

Playing With Fire

Prov. 6:27-28

Introduction:

- A. How many tragedies have been caused by children playing with fire?
- B. Solomon warns his son against playing with spiritual with these rhetorical questions.
- C. People, even Christians, often naively play with a fire in their lives:

Discussion:

I. **Promiscuous People Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. The fornicator. (Prov. 6:23-35).
 - 1. David got burned.
 - 2. Israel got burned. (1 Cor. 10:8)
 - 3. Unrepentant fornicators will be burned (1 Cor. 6:9)
- B. The enticer (wilful or naive).
 - 1. Using various means.
 - a. Dress. (Prov. 7:10).
 - b. Actions. (Prov. 7:13).
 - c. Speech. (Prov. 7:21,22).
 - 2. Get burned in various ways.
 - a. Becomes a stumbling block. (Matt. 18:6-9; Matt. 5:28)
 - b. Damages character and reputation. (Prov. 11:22).
 - c. Invites trouble - rape, insults, etc.

II. **Permissive Parents Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. When they abdicate the parental throne.
 - 1. By leaving children to themselves. (Prov. 29:15).
 - 2. By allowing them to make adult decisions too soon.
- B. When they do not train them at home in Lord's way. (Eph. 6:4).

III. **Formers of Evil Companionships Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. Corrupts moral, manners or habits. (1 Cor. 15:33 KJV,NIV,ASV,NJV)
- B. Can weaken the strongest of Christians, if not careful. (1 Cor. 8:1; 10:12).
- C. Cannot and should not avoid all evil company (1 Cor. 5:10), but not close friendship.
- D. Adverse effects of pressure from close associations are many. (Lot's children)

IV. **Unbridled Tongues Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. James on the tongue. (Jas. 1:19,26; 3:5,6; 4:11-12).
- B. Many ways unbridled tongue get burned.
 - 1. Lost friendships.
 - 2. Kindle fires that cannot be put out. (cf. feather illustration)

V. **Casual Drug Users Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. Legitimate medical use. (Prov. 31:6,7; 1 Tim. 5:23).
- B. Other use is playing with fire. (Prov. 31:4,5; 23:29-35)
 - 1. Drunkenness is sin that causes one to be lost. (1 Cor. 6:10).
 - 2. At what point does one cease to be sober and become drunk?

VI. **Undisciplined Churches Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. Persistent open sinners leaven whole lump. (1 Cor. 5:5,6).
- B. Disorderly persons harm self and church. (2 Thess. 3:6,11,14).
- C. Factious men disturb and often destroy churches. (Tit. 3:10; Rom. 16:17,18).

VII. **Negligent People Are Playing With Fire.**

- A. Those who neglect their church attendance. (Heb. 10:24-29).
 - 1. Not talking about just showing up for Lord's supper.
 - 2. Not talking about rare cases of unavoidable absence.
- B. Those who neglect the forgiveness of their sins are playing with fire because:
 - 1. They do not know when the Lord will come. (2 Pet. 3:9,10).
 - 2. They do not know when they will die.
 - 3. They do not know when they will become too hardened. (Heb. 3:12; 1 Tim. 4:2; 2 Pet. 2:14)

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you playing with fire?
- 2. Be careful that you do not get burned.

