



HEBRON

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Dr. Landon Dowden

FIGHTING FOR FIDELITY
Proverbs 5-7; Matthew 5:27-30

Ortlund: What does God have for those of us who have squandered His grace in the past? More grace.

Text in 2 sentences:

- We must fight for fidelity to God (and to our spouses if we are married) and the battleground is our heart.
- In the power of Christ, walk wisely by doing whatever it takes not to covet someone sexually who is not your spouse.

I. ALL SIN IS FOOLISH (Proverbs 5-7)

- a. A helpful outline from Wiersbe:
 - i. Sin is disappointing. (Proverbs 5)
 - ii. Sin is destructive. (Proverbs 6)
 - iii. Sin is deadly. (Proverbs 7)

II. MOVING BEYOND THE LETTER OF THE LAW TO THE SPIRIT OF IT ALWAYS REVEALS OUR SPIRITUAL POVERTY (Matthew 5:27-28)

- a. We are often tempted to boast in our keeping of the letter of the law while all the while breaking the spirit of it.
- b. God cares about our attitudes and our actions.

III. THE FOOLISHNESS OF SEXUAL SIN

- a. Stott: The teaching of Jesus here refers to unlawful sex outside of marriage, whether practiced by married or unmarried people.
- b. Adultery occurs in the heart long before it occurs in the bedroom.
- c. Lust is not finding someone attractive, it's what you do, whether physically or mentally, after you find them attractive.
- d. Lust is fueled by looking.
 - i. Stott: Deeds of shame are preceded by fantasies of shame, and the inflaming of the imagination by the indiscipline of the eyes.
- e. Just like anger, lust is a choice.
 - i. Wilson: Lust is never accidental. It's always intentional.
 - ii. The one who is lusting is the responsible party.
- f. Lust is not irresistible.
- g. Lust is eternally dangerous.



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- i. Left unaddressed, sin always leads to hell.
- ii. We are called in the Spirit's power to live a life of holy violence against sin.
- h. Why does faithfulness matter? Jesus has always been a faithful groom to the church.

IV. WHAT RESOURCES HAS THE LORD PROVIDED TO HELP US FIGHT WISELY FOR FIDELITY?

- a. Wisdom from His Word (Proverbs 5:1-3; 5:7; 6:20-24; 7:1-5; 7:24-27)
- b. Intimacy within the God-glorifying realm of marriage (Proverbs 5:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5)
- c. His help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16) – He provides mercy and grace for:
 - i. Mortification not mutilation. As Owen says, be killing sin or it will be killing you.
 - ii. Running to Christ then running from temptation.
 - iii. Wilson: There's nothing legalistic about arranging your life in such a way to avoid temptations.
 - iv. Piper: Don't ask, What's wrong with it? Ask: Does it maximize my experience of the power of Christ, my enjoyment of His fellowship, my perception of His beauty, my reflection of His glory? (Philippians 3:12)
- d. For those who repent, God offers restoration not condemnation. He has pursued atonement and not abandonment.

V. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- a. Books
 - i. *Restoring Your Broken Marriage: Healing After Adultery* – by Robert D. Jones
 - ii. *Help! My Spouse Committed Adultery: First Steps for Dealing with Betrayal* – by Winston T. Smith
 - iii. *Making All Things New: Restoring Pure Joy to the Sexually Broken* – by David Powlison
 - iv. *More Than a Battle: How to Experience Victory, Freedom, and Healing from Lust* – by Joe Rigney
 - v. *Pure in Heart: Sexual Sin and the Promises of God* – J. Garrett Kell
 - vi. *The Death of Porn: Men of Integrity Building a World of Nobility* - by Ray Ortlund
- b. Article
 - i. "Adultery and Reconciliation: 10 Years Later" – by Ed Welch