

Teach Them Diligently!!

Sunday P.M. – NBC

5/25/14

Intro: Ask what words society has redefined in the realm of marriage and family...

Society is redefining words...abortion, affair, lesbian, gay, marriage, manhood, womanhood...

Romans 12:1-2 teach that we are either being conformed to this world or transformed by God's Word..

In the realm of marriage, this remains true—we must transform our minds to think as God desires...

Just as importantly, we must help our children see and interpret these words correctly as well...

So I invite you to turn to Proverbs 7, were Solomon teaching his son how to avoid foolishness – the adulterous woman – before he pleads with him in chapter 8 to pursue wisdom...

Main Point: Choose wisdom and avoid foolishness. [the challenge of the text]

I will be pleading for us all to see the part that we play in preparing the young ones among us for the challenges regarding marriage and sexuality that they will face...Primarily, I will be urging us to teach them how to interpret and react to immoral temptations. Note the teaching of Romans 12:1-2!!! If we just expect them to figure some of these things out, we are leaving them to sink or swim on their own—and likely we are leaving them to be conformed to the thinking of the world. Because God's Word is sufficient and authoritative for all matters of life, we should teach our children this is so by preparing them to see life from a biblical perspective—what is good, what is bad, how to do right and how to fight sin.

1. The commands v 1-5 (“my words,” “my commandments,” “my teaching”)

a. Must be internalized

i. “Within you” v 1

ii. “tablet of your heart” v 3

Question: Do the adults have anything to do with helping children internalize God's Word?

Answer: YES!! Someone must speak to them the Words of Life!!

Caution: See what Solomon wants his son to internalize here—why does he not simply say, “stay away from bad women”?

b. Must be valued

i. “Treasure” v 1

ii. “Keep” [or “guard”] v 2 – as the pupil of your eye

Application: How well does your body protect your eyes? Instinctively! What would it take to get to the point where we keep, or observe, the Bible instinctively?

[c. Bring life]

Choose wisdom and avoid foolishness.

1. The Commands (1-5)
2. The Case Study (6-23)
3. The Caution (24-27)

- c. Bring life
 - i. “And live” v 2
 - ii. “That they may keep you” v 5
Same verb as verses 1, 2 – keep my commands so that they may keep/protect you!
 - iii. Turn one to wisdom v 4

2. The Case Study v 6-23 [ask? Fictional? Or real? – would that be helpful?]

- a. The Father’s Interpretations v 6-12, 21-23
 - i. A Young Man Lacking Sense v 7-8
 - 1. Literally “a young man who lacks heart” or character or purpose
 - 2. Walking (unknowingly) to her house at a bad time
 - ii. A Woman who is “cunning of heart” v 10
 - 1. “heart” in verses 3, 7, 10, 25
 - 2. Boisterous and Rebellious v 11
 - 3. Feet do not remain at home v 11
 - 4. Lurks at every corner v 12
 - a. Verse 12 is a broader statement, ie, “Son, watch out! She is out there!!”

Application: Wow!! How to pick which applications to make!! Notice how many interpretive elements are here. To a great extent, the facts are meaningless. How we interpret the facts is the key, and this dad is trying greatly to get his son to see this event biblically. WE MUST CALL SIN SIN!!

Children: listen carefully. That’s it. Listen and learn. Remember and keep. Obey. At this point especially, these things are acts of faith. Begin the life of faith now—God’s Word says it, your parents teach it, so do it.

- b. The Adulteress’s Message v 13-20
 - i. I need you v 13-15
 - ii. Everything is ready v 16-20

Application: We must give our boys a framework for choosing a wife. This youth was led by his senses rather than any internal convictions. Saying “Don’t date till you are in college” is not enough.

We must teach our girls how to behave. How to dress. How to speak.

Solomon is giving the “why” here...and his message continues...

3. The caution v 24-27

a. Avoid her path v 24-25

- i. "Do not let your heart turn aside..." v 25

NOTE: your heart turns away long before your feet!

- ii. "do not stray into her paths" v 25

b. Her house brings death v 26-27

- i. "many are the victims" v 26

numerous slain

- ii. "her house is the way to sheol, descending to the chambers of death" v 27

Question: Would the son have seen this path if the father had not pointed it out?

-vs 8 the youth unknowingly takes the way to the adulteress's house

-vs 19 the husband is on a long journey, or a distant path

-vs 25 "do not let your heart turn aside to her ways"

-vs 27 "her house is the way to Sheol," the realm of the dead

Argumentation: basically, God's Word instructs us to tell the younger generation how to think—how to view life. I am saying that means you talk with them about the challenges of the day, and one of those challenges is how to view marriage and sexuality. We must train our children and prepare them for the battles they will face. Teaching them to think must begin long before they leave home. Teaching them how to have victory means doing more than simply, "do this" and "do not do that." It means preparing them to make choices before their senses and emotions and desires kick in. It means leading them to write God's Word on their hearts and have His truths so implanted in them that when faced with hard choices they instinctively react against sin because they have made that choice long ago.

You can argue that since my oldest child is 8 years old, that I just have not found how difficult such a thing is. Or, I am shooting for the stars. Or, I am teaching that we expose children to adult-level information. This is what I am proposing, and it is biblical and right, no matter how old I am or how old my children are: teach your kids. Talk with them. Find out what they believe, and lead them to the truth. Further, we as a church must teach the children. We cannot shy away from temptations that are even now wreaking havoc on the church at large. Use the occasions and challenges of the day—things that have their attention already or soon will, and lead them to the truth. Plan conversations and questions. Have fun discussions. In all of this, teach them to choose wisdom, and avoid foolishness.

Choose wisdom and avoid foolishness.

1. The Commands (1-5)
2. The Case Study (6-23)
3. The Caution (24-27)