

— Proverbs 30:18-19 —
Words to Teens 4
Romance

Prov 30¹⁸ "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 the romance of a man with a maid – just as with the eagle hanging in the air, the serpent sliding over the rock, and the ship slicing thru the sea – there are by God's design powerful, invisible, seemingly _____ forces at work. The forces of romance are designed by God to bring a man and woman together in marriage, to meld them as _____ for life, and to bring forth from them children unto God — building his Church and his Kingdom until the knowledge of the _____ covers the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Isa 11⁹ For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

► Despite these glorious purposes and design intentions, Solomon persistently warns his teenage son about romance and the opposite sex. Why? Because the wind that soars the eagle and glides the ship can also _____ them. Remember, nothing is evil in itself, for God created all things "very _____" (Gn 1.31). Sin cannot _____ anything new; it can only _____ things created good so they are used for an improper purpose or out of proper proportion. When good things are twisted, they become destructive, they no longer _____, they no longer foster _____. Instead, they harm & bring suffering. Attraction & romance _____ equally wonderful to those under their power, whether they are producing beauty & blessing or mismatch & misery. The key is to _____ the wind, and when it is right, to _____ it so that it produces the good God intends, not the harm He warns against.

► Teens, what do you do so you are living in line with God's design & blessing, and you'll be in position to harness the wind when the time is right? To put it in a nutshell: (1) _____ the right person right now, (2) _____ the right person at the right time, and (3) _____ the help God gives you.

► To be the right person, you must:

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

James 1¹⁶ 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 19¹⁴ a prudent wife is from the LORD.

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

Jer 9. ³ "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

► 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 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 _____ it.
What is the reaction of children who have a parent left alone, and the parent begins seeing a member of the opposite sex?

► When it comes to the opposite sex, _____ is irrelevant.
What matters is Who is in the _____? And Who is not?

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