



When You Play With Fire...



Intro:

1. Prov. 6:27 - If play with fire you get burned.
 - a. Context deals with immorality.
 - b. General principle is set forth here.
2. Point of proverb:
 - a. Danger.
 - b. Consequences to action.
 - c. Our intent may not be what we do.
 - d. Hurt self & others.
3. Quiet often a person will do something and someone says, "He's playing with fire" - means to flirt with danger
 - a. What do, though it may not be wrong, may carry us closer to the wrong.
 - b. By playing with fire our resistance to temptation and sin is weakened.
4. Let's apply this principle to our relationship (close relationships). Let's look at some ways people play with fire.

I. Who We Associate With As Friends

- A. *Close friends / those we draw closer to...*
 1. Prov. 19:14, 19; Acts 10:24
 2. These will influence you and thus you become like them.
- B. *The warning to watch our associations*
 1. Mixed multitude - (Exo. 12:38; Num. 11:4; 13:3).
 2. Exo. 23:2, 23
 3. Prov. 1:10-19
 4. Prov. 4:14-19
 5. Prov. 12:26
 6. Prov. 22:24-25
 7. Prov. 23:20-21
 8. 1 Cor. 15:33

- C. *Play with fire when those who are close companion (those you “hang with”) do not have the same or similar standards that we ought to have.*
1. Many those who have gone astray will tell you it started with the “wrong crowd”.
 2. Young people do not understand why their parents will not allow / discourage close relationship with the world.

II. Who We Marry

- A. *Who One Marries is serious.*
1. This is the one that you will be the closest to.
 2. This is the one who influences you the most.
 3. This is the one who will have the greatest impact upon your children.
 4. Marriage is permanent (1 Cor. 7:10-13; Matt. 19:4-6).
- B. *Not wrong to marry a non-Christian (1 Cor. 7:12-ff).*
- C. *Yet there is danger and we are playing with fire when do.*
1. Greater chance that your mate will lead you away.
 - a. Statistics - Church in Miami, OK kept records for 20 yrs:
 - (1) Those who married non-Christians:
 - (a) Total: 79
 - (b) Left Lord: 57
 - (c) Faithful: 22
 - (d) Converted mate: 14
 - (e) Divorced: 25
 - (2) Those who married Christians:
 - (a) Total: 64
 - (b) Left Lord: 5
 - (c) Faithful: 59
 - (d) Divorce: 2
 - b. Deut. 7:1-ff
 - c. Samson’s problems came with foreign women (Judges 13-16).
 - d. Neh. 13:26 - Solomon (cf. 1 Kings 11).
 2. Means that you will not share greatest part of your life (“Fear of God”) with the one love the most.
 3. Raising children can be a conflict.

III. Who We Date

- A. *Dating in our society is a prelude to love & marriage.*

1. Dating leads to love and love leads to marriage.
 2. Never will marry one don't date.
 3. Every one date is a possibility for marriage.
- B. *One must be careful about who he/she dates.*
1. One who would not make a good mate
 - a. One who has no initiative.
 - b. One who is lazy.
 - c. One with an attitude that is sour.
 - d. One who doesn't treat you fair & with consideration.

** Not going to get better....!
 2. Non-Christian.
 3. One who is bound (having no right to marry).
 - a. Rom. 7:2-3.
 - b. One who can't scripturally marry has no more right to date than one who is married!
 4. One who does not fear God
 - a. May be baptized & attend worship and yet not fear God.
 - b. A weak Christian can be worse than a non-Christian!

IV. What We Do With The Opposite Sex

- A. *Petting.*
1. Anything short of fornication.
 2. 2 Tim. 2:22 ; Matt. 5:28.
 3. Any passage on fleeing fornication is a passage that forbids petting (1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thess. 4:3).
- B. *How intimate we become.*
1. Gen. 39:11
 2. Conversations where we tell our feeling; discuss our marital problems.
 3. Embrace / touch - (those in vulnerable situation)
 - a. Boss / secretary.
 - b. Preacher / one he counsels.
 4. Possible to leave wrong impression.
 5. Bond (Rom. 7:2-3) obligates us to our mate and restrains us from all others.
 6. Prov. 5:8

Conclusion:

1. When play with fire - don't be surprised if get burned!

2. The danger isn't worth the risk!

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