

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. The text 'PROVERBS' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image. Below it, a thin white horizontal line separates the word 'PROVERBS' from the phrase 'LIVING WISDOM', which is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters.

PROVERBS

LIVING WISDOM

Proverbs 5 (excerpts)

- ³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
⁴ but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
⁶ she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

LIVING WISDOM

⁸ Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house,
⁹ lest you give your honor to others
and your years to the merciless,
¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of your strength,
and your labors go to the house of a foreigner,
¹¹ and at the end of your life you groan,
when your flesh and body are consumed,
¹² and you say, "How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!"

LIVING WISDOM

15 Drink water from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.

16 Should your springs be scattered abroad,
streams of water in the streets?

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

19 a lovely deer, a graceful doe.

21 For a man's ways are before the eyes of the LORD,
and he ponders all his paths.

Designed In and For Intimacy

Genesis 2:24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

1) Made BY Intimacy

2) Made FOR intimacy:
to KNOW and BE KNOWN.

BUT...intimacy is NOT SAFE!

It causes the Rise and Fall of Kingdoms

Life-Taking Intimacy

³ For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil,
⁴ but in the end she is bitter as wormwood,
sharp as a two-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death;
her steps follow the path to Sheol;
⁶ she does not ponder the path of life;
her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Contrasts

Honey to Bitter
Life to Death

Deceptive

“does not ponder”
“Seems” like a good idea.

Consequences

“in the end”

⁸ Keep your way far from her,
and do not go near the door of her house,
⁹ lest you give **your honor** to others
and **your years** to the merciless,
¹⁰ lest strangers take their fill of **your strength**,
and **your labors** go to the house of a foreigner,
¹¹ and at the end of your life **you groan**,
when your flesh and body are consumed,
¹² and you say, “How I hated discipline,
and my heart despised reproof!

You think you are just
“getting”, but the cost is
actually enormous
because you are giving...

***Your
Honor,
Years,
Strength
and Labor***

Leonardo da Vinci:

“The siren sings so sweetly that she lulls the mariners to sleep; then she climbs upon the ships and kills the sleeping mariners.”

Lord Byron, legendary poet and philanderer (he wrote “Don Juan”). In 1824, the year he died, he wrote:

*“My days are in the yellow leaf,
The flowers and fruits of love are all gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone.”*

PROVERBS
LIVING WISDOM

Matthew 5:27

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

We are all guilty of using others to satisfy ourselves as we believe (like in the Garden) that our plan will satisfy more than God’s

Life-Giving Intimacy

¹⁵ **Drink water** from your own cistern,
flowing water from your own well.

¹⁸ Let your **fountain be blessed**,
and **rejoice** in the wife of your youth,
¹⁹ a lovely deer, a graceful doe.

God doesn't want less for us,
he wants **MORE**.

Fully Enjoy the "Fire"
...often.

From Jason and the Argonauts (third century BC): When Orpheus heard the voice of the sirens, he drew out his lyre and played his music **more beautifully** than they, drowning out their voices.

It's a tiny preview of True Intimacy.

Gospel Intimacy

Hosea 2

- ¹ “Therefore, behold, I will **allure** her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.”
- ¹⁹ And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in **steadfast love** and in **mercy** (*vs. to the “merciless” in v.9*). ²⁰ I will **betroth** you to me in **faithfulness**. And you shall **know** the LORD.

Revelation 21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels...“Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”...¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Rev 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Martin Luther:
“Christ, the rich, noble and holy bridegroom, takes in marriage this poor, contemptible and sinful little prostitute, takes away all her evil and bestows all His goodness upon her! It is no longer possible for sin to overwhelm her, for she is now found in Christ.”

Moving Forward

What if God knows more about our sexuality than we do?

What if I could trust his wisdom more than my feelings?

What if God actually wants the best for me?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

PROVING
LIVING WISDOM

Moving Forward

- 1) Believe you are a man or woman of dignity and value
(and so is everybody else).***
- 2) Believe that God has the best plan for satisfaction.***
- 3) Honor yourself and Him with your whole self.***
- 4) “Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever”***

***PROVERBS
LIVING WISDOM***

Luke 22

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.

¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."