

APPS SERIES BY DAVID H. MCKINLEY

Safe Sex

READ Proverbs 5.

As you read these words, you will find relevant, frank and vivid warnings *with instruction* concerning the care and condition of human sexuality. My goal is not to sensationalize or to shock—you get plenty of that “on the street.” Instead, I want to be honest and straight-forward.

In a world where words like *sanctity* and *honor* are completely disassociated with sex; and only crass gestures, nasty innuendos and shameless displays remain, we have an “App” for wisdom in this important arena of life.

From the beginning, God created the world and distinguished humanity into two great categories. “...male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27 ESV). The creative purpose was intentional, functional and relational.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wanted to be sure his son understood the beauty and blessing of the act of marriage and to be aware of the severe consequences and injuries that are inevitable and unavoidable for those who ignore God’s intended purpose and plan.

It doesn’t matter who you are, what age you are, what you know or what you have. You can be a political figure, sports icon, musician, teacher, pastor, actor, CEO, mechanic, technician, doctor, nurse, philanthropist, inventor, scientist, web designer, graphic artist, landscaper, builder, painter... you get the idea. The bottom line is this: No one escapes the negative and damaging consequences relative to casual sex or “hooking up” as it is often spoken of today. Secrets are revealed, diseases spread, pregnancy occurs, often followed by abortion; guilt binds you, relationships are shattered, families are dishonored, and so much more!

This is why the Scripture passage today comes with directions for “prescribed use” as well as a “warning label”.

There’s no such thing as safe sex outside of the covenant relationship of marriage.

Human sexuality—although designed by God Himself and provided for procreation, communication, recreation and satisfaction—is unsafe and destruc-

tive apart from the sanctity and security of the marriage relationship. Why? Because God said so! This is not my opinion, the church’s position or anything less than fact. The Creator God who developed and distinguished all of humanity in a physical, sexual category tells us what is right and what is wrong!

Yet, we live in a society that perpetuates the idea that there is safe sex apart from marriage. It has to do with contraception and practice, not moral boundaries and marriage relationship. But God is clear and His word is true from generation to generation. What God prohibits by command, He protects by design.

C.S. Lewis: “The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the physical) from all other kinds of union which were intended to go along with it and make up the total union. The Christian attitude does not mean there is anything wrong with sexual pleasure, any more than about the pleasure of eating. It means that you must not isolate the pleasure and try to get it by itself, any more than you ought to get the pleasures of taste without swallowing and digesting, by chewing things and spitting them out again.”

All of God’s plans and commands are intended for our protection and maximum fulfillment. God can be trusted in this matter. Do you believe it?

In this message, I want to establish a biblical basis for safe sex with a list of safeguards God has provided for you through His Word.

Be Attentive. If God has a standard—and He does!—and you believe it is His standard—and it is!—then make up your mind to heed God’s standard in your life. Be attentive!

READ Proverbs 5:1-2. You have to guard the moral standards of your life.

Three Statements to Remember

1. Every believer is a target for moral destruction. Jesus had much to say about moral purity and marital fidelity. He spoke about fornication, lust, immorality, and adultery. Behind each statement, there is a greater reality. READ John 10:10.



Safe Sex

Proverbs 5:15-18

Safe Sex

Apps Series, Part Six

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Scripture: Proverbs 5



Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.



Keep your way far from her [a forbidden woman], and do not go near the door of her house.



WARREN
a way of life!

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Safe Sex >>> CONTINUED

2. Every believer is susceptible to moral destruction. READ 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.

3. Every believer is personally responsible for making right moral choices. READ 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7; and Hebrews 13:4.

The Bible is clear. This is a “high voltage” issue and God says, “Read my lips. No sex outside of marriage.”

Be Aware. READ Proverbs 5:3-6, 8-12. No one escapes the negative and injurious consequences of immorality. The problem is that most people, through the subtle drift of temptation, minimizes the magnitude of consequences. Wisdom does the opposite. What you indulge in a moment *can* and *will* destroy what you have become throughout a lifetime.

All temptation follows the same pattern and every good salesman knows it: AAA.

Attention. Get someone to pause and consider (Mind)

Attraction. Give reason to increase desire (Emotion)

Action. Don't miss this opportunity (Will)

You wouldn't think of getting in a car, driving to the interstate, and accelerating on a ramp clearly marked, *Wrong Way* or *Do not Enter*. Why? Because it is foolish and invites a dangerous outcome! However, many people do this with their mates, families and bodies. Do you throw aside the restraint of God's Word, minimize the consequence of action and try to hide deceitful and destructive behavior?

You can't minimize the consequences. You must recognize the impact of bad choices and private indulgences in your life.

Some people believe they will “get by,” but no one ever does. And if they seem to escape consequences, they have dissected their own soul!

Never minimize in life what God has maximized in His Word.

“Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned (Proverbs 6:27 ESV)?

The message to our students and single adults is not *safe sex*, but *saved sex* for marriage. Why? The alternative consequences are too great!

Be Aggressive. READ Proverbs 5:12. Even though this verse is written in the negative, you can apply some positive steps to strengthen your resolve and commitment to God. Develop a plan for offensive action: order your eyes, manage your thoughts and watch your steps.

For Men—Eye Gate. Visual... what men see and ponder.

Jesus was so clear and confrontational about this point. READ Matthew 5:27-30. Sight feeds thought.

Martin Luther: “You can't always avoid the birds flying overhead, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.”

For Women—Ear Gate. Verbal... what women hear and feel. When women encounter heightened awareness and sensitivity, watch out!

I'm not implying women don't have good eyes and men don't have... well we all know men don't listen!

Be Absorbed. READ Proverbs 5:15-19. Scattered and dissipated people equal distracted people. Today, there is a need for attentiveness to marriage, absorption in the home and affection.

Do you know the leading cause of automotive accidents in America? Distraction. There is a failure to focus or be absorbed while driving because people are distracted by what is less than important.

Marriage is quickly and often undermined not by problems, but by distractions. Invest in your marriage. Someone once said, “Grass is not greener on the other side of the fence; it is greener where you water it!” Don't be deceived. Is your marriage parched and in need of water?

¹⁵⁻¹⁶Do you know the saying, “Drink from your own rain barrel, draw water from your own spring-fed well”? It's true. Otherwise, you may one day come home and find your barrel empty and your well polluted. ¹⁷⁻²⁰Your spring water is for you and you only, not to be passed around among strangers. Bless your fresh-flowing fountain! Enjoy the wife you married as a young man! Lovely as an angel, beautiful as a rose—don't ever quit taking delight in her body.

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Safe Sex >>> CONTINUED

Never take her love for granted! Why would you trade enduring intimacies for cheap thrills with a whore? for dalliance with a promiscuous stranger (Proverbs 5:15-20 MSG)?

More courting in marriage equals less marriages in court!

Most affairs occur because people believe they can receive from another person what they are not receiving from their mate.

Adultery = misplaced attention and affection rightfully due to your mate.

The idea here is one of indulgence with each other.

Be Absolute. READ Proverbs 5:21-23. Don't underestimate how serious God is in this matter. In a world of absolute uncertainty, be absolute in your confidence that God cares about this subject. Yes, God is interested in sex.

READ Proverbs 5:21-23.

"Worldliness is what any particular culture does to make sin look normal and righteousness look strange."

While enticing, sexual sin is ultimately disappointing. While alluring, sexual sin is often enslaving. While exciting, sexual sin is unfulfilling and brings regret.

God's reason for all of this is not to create a frustrating restraint, but maximum blessing. God is glorified in glorious sex. God is glorified in positive purity. God is glorified in human complicity with His creative plan.

Satan wants to take God's promise of blessing in marriage and weave into it a web of entanglement.

The only thing in life that is truly safe is what is in God's hands. The only safe life is the life given to God. The opposite of being *led astray* is being *held close*.

Jesus Christ is God's Son, our Savior. Jesus came to draw us close to God and to deliver us from sin, self and slavery.

Jesus provides:

Forgiveness. READ John 8:3-11.

Freedom. READ John 8:36.

Future. READ John 10:28-29.

Credit must be given and noted in the following way when excerpts are printed or used: David H. McKinley, Pastor; Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, GA.

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