



South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST MESSENGER



1807 S. Florida Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33803

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ELDERS

David Anderson
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin

MINISTER

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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Areas of Life Where Children Need Warning (Part 3) Immoral Sexual Relationships

Brian R. Kenyon

If someone reading the Book of Proverbs highlighted the sections that begin with “My son” or “My children,” he would have a substantial list of areas in which our children and grandchildren need to be taught. It might be surprising that the largest volume of these instructions to children involve sexual relationships. The proper application of biblical principles to this area of life will make the difference between godly and ungodly children, or between a “glad father” and “the heaviness of his mother” (Proverbs 10:1). In previous articles we examined warnings about hanging around criminal and partying crowds (Proverbs 1:10-19; 23:19-20) and the danger of foolish financial alliances (Proverbs 6:1-5). In this article, we will consider the danger of illicit sexual relationships (Proverbs 5:1-21 cf. Proverbs 6:24-35; 7:6-27; 9:13-18).

Beware of an Immoral Woman

My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, ²That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. ³For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; ⁴But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. ⁶Lest you ponder her path of life—Her ways are unstable; You do not know them. (Proverbs 5:1-6)

These verses depict a father’s warning about the deadly seduction of an “immoral woman,” which term is also translated “strange woman” (KJV); “adulteress” (NASB); “forbidden woman” (ESV). This warning begins with an exhortation to be discrete (Proverbs 5:1-2). Then, wisdom warns against the attractiveness of her words (Proverbs 5:3-6). Although her flattering words are sweet and smooth, her end is bitter, tumultuous, and destructive. This “immoral woman” stands on such shaky ground that she herself does not even realize the instability of her own life (cf. Job 18:18; Proverbs 22:24-25).

Ruin and Regret Follow Such Relationships

Since ruin and regret will inevitably follow a relationship with an “immoral woman,” wise counsel is to stay as far away as possible from her. “Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house” (Proverbs 5:7-8). While some like to get as close to sin as possible, wisdom says to stay as far away as possible (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22). The tragedy of a young man getting too close to the “immoral woman’s” house is graphically portrayed in Proverbs 7:6-27, especially verses 21-23, “With her enticing speech she caused

him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life” (see also Proverbs 9:1-18).

Ruin and regret will come as the result of sexual relations with an “immoral woman.” Wisdom declared:

Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one; ¹⁰Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner; ¹¹And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, ¹²And say: “How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! ¹³I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! ¹⁴I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation.” (Proverbs 5:9-14)

This suffering involves three aspects. First, suffering would be physical due to “your honor” and “your years” being given over to others. The term “honor [vigor, NASB]” with its parallelism here refers to the “most useful and valuable years of life” (Smith, 502). The guilt of sin (cf. Psalm 32:1-4) and/or possibility of disease resulting in “your flesh and your body” being “consumed” would be a disastrous consequence. Second, suffering would be material. “Your wealth” and the fruits of “your labors” ending up with “aliens [strangers, ESV]” and going to “the house of a foreigner [stranger, KJV]” can refer to “hush money,” or even blackmail, to keep the relationship secret and/or to child support for children conceived from such immoral relationships. Third, suffering would be psychological. When the ruin is realized, the young man will remember the instruction he received but rejected. This would compare with the rich man, who could remember some things in life where he (and his family) had opportunity to do better, but it was now too late. The “should have ... would have ... could have” reflections surely added to his torment (Luke 16:23-31).

Find Satisfaction in God-Approved Marriage

Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? ¹⁷Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. ¹⁸Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. ¹⁹As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. (Proverbs 5:15-19)

Sexual satisfaction must be found at home, with “the wife of your youth” (Proverbs 5:17). This term is also found in Isaiah 54:6 and Malachi 2:14-15. It refers to a man’s first love, the one to whom he promised faithfulness and support under God’s covenant (Verhoef, 274). The images of a “cistern ... well ... fountain” refer to a God-approved wife because she, like water in an agriculturally dependent society, satisfies need and desire (cf. Song of Solomon 4:15). Young men and women will find the greatest happiness only in the spouse God approves! The “fountain” being “blessed” (Proverbs 5:18) indicates that “sexual delight is God-given” (cf. Genesis 2:18-25) (Ross, 930). “Enraptured [ravished, KJV; exhilarated, NASB; intoxicated, ESV]” is from a word that means intoxicated or reeling. The whole of Proverbs 5:19 reveals “both the tender affection and the exuberant pleasure of love. She is a loving doe, and he will be drunken with satisfaction in the pleasure she gives” (Garrett, 94)!

Conclusion

The wise man concluded this section with a rhetorical question, “For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?” (Proverbs 5:20). Since God has provided for sexual satisfaction in the Scriptural marriage relationship, there is no reason, other than foolishness, to pursue the deceptively destructive delights of an immoral woman! God, who created us, knows what is best for us (Proverbs 5:21). Wisdom teaches that “a healthy sexual relationship is the God-appointed way of avoiding illicit sexual entanglements” (Smith, 505). Children (and grandchildren) need to be taught the proper sexual relationship, verbally and by example. Obviously, certain aspects of a marital relationship are private. However, children must know that mom and dad are “always be enraptured with [one another’s] love!”

Works Cited Garrett, Duane A. *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. The New American Commentary. Vol. 14. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1993. / Ross, Allen P. “Proverbs.” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Vol. 5. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991. / Smith, James E. *The Wisdom Literature and Psalms*. Old Testament Survey Series. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996. / Verhoef, Pieter A. *The Books of Haggai and Malachi*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987.

PRAYER LIST

Current: Fran Gabaldon will be having surgery in upcoming weeks. Stacey Wilson still needs prayer for his heart damage. Bill Long is in LRH
Continual: Debbie Bush (struggles); Bill & Carlene Long (health & strength); Ron Ford (health); Annett Phillip (health); Janie Wise (health); Margaret Coone (health); Melissa Craft (health); Kathy Nester (health); Jim Turner (health)

Shut-ins: Carol Eason, Kenny & Reba French, Barbara Jones, Charles Paulin, Helen Perrin, bettye bolding, Sharon Roy

Also continue to pray for those on the extended family and friends list!

Extended family and Friends List is Emailed Weekly.

Ingrid Stewart, Stacey Wilson and Annett Phillip responded to the invitation last Sunday. They each requested prayer for needs they have in their life, both spiritual and physical. Please continue to pray for them.

863.632.9752 griffinroad.churchofchrist.info/

Griffin Rd Church of Christ | Annual Lectureship

The Biblical Value of a Woman.

The Biblical Value of a Daughter
 9:10 AM - 9:50 AM
 Kevin Patterson
 Sebring, FL

The Biblical Value of a Wife
 9:55 AM - 10:35 AM
 Jacques Phanor
 Turks and Caicos Island

The Biblical Value of a Sister
 10:50 AM - 11:30 AM
 Ben Radford
 Poinciano, FL

The Biblical Value of a Mother
 11:35 AM - 12:20 AM
 Rick Kenyan
 Lakeland, FL

APRIL 27, 2024
9:00 AM-12:30 PM
 Lunch provided at 12:30pm
 2401 FINGER LANE BARTOW, FL 33830
 If you have any questions please call
 Bro. Federick Hicher at 863-712-0909

GOSPEL MEETING:
 APRIL 21-24
 EAGLE LAKE CHURCH OF
 CHRIST
JIMMY CLARK - SPEAKER
 THEME: STRENGTHENING
 THE INNER MAN

Thank you so much!

I want to thank my church family for the cards, calls and especially the prayers.

Love, Patti Van Allen

SAVE THE DATE: VBS here at S. Florida Ave.
 Saturday June 8, 2024

BE REAL (Matthew 23:28)

Weeki Wachee Youth Retreat

Ages 13-18 May 3rd - 5th

\$50 register by April 17 to receive a shirt

Hosted by Orange St. church of Christ



IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WILL BE GRADUATING THIS YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WITH THEIR INFORMATION SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN THE BULLETIN WITH THE OTHER 2024 GRADUATES! WE WILL BE CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES ON SUNDAY APRIL 28TH FOLLOWING THE EVENING SERVICE.

Scheduled to Serve in April	
Designated Elder	David Anderson
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	
Announcements	Stacey Paulin
Song Leader / Prayer	Matt Wilcutt
Devotional / Invitation	Terrance Dindy
Closing Prayer	Cam' Ron
Sunday, April 21, 2024	
10:30 am Sermon	Kurtis Leaks
"The Great Commandment"	
6:00 pm Sermon	Josh Potvin
"Why The Church Should Talk About The Church"	
Those to Serve 10:30 am	
Greeters	Brian and Jagie
Song/Pray before class	Kyle Bingle
Announcements (both)	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader (both)	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Josh Potvin
Lord's Table (both)	George Davis
Closing Prayer	Jeff Bingle
Open/Close Building	Brian Kenyon
Attendance Cards	Sawyer
Sound Booth (both)	Jason Hendrix
Those to Serve 6:00 pm	
Greeters	Rogers
Announcements	Tyler Anderson
Song Leader	Andre Medley
Prayer / Bible reading	Steve Tydings
Closing Prayer	Phil Fife
Wednesday, April 24, 2024	
Announcements	Rick Kenyon
Song Leader / Prayer	Landon Willcutt
Devotional / Invitation	Jeff Stewart
Closing Prayer	Matt Willcutt
How We Are Giving	
March 31	\$9,625.00
April 7	\$9,648.00
April 14	\$7,708.75
Contribution Average	\$7,253.67
Weekly Budget	\$7,410.00

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please notify Stacey or the office. Even if you arrange your replacement, please notify Stacey or the office. Thanks!

DON'T MISS THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

"Don't miss the forest for the trees" is an old expression that basically means that one focuses on a very small portion of a situation and doesn't appreciate the bigger situation that it is a part of. From the very beginning, man has done this very thing. Adam and Eve were given the whole garden to enjoy, yet Satan tempted them to focus on one tree that they were commanded to avoid and Satan won (Genesis 3). So often we see this happen in the church as well, but it's sad when it's about the Lord's work and it involves Christians. We may focus on one mistake the preacher made in his lesson pronouncing a word and we miss the whole point of the lesson. We may criticize a song leader because he is off key, and miss the whole message of the song and forget how much courage it may have taken him to get up there in front of the congregation to lead (and do we have that courage)? How about when it comes to elders and deacons, we are quick to criticize their decisions and forget all the great things they are doing day in and day out in service to the Lord? How about the bulletin or slide show, it's easy to catch that one little mistake and miss the whole point of the article or announcement. The sound booth guys get lots of groans, but it sure is awesome when the technology is working correctly isn't it? I could go on but I think we all have been there and done that. Let's all try to start now to look for the good and praise it. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (1 Thes. 5:11).

"Perhaps you will forget tomorrow the kind words you say today, but the recipient may cherish them over a lifetime" _Dale Carnegie



Please Join Us for a Wedding Shower

honoring Elizabeth Pate & Joseph Faulk

SUNDAY MAY 5TH immediately following morning worship services

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH & STAY TO CELEBRATE THE HAPPY COUPLE!

PLEASE SEE RENE OR DOTTIE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MONEY TREE

The Ladies Of Eagle Lake Church Of Christ Invite You To Our 2024 Ladies Day With Sister Pamela Clark "Living In The World, But Not Like The World" Romans 12: 1-2



Saturday April 20th, 2024; 8:30 Till 11:30 a.m. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED Please R.S.V.P. By: March 30th, 2024 Gail Jackson: 903-243-1445 Lorraine Hubbard: 863-514-3379 We Look Forward To Seeing You There!!!

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

For sermons and podcasts, find us here.



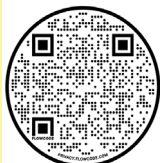
South Florida Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

1807 South Florida Avenue Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."

Proverbs 19:21



If you prefer to receive the bulletin via email, contact us.