

Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2 Passage: Proverbs 23:26-28

Big Thought:

Man often likes to think of himself as the hunter. When it comes to lust, the wise writer of Proverbs reminds that we are the hunted. We are prey being pursued by a predator. One problem is we may not see the danger until it is too late. Or we see it and rush headlong into it expecting to be the exception.

God's good gifts can always be distorted and used in ways He forbids. God warns about sexual sin and lust because enjoying sexual pleasure in the wrong context is lethal. Lust is ruinous:

- “My son, give me your heart” (v.26). The writer knows, like Jesus, that lust starts in the heart. The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart (Proverbs 4:23). The battle against lust must be waged in the mind and heart.
- The sage takes us next to the eyes. A lustful heart will drive your eyes.
- Then the sage invites the son, “observe my ways.” Can you, as a dad and man, ask others to think and act like you? Solomon warns his son because this was an area of failure for Solomon (1 Kings 11). The “prostitute” (v.27) is a metaphor for sexual sin and lust and likens it to a deep pit that hunters would often use to capture their prey. The pit is also a metaphor for physical and spiritual death (Proverbs 5:7,9; Proverbs 7 & 9). Sexual lust and sin are enemies that are intent on your downfall. It's a trap you don't realize you're caught in until it's too late.
- It may not be just a future judgment, but a sign of God's condemnation right now (22:14). That when God hands one over to fleshly desires, He removes His restraining hand. Lack of control leads to shame, which leads to self-loathing, which leads to condemnation.
- The path of safety is to walk in wisdom—following Jesus. Fleeing from lust and be so afraid of its' danger that you don't get close to it.

Four Questions:

1. Why is lust such a struggle for people? What are some seemingly innocent ways that people fall into lust?

2. Why is God's design for sex the best for us?
3. What are tools/resources/ways you have used against the enemy of lust?
4. What accountabilities do you have in place to aide you in this battle?