

Proverbs 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

Analysis

Let sexual intimacy be yours alone, not shared with strangers. The Hebrew 'zur' (stranger/outsider) indicates those outside covenant marriage relationship. This verse answers v.16's rhetorical question: no, don't disperse your fountains; keep them exclusive. Sexual intimacy belongs within marriage exclusively. Sharing what should be private violates intimacy's nature and degrades what should be sacred.

Historical Context

Marriage covenant created exclusive sexual rights - adultery violated not just morality but contractual obligations. The seventh commandment ('Thou shalt not commit adultery') protected marriage's exclusivity. Jesus intensified this, condemning even lustful thoughts as heart-adultery (Matthew 5:27-28). Paul taught that bodies belong to spouses, not to self or others (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding sexual intimacy as exclusive covenant right affect your view of marriage?

2. What 'strangers' (pornography, fantasy, emotional affairs) intrude on marital exclusivity?
3. How can single people honor sexual exclusivity while waiting for marriage?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי	לִבְךָ	לִבְדְּךָ	וְאַיִן	לְזָרִים	אַתָּה:
H1961	H0	H905	H369	H2114	H854
Let them be only thine own and not strangers					

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