**SS, Marriage, Proverbs on Male/Female Relationships** Mike Fairchild, 3/26/23

Introduction

1. Review
   1. Male and Female at creation
   2. Male and Female united in marriage
   3. Biblical theological of male and female roles
   4. Male and female at the fall
2. Preview
   1. Wisdom of Proverbs on male and female relationships
   2. Why Proverbs?
   3. The book of Proverbs focused on behavior and it’s consequences
   4. Mostly from a father/son point of view
   5. Contrasts between wisdom and folly
   6. Male and female relationships are a major theme

We are going to a quick survey of male and female relationships in 3 categories

A Working in unity- Proverbs 1:8-9

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,  
    and forsake not your mother's teaching,

9for they are a graceful garland for your head  
    and pendants for your neck.

Comments-

1.The father and mother are working on the same project in the same way.

2. The father’s instruction and the mother’s teaching are in Hebrew parallelism. Meaning they are the same.

1. Sexual Temptation- Prov 2:16-19, Prov 5:1-22, Prov 6:20-35, Prov 7:6-27

Prov 2:16-19

16 So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words,

17 who forsakes the companion of her youth

and forgets the covenant of her God;

18 for her house sinks down to death,

and her paths to the departed;

19 none who go to her come back,

nor do they regain the paths of life.

Comments-

1. There is an apparent weakness in the male to be resisted.
2. There is a danger of temptation in the female to be resisted.
3. Both male and female are designed by God to want to experience sexual pleasures.
4. But God’s design includes the answer to the who- what-when-where-why questions.
5. All five senses are involved – see-hear-smell-taste-touch.
6. Effects of Spouses on Each Other

There are 9 passages- Prov 12:4, Prov 14:1, Prov 17:1, Prov 18:22, Prov 19:13-14, Prov 21:9, Prov 21:19, Prov 27:15-16

Prov 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband,

but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.

Prov 14:1 The wisest of women builds her house,

but folly with her own hands tears it down.

Prov 15:16-18 16 Better is a little with the fear of the Lord

than great treasure and trouble with it.

17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is

than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife,

but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.

Prov 17:1 Better is a dry morsel with quiet

than a house full of feasting with strife.

Prov 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing

and obtains favor from the Lord.

Comments-

1.The family is so close a unity that it can’t function where there is strife.

2. A good wife is a gift from the Lord.

3. When I stress out my spouse- I lose the comforts I find in marriage- strife is self-defeating.

A special Text

Prov 31:10-31

Evaluation (10)

10 An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

A Result (11-12)

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,

and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm,

all the days of her life.

The Evidence (13-27)

13 She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.

14 She is like the ships of the merchant;

she brings her food from afar.

15 She rises while it is yet night

and provides food for her household

and portions for her maidens.

16 She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard.

17 She dresses herself with strength

and makes her arms strong.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 She puts her hands to the distaff,

and her hands hold the spindle.

20 She opens her hand to the poor

and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of snow for her household,

for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes bed coverings for herself;

her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates

when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them;

she delivers sashes to the merchant.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing,

and she laughs at the time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,

and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household

and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Renewed Evaluation (28-30)

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

29 “Many women have done excellently,

but you surpass them all.”

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

A Reward (31)

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands,

and let her works praise her in the gates.