



Sermon: February 25, 2018

Verses Covered

Proverbs 2:16 – 19

Proverbs 5:18 – 19

1 Peter 3:7

Colossians 3:19

2 Samuel 1:25 - 26

So slide over to Proverbs, chapter 2. We looked last time we were together as we're walking through Proverbs, what the book of Proverbs said to us as parents. It said two things, right. That as a parent, I'm to spend my life walking and facing Jesus. And that as I walk and face Jesus, I won't do that perfectly. Solomon's mother is the greatest moral failure in David's life. So I won't do it perfectly. I'm going to keep facing toward Jesus. As I rear my children, I bring discipline into their lives so that they know the edges of the road that we're walking on as we face Jesus. I talked about the fact that discipline should be an event. So one of the mother's texted me after the sermon the next day. She said, "I want you to know my son's prayer last night when he went to bed. He said his prayers and the last thing he said in the prayer was, 'And God please don't let my parents have heard anything Brother Chris said this morning.'" So we have one kid that did listen and it created terror in his heart.

We're going to look today at what Proverbs says to the husband. Then next Sunday morning we're going to look at what the Proverbs says to the woman. And then, thank God, I'm leaving town right after that and will not be here for 7 or 8 days. I'm going to train pastors in Uganda for a few days this Spring. I've got to teach at Seminary and then I'm going to Uganda. As a matter of fact, I went down, you have to get all these shots, right. So I go down to Houston yesterday and got this yellow fever shot. After which he says, "Oh and by the way, the firm that makes the yellow fever vaccine is out of business. We got this from France and it's not FDA approved." I said, "Well praise God isn't that wonderful." So but there's your government at work.

Now Proverbs chapter 2. Now ladies, gentlemen, we're going to walk through some difficult things and ladies you're not going to like part of this today because you're just not going to buy into this, but I want you to trust me because it's correct. Listen. Proverbs 2:16. He's going to say two things to the men in Proverbs which are simple inside a marriage. Here they are.

¹⁶So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words; ¹⁷who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; ¹⁸for her house sinks down to death and her path to the departed; ¹⁹None who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

So the first thing he says to men; if you're a husband, first thing he says: you need to make sure that you are not enticed by, he says, the forbidden woman. What that means is any woman other than your wife. You now are a one-eye man. You are only looking at your wife. You've enacted a covenant and you are caught up in that covenant and so you don't allow anything to entice you. We're not going to read all the other passages. Some of them are even difficult; we couldn't read in here because of the graphic aspect of his language. But I want you to understand that what the Bible is clearly, categorically stating, gentlemen, is that when we get into a marriage, the first role of the enemy is to entice us away from our wife. Now he's going to do that in one of two ways. He's going to do that physically. He's going to do that emotionally. He's going to have some lady that you look at and you think, "Man she is way better looking than my wife." He's going to entice you physically. He will entice you emotionally. You go home, wife tells you you didn't take the trash out, you didn't pay this bill, you didn't do this. You go to work, lady at work tells you how great you are because why? She doesn't live with you. And pretty soon, your emotions begin to shift because you get this here and you get this here. And the enemy, gentlemen, is going to do that. That's why we have the same divorce rate as people that don't know Jesus. The divorce rate in the church is identical because we're facing the same temptations they are. So gentlemen that's the first thing you have to understand.

Now he tells you what you do. Look in chapter 5, verse 18. Actually let's look at, yeah, verse 18. We're going to start there. Listen to what he says:

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

Now ladies, I know that doesn't do it for you. OK. But it did it for them in this day. It's a great comparison in that day. We'll just move on. Hey, I don't explain everything in the Bible, OK. Alright.

Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.

So, gentlemen, it tells us two things. It's interesting how the Bible works. Remember he says, "Face Jesus." Doesn't tell us how. He says, "Discipline your children." Doesn't tell us how because everybody's different. All relationships are different. So he says, "You make sure you're not enticed away from this lady and the way you do it is you are intoxicated by her love." Her love intoxicates you. It is in control of your emotions. If you're intoxicated, the liquor is in control of you. And so her love should intoxicate you where her love for you prevents you from stepping out on the marriage. Now there's the difficulty though. The essence of a marriage is connection. That you have two people coming together and they're going to connect. That's what you're going to do. And the day you step out of the reception until the day you die, you're processing connection. And that is difficult because, now ladies bear with me all the way through here. It is difficult because what, I'm trying to find the right words here. What enriches

a woman's connection to her husband is an irritant to the husband. That's what you find in the New Testament. Turn with me to 1 Peter chapter 3, verse 7. Hang over to 1 Peter chapter 3, verse 7. Hebrews, James, 1 Peter. Now listen to this.

⁷Likewise husbands, you live with your wives in an understanding way,

What does that statement obviously imply? It's immediately implying that there is a difference between how a woman lives with a man and how a man lives with a woman. Now look at what he says:

showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are

and here's the key point that will come at the end of the message,

since they are heirs with you of the grace of life so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Now here's what he says to us. I've got to live with my wife. I've got to connect with her in a way that is enriching to her, but is irritating to me. I've got to connect with her, understanding the distinction, and it never says this to the wife, gentlemen, but it says it to us. If I don't do that, my relationship with my Lord is damaged because my prayers are hindered. He never says that to the woman of any responsibility she has. But it does to us because we're the head of the home. So he says there's a distinction. I've got to live with it and deal with it.

Now look in Colossians chapter 3. Hang a left. Philippians. Colossians. Chapter 3. Simple little verse, verse 19, that basically states the same thing. 3:19. Listen. He says:

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, do not be harsh with them.

What is it that makes a husband harsh with his wife? That this connecting point that enriches her is difficult for me. It creates in men a harshness, a non-understanding method of living with their wife. Now go to 2 Samuel chapter 1, verse 26. Now this is a difficult passage. David had, in his life, King David, one friend: Saul's son, Jonathan. One friend. That's all he had in his entire life. Everybody else was basically an employee. A worker with him. But he had one friend. Jonathan's friendship was so deep Jonathan gave up the crown to David before he ever died with his dad on Mt. Gilboa. Now listen beginning in verse 25, 2 Samuel 1.

²⁵How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain on your high places. ²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me. Your love to me was extraordinary surpassing the love of women.

It's not homosexual. The reason we know that is because the Bible always shows the difficulties and that never appears in David's life. His failure with Bathsheba does, but never that. So it's not a homosexual statement. But it is a simple statement reflecting Colossians and 1 Peter. And the simplicity of the statement is that it is easier for men to get along with men than to get along with a wife.

Now ladies I know you don't want to hear that, but that is absolutely the case. The difficulty is that what enriches you is difficult for us. Um, and I need to say one thing here. For those of you that are dating, you're not buying any of this sermon because you don't know. Right now you're putting your best foot forward. "I love you baby." "I love you, too." Hold that, OK. For those of you that are living together, this has no bearing on you either. Because the reason you're living together is your assumption is that if this gets bad, I can leave. So it really isn't a big deal. But if you've come together in a ceremony and you exchanged rings as a symbol of a spiritual covenant, I don't care what the city says. If you live inside a spiritual covenant with Jesus Christ and you step out, the rings are a symbol, not of what you signed at City Hall, but what your heart is before Jesus Christ as your both walking the same road and you're facing Him, then you're caught with each other until you die. When that's the case and you can't get out and you're having to address this connection issue that is difficult, you have to address it. You're living together, you can quit. You're dating, you haven't found it. But if you're married, you will address it.

So the difficulty, even if you're both walking toward Jesus, faces toward Jesus, you're walking the same road, bringing discipline to your children, you're doing it right. There are still things that will impact you. Men and women are different. They've actually done studies to show that. Yeah, your tax money paid for studies to prove that men and women are different. I just love our government. So you have different personalities, OK. And generally you marry the opposite of your personality. You generally fall in love with what you don't have. So you've got different personalities, you've got men and women. Men want respect; women want love. You've got that distinction in Ephesians 5. And all of us feel love differently. Some people are loved by affirmation. Some by being served. Some by gifts. Some by quality time. We have all sorts of different ways we feel loved. That guy that wrote that book left out one language; one love language he left out. And that is harassment. Now you have that language if you enjoy being harassed as much as you harass. But when you have that love language and you marry a woman with words of affirmation like I am, it's not good. So you're on this road, you're both walking towards Jesus which means you're stuck with each other. You can't veer off the road far because it's pretty narrow. And then you try to connect. And then you discover the difficulty.

Gentlemen, you're in your truck (because a real Texas man has a truck), you're in your truck, you've got your radio on, your woman, you're driving down the road, what's the question you fear the most coming? What is it? What are you thinking? Because you know when you hear that question, this is not going to end well. First time I heard that, I answered honestly as a man, right. What's my answer gentlemen? Nothing. I'm not thinking anything, baby. Does she believe you, gentlemen? No. Because there is not a moment in the day when she is not thinking about something. I would be dead at the end of a day. Would be exhausted. My daughter came up to me one time after a sermon when I'd talked about this. And she said, "You're not really serious. You really have points in the day where your box is empty?" Because men are like boxes; women are like spaghetti. I said, "Honey, most of my boxes are empty." And the worst thing that happens is when I'm in this empty box and my wife climbs in. "Hi!" "Hi!" Women are like spaghetti. You're connected to everything. We're connected to nothing. We have one thing in each box. And we do have empty boxes. I'm telling you, this is absolutely true, the guy that had the most stress as US President was Abraham Lincoln. Civil War, it was awful, and so he would get into, because of the stress, and this is how men relieve stress, they get into an

empty box, and women relieve stress by talking and chasing the man into the boxes. So he's in his box, Lincoln would get into these really deep boxes. He'd get into sort of catatonic stares and he'd just hunker down. And Mary Todd, who was nuts by the way, Mary Todd had had it one day. She grabbed a log out of the fire and wacked him upside the head; I mean cut him. So it's not good ladies. We'll look at you next week, OK. Don't do that. I know you want to and probably justified, but don't do that. We aren't the same that way.

We are distinct in almost every area. We don't like, one of the first things you learn after you've been married, you don't like the same movies, right. My wife made me, the other night, for the 7,000th time, watch the end, I'll only watch the end, of *Sleepless in Seattle*. That's the dumbest movie I have ever seen. I mean, seriously. You've got a little kid talking to a woman for her dad and nobody knows it. At the end of the movie, he is in New York by himself on the top of, Empire State Building, thank you, all the ladies going, "Empire State Building." Wherever he is, he's in New York on top of that with a backpack. His dad comes in. The end of the movie, this is the end of the movie, like this is completely, they walk off together into the elevator. Look, for all you know, Hanks is a serial killer. It's just the dumbest movie I've ever seen. But my wife likes that movie. And she doesn't like a lot of my movies. As a matter of fact, one of the last times we went with some couples, this is absolutely correct, she looked at me and she said, "OK. We're going with other people tonight. Here are the rules. You may not sigh out loud. You may not make comments out loud. You may not roll your eyes and you may not look at your watch." I said, "Well there's no point in me going is there." I don't like chick flicks unless they're funny. If they're funny, I can endure it. But if they're not funny.... *Steel Magnolias*: I can go sit in a woman's beauty shop for four hours and have the same experience. But women connect with those movies because they're connecting movies: Tom and Meg are going to connect.

So we have differences. We don't do details. OK. See. We don't do details. Women do details. I decided one time I'd had enough and that I would teach my wife and daughter a lesson. My son was dating the woman he was going to marry. So my wife and daughter, of course you know what that is, they're in to that. Poor guy comes into the house, "What'd y'all do tonight? Where'd you go?" All the questions. So I decided I'd teach them a lesson about details in a story; that they're worthless, just get to the point. Because that's what a man needs. So I said, I primed the pump. I said, "I talked to Stephen the other day about Courtney." They're there, man. So I primed the pump, so I started, this is exactly what I did. I said, "You know, Stephen and I were on the 15th hole and we're teeing up. You know it's a Par 5. It's out of bounds on the left, water on the right, two ponds. And you really have to place your drive. You don't, you want to be careful, you've got to place your drive right here because you've got to go back catty-corner. Remember you've got those two big trees and you've got to get past those trees far enough that you have a wedge into the green because you've got that trap right in front of it and it slops up just barely. You've got to take it in high and drop it in. You really can't do that with a five-iron so you really...." And I am going, at this point, I am bored. And so I can't take myself anymore. And so I look up and I promise you, they're like this. And I just went back to my bedroom and wept because I realized they like, I'm telling this story and I am bored. So here's the problem. We don't connect like that. We don't look at you eye-to-eye. Women want eye-to-eye. Men don't do eye-to-eye. We don't. I can tell you when men will talk, you take them to a deer lease, you go out on the hunt, you come back in, you start talking about what you

saw, build a campfire, cook some supper, at some point we all get around the campfire and what do men do on a campfire? They poke it, no reason for that, but we poke it. Sooner or later some guy will say something that actually has some value. And we'll start discussing, but at no point do we do this. "You know, Rick, I really feel what you were saying there." We don't do that. We don't have feelings, OK.

So we don't gaze into each other's eyes, but women want the gaze. So here's the problem. That if you're living together there's no big deal because at some point when it gets hard enough you're going to just pack out. You have the right. You're not married. You didn't enact the covenant. When you're dating you're putting your best foot forward, so you're ignoring a lot of what down the road will become difficult. And so all the methods that a woman uses to connect become irritating to me and thus my reaction becomes harsh and unkind and unloving. Proverbs says I can't look at another woman. I have to be intoxicated by love that irritates me. So how do I do that? That's the problem. Two Greek words in the Bible for love, right: *phileó*, a love that means I feel something. We would use the phrase, "I'm in love." *Agapé* is the word that has nothing to do with feeling. It is the word that says, "I choose to love you because of the value that is in you." *Agapé* is always the word used, Ephesians 5, husbands, *agapé* your wives. Now how do I choose to love her in a way that I am intoxicated by that love so there is no other woman that can turn my head or turn my heart? How do I do that? Gentlemen I want you to listen to me carefully here, OK, because it's the only solution. Remember what he said, 1 Peter, remembering your wife is an heir, a fellow heir, of the grace of life. We're both walking toward Him. We start out here, but over time, in a committed marriage, we struggle. And pretty soon I'm on this side of the road; she's on this side of the road. What do we do? I have to love her in a way that I'm intoxicated by that where no other woman could possibly turn my eye or my heart. Here's how I do it. I look at Jesus, that I'm walking toward, now gentlemen, it's the only solution, I look at her like He looks at her. She is the apple of His eye. Psalm 139 says, "He thinks about her all day long. More than the grains of sand on the beaches in the world." The hairs on her head are numbered. He sees a sparrow fall. He sees everything that happens to her. His blood redeemed her. He put His Holy Spirit in her. He adores her. If I'm going to walk toward Jesus, and I'm going to adopt His heart for my wife. If I do that, that love will intoxicate me and ladies we'll look at you next Sunday, but when both these things work correctly, we'll come back together and we will work through all the issues. Because it's different for every couple. That's why the Bible doesn't give you all these little neat seven details that you do. It's different for every couple. So we will come back together. I will look at her and say, "If she was the only person in the world, Jesus would have died for her." So I'm going to look at the value she has in Christ and because I love Him and I walk toward Him, I'm going to grab her hand out of that value, I'm going to pull her to me, and we're going to figure out a way to work through and compromise all this stuff. And we're going to deal with it until we die. But the goal isn't, the goal is not that we stay together; the goal is that we walk together towards Him.

So gentlemen I would go home and write down in my life, in my heart, what the Bible says God's view of your wife is. So that it doesn't matter what you feel, it matters what He feels toward her. And then if you add what she is to you to that, you can make the shift. Because if I value her well enough, my feelings for her, that you may have lost at this point, will return if I look at her as God sees her. So this week, I shared Wednesday night, this week I'm reading one morning this article on Jim Bakker who used to be this fraudulent preacher who milked

Christians out of millions of dollars. As a matter of fact, he got put in jail for five years. Had an affair with his secretary, sordid. He's back on TV and now he's hawking apocalypse food and generators. He can't ask you for money, because he's pastoring this church, so what he does is for a \$4,100 donation, he'll send you a fuelless generator so you can be ready when the anti-christ comes and you can handle it. If I'm right, in the scripture, we're not here when the anti-christ comes. As a matter of fact, I'm leaving him my credit card. About the time I finish this long article on this guy, my phone starts blowing up about Billy Graham having died who led me to Christ and how classy he is. There are only two, of all the articles I've read in the last few days, there are only two people that attacked him. One was some girl that writes for Teen Vogue who was vile in her attack of him. She didn't even know who he is. And then George Will, who generally is a conservative columnist for Washington Post, he slammed Billy Graham. Those are the only two. Lying in state in the Rotunda in the Capital because he impacted millions. When he went to heaven, I wonder how many people, right, met him, that his preaching brought to Christ. Valuable, important, but if the Bible's true, he has no ounce of value to the heart of God more than your wife does. So gentlemen, I don't care how hard it is, I don't care how difficult it is to connect. What is an irritant to you is enriching to her. You grab her hand, you value her in Jesus Christ and you walk toward Him until the day He takes one or both of you home.

Let's pray.

Father Your word has amazing, credible, workable insight. And so, Father, I ask you today, for those here that do not know You, today would be a day they find You and put their faith in the blood of Your Son so they can live in the value You have for them. Father for those marriages here where the husbands have not valued their wives well, let them fix that this week. As a matter of fact, let them fix that on the way home. Thank You for an institution that even in difficulty, is the neatest safest place to live. When I go home, I know what I have there. So Father thank You for what You've given us in marriage and in a home and let us do it Your way. In Jesus name I ask that.