

Good morning! The actress Mae West once famously said, "I can resist anything--except temptation." We live in an age in which people often do not believe that they have to resist any temptation. They feel that anything they want to do is OK. One of the reasons for this is that our culture has moved away from being biblically-informed. Let's face it; the culture in the United States is no longer one in which people think very much about whether or not God would approve of what they're doing. One of the most common temptations that people face today is the temptation to unfaithfulness in marriage. Does the Bible have anything to say about this? Yes! This morning, let's look together at a passage that directly addresses this issue:

The lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. **Proverbs 5:3-5**

One of the saddest things to me in our culture today is the number of damaged and broken marriages. One reason for that is the glorification of adultery in media. Television, movies, books, and magazines all make adultery seem normal. When it happens to real people in their real lives though, it is devastating. With more women in the workplace, marital unfaithfulness is even more of a temptation today than it was in previous generations---simply because of availability. Sin is a problem because it seems so very attractive. A man may have an argument with his wife and then he goes to work. There is someone there who is dressed attractively and paying attention to him. She seems so different from the woman with whom he has just had a conflict with and seems available. Or a woman goes to her place of business and a man is flirting with her, making her feel more desirable than the man who is spending all of his time on the sofa drinking beer and watching the game. Flirtation seems harmless but lurking beneath the surface is something very deadly. The Bible is a practical book. Knowing how susceptible we are to temptation, it gives us a warning: "Don't be tempted by those words that are as sweet as honey, the speech that is smoother than oil." Why? Because if you follow your temptation to unfaithfulness, the consequence will be death. It will mean the destruction of all the joy and happiness that God intends for you to have in your marriage. I'm talking to someone this morning. If you are contemplating or in the beginning stages of an adulterous relationship this morning, please turn the other way while you still can. Run from it! Remember that unfaithfulness might seem very exciting...but it leads to death!