

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.