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The Birds and the Bees

A Study of Proverbs: Proverbs 5-7

“Experience teaches slowly and at the cost of mistakes.” – James Froude

“Dad, where do babies come from?”

It is the question that is feared by many parents. It is a question that brings anxiety and confusion into the mind of a dad. He responds with, “Go ask your mom!”

Okay, so maybe it happens that way in some households, but no matter how it happens, children will eventually begin to understand that there is a difference between genders.

Moms have babies and dads don't. Dads stand and moms sit. Moms have two kinds of underwear and dads have just one. Dads shave their faces and moms shave their legs.

Children notice the differences and begin to ask questions.

Describe when you began to learn about gender differences.

How did your parents deal with your questions about it?

Those are the hard questions. How much do I say? When do I say it? What are they doing that they are asking me about this? Unfortunately, many parents avoid the conversation and hope that they will just fall in the knowledge of human sexuality.

That may sound harsh, but think about it. What are the different ways that children learn about sexuality?

Did you fill the blanks? If not, you might want to take a moment to think through some more. Think about your own childhood and the

different times that you learned about sexuality.

It could easily be said that children learn about sexuality from . . . everything!

Sure, television, music, and the internet are the more obvious ones, but did you think about nature? Or maybe your neighbors?

Sounds a little ridiculous, but children notice it all. They notice that sometimes some animals have different parts than others. The household dogs are different and one has a girl name and one has a boy name. They notice how the neighbors interact. Does one neighbor yell and scream? Does another neighbor open the car door for his wife?

The reality of sexuality is really all around us. Children are sponges, taking it all in and processing it – or at least trying to.

This is where wisdom calls parents to step in and help the child process human sexuality.

Proverbs devotes the greater part of three chapters to teaching our child about intimate relationships. You could say it is the instruction booklet for the birds and the bees.

How would you define the word passion?

How would you explain what passion is to a nine or ten year old that is stepping into puberty?

After dinner our boys have this unquenchable desire to run though the house. They can make a complete circle by running through the dining room, the kitchen, the living room, and back through the dining room. At times they can tend to get loud. I know that sounds crazy, but they do. This particular night I stopped them and said, "Boys, you need to stop running around the house."

"Okay, dad."

So they started running up and down the hallway.

“...flirtatious words taste like honey, but end up being a two-edged sword.”

Sometimes what we think is crystal clear, may not be as clear to a younger mind. We are encouraged by several parenting experts to give our children enough of an answer to satisfy their curiosity, but not too much to confuse them. That is a hard balance, but maybe working our way through Proverbs will help.

Passion is not a bad thing. As this father is talking to his son about sexuality, he never condemns passion or discourages the feelings his son is working through. God made us to have desires and needs for the opposite gender. The creation account makes this clear. Instead the father seeks to help his son understand passion. Proverbs chapter five starts off with the father teaching his son to have **specific** passion.

Notice verses two and three. The father tells his son to not be drawn away by anyone that is offering flirting words. This could be wisdom for not only a relationship, but also for business partnerships, and any other type of relationship. The father tells his son that flirtatious words taste like honey, but end up being a two-edged sword. OUCH!

The father continues on to say how terrible the flirtatious words can become. In fact, he gets to the point of comparing it to a cistern or well.

Here is a picture for you. A bottle of water sits on a table. You watch as different individuals come and drink from that water bottle. They all place their lips on the rim and take a sip – just a sip. Would you drink from it?

Some would, other wouldn't. How about a bowl of water? People have come along and washed themselves in this bowl. Hands, feet, faces, and everything else has been washed in this bowl. Would you drink from it?

Read Proverbs 5:15-19.

What types of things run through your mind when you read these verses?

It is a picture of passion that is being satisfied by one specific person. It is those feelings of desire and need being washed in one fountain. A

Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished. Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry; but when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; he must give all the substance of his house. The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; he who would destroy himself does it.
-Proverbs 6:27-32

specific fountain for a specific person.

This father is teaching his son the important of a specific passion intended for one.

Proverbs 6 seems to diverge a bit from the passion theme a bit and talk more about indebtedness and working hard for what you have. It would seem that he does not pick up the birds and the bees talk till verse twenty-four.

Here is the thing. Wisdom is not circumstance specific. Wisdom is applied across the board. The father is teaching his son about **controlled** passion.

Debt tends to get us when we cannot control ourselves. The father is not straying from the topic, but explaining how passion in any situation when left uncontrolled can get you into trouble. He explains that you must work for what you want. A fast talking salesperson should not lead you into buying something that you do not have the money for and a sweet talking woman (or man) shouldn't lead you to do something that you will regret doing later on.

Describe a situation that you did not practice control when you should have?

How did you feel about it afterwards?

The father is teaching his son controlled passion. Notice verses 27-32. These deal with practicing control and not allowing the passion to burn out of control.

Proverbs 7 is like coming to the intense part of a movie. The father has shared about specific passion and controlled passion. Up till now he has simply given his son an understanding through pictures and words, but this changes in chapter seven.

Here, the father notices a situation. Teaching does not just happen during the planned times, it can happen all the time. This father takes advantage of it when he can. Here he sees a man walking into a trap. He pulls his son to the window and helps him to see what is happening. Remember, that wisdom is learning from the experiences of others.

Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. "For my husband is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; He has taken a bag of money with him, At the full moon he will come home."

-Proverbs 7:18-20

What are some of the benefits of unplanned teaching?

It was a ripe moment and the father took it. He wanted to teach his son about **patient** passion.

This father and son watched from a distance. They saw a young man who may have thought he was being specific and controlled, but he was not being patient.

As the story goes, the man is minding his own business. Which does not seem all bad, but he is not paying attention to his surroundings. It is dark and trouble lurks in the dark. A woman comes to him and begins to persuade him to come in. She tries to convince him that she is the one for him.

Read verses 18-20.

Did you catch it? She wants him now because now is when her husband is gone. Now is when she is alone. Now is when he can have her. Her love cannot wait.

Because love cannot wait, she convinces him that it is specific and controlled passion.

In the end, he becomes a fool.

Final thought, parents will decide how their children are taught. Either they will intentionally teach them or they will allow something else to teach them.

I doubt something else would teach them to be specific, controlled, and patient.

" Her house is the way to Sheol, Descending to the chambers of death." – Proverbs 7:27

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
