

Proverbs 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

Analysis

Give not your honor to others nor your years to the cruel. Sexual immorality surrenders dignity and consumes life. The Hebrew 'hod' (honor/splendor) and 'akzari' (cruel/fierce) describe what's lost and who profits. Adultery degrades the adulterer while enriching exploitative partners. Sin robs us of what's valuable and delivers us to what's destructive. Folly is transaction where we lose everything valuable for nothing of worth.

Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures made sexual purity central to personal and family honor. Adultery brought public shame, destroyed reputation, forfeited inheritance rights. The 'cruel' could be the offended spouse, the seducer, or personified consequences. Proverbs repeatedly warns that sexual sin's costs vastly exceed its pleasures.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What 'honor' might you be surrendering through moral compromise?
2. To whom or what are you giving your best years, and is it worthy of such investment?
3. How can you recover honor lost through past failures?

Interlinear Text

פָּן	תֵּת	לְאַחֵר יָם	הוֹדָךְ	וּ שְׁנֶתֶ יָךְ	לְאַכְזָרִי:
H6435	Lest thou give	unto others	thine honour	and thy years	unto the cruel
	H5414	H312	H1935	H8141	H394

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 13:26 (Parallel theme): Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.