

— Proverbs 30:18-19 —
Words to Teens 10
Harnessing Romance

Prov. 30:18 "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which I do not understand: 19 The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a maid."

* **With** romance, there are by God's design, powerful, invisible, seemingly magical _____ at work.

* **Yet** Solomon repeatedly warns his son about romance, because the wind that soars the eagle and glides the ship can also _____ them.

* **The** key is to _____ the wind to accomplish the good God intends, not the destruction he warns of. To do this, you should _____ the right person, _____ the right person, and _____ the help God gives you.

* **To be** the right person, you must:

– 1) Understand that every good thing is the _____ of God.

James 1:16 Do not be deceived ... 17 Every good gift ... is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights ...

– 2) Understand that a _____ husband or wife is especially the gift of God.

Prov 19.14 ... a prudent wife is from the LORD.

– 3) Understand that life is to be lived unto _____; everything else flows from that.

Jer 9.23 "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight"

* **To seek** the right person, you must:

– 1) Seek a godly _____ first and foremost. Let God add the _____ if he wants to.

Song 5.16 "This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."

Song 4.9 "You have ravished my heart, my sister, my bride ...

– 2) Do not seek romantic love until the proper _____.

*Song 3.5 "I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, ... do not stir up or awaken my love until it pleases [i.e., "until the appropriate time"]". (*Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

* **A major** temptation is for _____ to be sexually provocative, and for _____ to encourage and reward it.

To women: 1Pet 3.3 "Do not let your adornment be merely outward ...; rather let it be the hidden person of the heart."

To men: Prov 11:22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

Prov 6:25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.

* **To receive** the help God gives you, you must understand that those who are being carried by the _____ are not in the best position to see where it is taking them, and whether it is helpful or not. That is by _____ design. Even in a sinless world, not every godly _____ would be a good match for every godly _____, and they would need the _____ of their parents and others God has placed around them to help guide them. That is doubly true in a _____ world.

Prov 5.1 "My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding"

* **The best** way for young people to understand what "courtship" is really about is to invert it. What is the tale I have seen play out a number of times with elderly, widowed Christians?

* **What was** the moral of the story, according to their children?

* **"Courtship"** is just a word for saying that when it comes to the opposite sex, people ought not to go it _____. It's like flying in the _____; you need people to help guide you who are wise, who love you, and who are not in the _____.