

INFIDELITY: THE MYTH OF GREENER GRASS

Proverbs 5:1-23

INTRODUCTION:

In Willard Harley's book *His Needs Her Needs: Building an Affair-proof Marriage*, he lists the five greatest needs of both men and women. When these needs go unmet by a spouse, it creates a potential for someone else to step in and meet them, thus leading to an affair. Notice that the needs of women and men are different.

The Man's most basic needs in marriage tend to be:

1. Sexual fulfillment.
2. Recreational companionship.
3. An attractive spouse.
4. Domestic support.
5. Admiration.

The Woman's five most basic needs in marriage tend to be:

1. Affection.
2. Conversation.
3. Honesty and openness.
4. Financial support.
5. Family commitment.

Prevention works better than damage control. Let's look at six ways to prevent an affair and the sin of adultery.

1. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GOD'S STANDARD, VS. 3-8.

"For the lips of an adulteress drip honey And smoother than oil is her speech; But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, Her steps take hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, she does not know it. Now then, my sons, listen to me And do not



depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her And do not go near the door of her house,” (Proverbs 5:3–8)

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3–6)

2. **MINIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES, VS. 8.**

“Keep your way far from her And do not go near the door of her house,” (Proverbs 5:8)

“A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, The naive proceed and pay the penalty.” (Proverbs 27:12)

“abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Hedge in Your Marriage

From *A Celebration of Sex* by Douglas Rosenau

1. Decide and commit to the fact that you will never have an affair.
2. Do not keep secrets or allow sexual feelings and fantasies to go unaddressed.
3. Set limits. Don't share intimate details of your marriage with the opposite sex.
4. Don't permit an intimate friendship with an opposite sex person to grow without tight boundaries.
5. Don't spend unaccounted time together with opposite sex colleagues, committee members, schoolmates or exercise partners.
6. Be explicit with your mate about what is and is not appropriate behavior.



7. Pay attention to guilty feelings.
8. Build an accountability network.
9. Never think that you are invulnerable.

3. MAGNIFY THE CONSEQUENCES, VS. 9-14.

“Or you will give your vigor to others And your years to the cruel one; And strangers will be filled with your strength And your hard-earned goods will go to the house of an alien; And you groan at your final end, When your flesh and your body are consumed; And you say, “How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof! “I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to my instructors! “I was almost in utter ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”” (Proverbs 5:9–14)

“A man can hire a prostitute for the price of a loaf of bread, but adultery will cost him all he has.” (Proverbs 6:26, GNB)

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4)

4. MAXIMIZE YOUR MARRIAGE, VS. 15-20.

“Drink water from your own cistern And fresh water from your own well. Should your springs be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be yours alone And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; Be exhilarated always with her love. For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress And embrace the bosom of a foreigner?” (Proverbs 5:15–20)

“But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband



does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” (1 Corinthians 7:2–5)

5. MULTIPLY YOUR FEAR OF GOD, VS. 21-23.

“For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths. His own iniquities will capture the wicked, And he will be held with the cords of his sin. He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.” (Proverbs 5:21–23)

“By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.” (Proverbs 16:6)

6) MANAGE YOUR MIND, VS. 23.

“He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.” (Proverbs 5:23)

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

“For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you.” (Proverbs 23:7)

