Playing with Fire – Short Version

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 fire with these rhetorical questions.
C. People, even Christians, often naively play with fire in their lives:

Discussion:
I. Promiscuous People Are Playing With Fire.
   A. The fornicator. (Prov. 6:23-35).
      1. David got burned. (2 Sam 11)
      2. Israel got burned. (1 Cor. 10:8)
      3. Unrepentant fornicators will be burned (1 Cor. 6:9; Rev 21:8)
   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).
      On a windswept hill in an English country churchyard stands a drab, gray slate tombstone. The quaint stone bears an epitaph not easily seen unless you stoop over and look closely. The faint etchings read:
      Beneath this stone, a lump of clay, / lies Arabella Young, / Who on the twenty-fourth of May, / began to hold her tongue.
      Source Unknown.
   B. Many ways unbridled tongue get burned.
      1. Lost friendships.
      2. Kindle fires that cannot be put out. (cf. feather illustration)

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