Proverbs 7:1-23/ James 1:13-16 & Romans 7:14-25/ 1 Corinthians 6:18 & 2 Timothy 2:22

- ① It usually starts with ignorance or overconfidence.
 - Famous Last Words: "I can handle it."
- ② If we try to be strong and self-disciplined – We've already lost.
 - A Fool's Strategy: "I'll just say, "No."
- ③ The actual fall is usually sudden and the consequences shocking.
 - What They Always Say: "How did I get here? It just happened."

SOMETHING TO TAKE HOME: HOW TO AVOID PLAYING THE FOOL

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 & 1 Corinthians 7:39/ Proverbs 4:23/ Proverbs 5:1-23

- ✓ If you're single:
 - Don't try to resist temptation – Avoid temptation!
 - Don't date who you can't mate.
 - If you can't say, "No" – Then say, "I do."
- ✓ If you're married:
 - Beware: Most affairs are with friends not strangers.
 - Give your mate absolute veto power.

Food for Thought

For the week of July 8, 2007

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. The Bible has a lot to say about fools and the outcome of their living. As you read the following verses, identify what each says about fools and the outcome of foolish living.

Proverbs 1:32

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them; [NIV]

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool seems right to him,
but a wise man listens to advice. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:16

A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil,
but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. [NIV]

Proverbs 17:12

Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs
than a fool in his folly. [NIV]

Psalms 107:17

Some became fools through their rebellious ways
and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. [NIV]

Ecclesiastes 7:17

Do not be overwicked,
and do not be a fool--
why die before your time? [NIV]

2. In this weekend's sermon, Larry unpacked for us who falls and why they fall. As you read the two Proverbs below, in addition to looking for what they say about who falls and why they fall, note also the impact of immorality and the outcome for the person committing it.

Proverbs 5:1-23

My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
listen well to my words of insight,
[2] that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.
[3] For the lips of an adulteress drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;
[4] but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.
[5] Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

- [6] She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.
- [7] Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.
- [8] Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,
- [9] lest you give your best strength to others
and your years to one who is cruel,
- [10] lest strangers feast on your wealth
and your toil enrich another man's house.
- [11] At the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are spent.
- [12] You will say, "How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!
- [13] I would not obey my teachers
or listen to my instructors.
- [14] I have come to the brink of utter ruin
in the midst of the whole assembly."
- [15] Drink water from your own cistern,
running water from your own well.
- [16] Should your springs overflow in the streets,
your streams of water in the public squares?
- [17] Let them be yours alone,
never to be shared with strangers.
- [18] May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.
- [19] A loving doe, a graceful deer--
may her breasts satisfy you always,
may you ever be captivated by her love.
- [20] Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress?
Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?
- [21] For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord,
and he examines all his paths.
- [22] The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him;
the cords of his sin hold him fast.
- [23] He will die for lack of discipline,
led astray by his own great folly. [NIV]

Proverbs 6:23-35

- For these commands are a lamp,
this teaching is a light,
and the corrections of discipline
are the way to life,
- [24] keeping you from the immoral woman,
from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.
- [25] Do not lust in your heart after her beauty
or let her captivate you with her eyes,
- [26] for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread,
and the adulteress preys upon your very life.
- [27] Can a man scoop fire into his lap
without his clothes being burned?
- [28] Can a man walk on hot coals
without his feet being scorched?
- [29] So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;
no one who touches her will go unpunished.
- [30] Men do not despise a thief if he steals

to satisfy his hunger when he is starving.
[31] Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold,
though it costs him all the wealth of his house.
[32] But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment;
whoever does so destroys himself.
[33] Blows and disgrace are his lot,
and his shame will never be wiped away;
[34] for jealousy arouses a husband's fury,
and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
[35] He will not accept any compensation;
he will refuse the bribe, however great it is. [NIV]

3. Wise people respond drastically different than fools when confronted with an opportunity for immorality. How do the following passages help you prepare to deal with any opportunities for immorality that may come your way?

Galatians 6:7-10

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. [8] The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. [9] Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. [NIV]

Romans 8:5-14

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

[9] You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. [10] But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. [11] And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

[12] Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. [13] For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, [14] because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [NIV]

4. Given your marital status, how can you apply the suggestions Larry gave in the 'How to Avoid Playing the Fool' section of the sermon? Take some time to pray for yourself (and others) about this sermon and your life.