

Proverbs 6:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

Analysis

The adulterer receives wounds and dishonor; his reproach will not be wiped away. The Hebrew 'nega' (wound/plague), 'qalon' (dishonor/disgrace), and 'machah' (wiped away/blotted out) describe permanent scarring. Unlike theft's financial restitution that eventually concludes, adultery's shame persists. Social disgrace, relational wounds, conscience reproach - these endure beyond temporal punishment. Adultery creates permanent damage that forgiveness doesn't fully erase.

Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures made adultery's disgrace especially severe. Scarlet letter in colonial America reflected enduring biblical principle: sexual sin produces lasting shame. While Christ offers complete forgiveness, earthly consequences often persist. David's forgiveness didn't prevent his household's ongoing turmoil (2 Samuel 12:10-14). Grace doesn't guarantee consequence-free living.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you hold together God's complete forgiveness with enduring earthly consequences?
2. What 'wounds and dishonor' from past sin persist despite forgiveness, and how do you process this?
3. How should certainty of lasting consequences affect your resistance to present temptation?

Interlinear Text

גַּעַן וְקַلְלָה וְאַנְחָא וְחַטָּאת לְאָנָה

A wound and dishonour shall he get and his reproach H3808

H5061 H7036 H4672 H2781

תִּמְלַחֵת:

shall not be wiped away

H4229

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