



Proverbs: Wisdom for Sex and Romance | Proverbs 5:15-23, 6:27-28

Proverbs 5:15-23

- ¹⁵ Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.
- ¹⁶ Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?
- ¹⁷ Let them be for yourself alone,
and not for strangers with you.
- ¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.
- ²⁰ Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman
and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?
- ²¹ For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord,
and he ponders all his paths.
- ²² The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.
²³ He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he is led astray.

Proverbs 6:27-28

- ²⁷ Can a man carry fire next to his chest
and his clothes not be burned?
- ²⁸ Or can one walk on hot coals
and his feet not be scorched?

“We are in uncharted territory...There have been two major transitions [in how people form romantic relationships] in the last four million years. The first was around 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, in the agricultural revolution, when we became less migratory and more settled. And

the second major transition is with the rise of the Internet.”—Justin Garcia, *research scientist at Indiana University’s Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction*



What was I made for?

Approach #1: Fear of Passion

“I know of no greater failure among Christians than in presenting a persuasive point of view on sexuality. Outside the church, people think of God as the great spoilsport of human sexuality, not its inventor.” –Philip Yancey

Approach #2: Do whatever is right for you

“The highest good, according to our society, is ‘finding yourself’ and then living by ‘what’s right for you.’” –America’s New Moral Code, *Barna*

“[In our cultural moment] The love partner becomes the divine ideal within which to fulfill one’s life. Spiritual and emotional needs now become focused on one individual.” –Ernest Becker, *The Denial of Death*

“Sex has become so easy,” says John, 26, a marketing executive in New York. “I can go on my phone right now and no doubt I can find someone I can have sex with this evening, probably before midnight.”—Tinder and the Dawn of the ‘Dating Apocalypse,’ *Vanity Fair*

“But if you say any of this out loud, it’s like you’re weak, you’re not independent, you somehow missed the whole memo...” –Tinder and the Dawn of the ‘Dating Apocalypse,’ *Vanity Fair*

The Design of God:

Proverbs 5:18-19

¹⁸ Let your fountain be blessed,
and rejoice in the wife of your youth,
¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.
Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight;
be intoxicated always in her love.

What will this lead to?

Proverbs 6:27-28

²⁷ Can a man carry fire next to his chest
and his clothes not be burned?
²⁸ Or can one walk on hot coals
and his feet not be scorched?

For everyone: Be careful with your screen time

For everyone: expect temptation and have a plan

For married couples: keep dating each other

For married couples: talk about your sex life

For non-married: date with a purpose

“And so what if, as a single Christian...dating finds its rightful place under my calling to “go and make disciples”? What if my goal wasn’t to win the game, but to leave people better than I found them—better loved, better experiencing their identity as a child of God, better equipped to love others? What if I was willing to lose, rather than making sure I care less and leaving people further rooted in their insecurities, convinced they need to earn affection, committed to rehearsing their acts and their lines for their next performance? I don’t want to leave a trail of broken people behind me in my quest to win at love.” –Patreeya Prasertvit, *Relevant Magazine*

For non-married: feet on the floor

For non-married: don't play house

Who am I becoming?

Proverbs 5:22-23

²²The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him,
and he is held fast in the cords of his sin.

²³He dies for lack of discipline,
and because of his great folly he is led astray.

Romans 8:1-2

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.