

## Proverbs 6:25–29

“Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. **Can a man take fire to his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent.**”



If You Play With Fire,  
You're Gonna Get Burned!



# Playing With Fire

- Married people, we're playing with fire when we get too friendly with someone else's husband or wife (or anyone else of the opposite sex).
- “Walk circumspectly” (Eph. 5:15)—be alert to compromising situations and avoid them.

# Playing With Fire

- Young people, you're playing with fire when you don't set strict limits for your behavior on a date.
  - Lasciviousness or lewdness (Rom. 13:13–14; Gal. 5:19) will soon be an issue.
  - Not to mention the real possibility of fornication.
  - “The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does” (1 Cor. 7:4).

# Playing With Fire

- Speaking of dating, you're playing with fire when you date seriously a non-Christian, especially one who indicates little/no interest in learning the truth.
  - Make it your goal to marry a faithful Christian—one who seeks first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).
  - One with whom you can mirror the relationship between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:25–33).
  - One with whom you can pray, labor together in the kingdom, bring up children in the “training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

# Playing With Fire

- We're playing with fire when friends in the world influence us more than friends in the church.
  - The people with whom we work, with whom we go to school, the people with whom we're involved in our children's activities.
  - Have we become "unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14)?

# Playing With Fire

- Congregationally, we're playing with fire when we don't confront error—whether it comes in the form of sinful behavior or false teaching.
  - “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9)—that's the fire we're playing with.
  - Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3:6–15; Titus 3:10–11.

# Playing With Fire

- Parents, we're playing with fire when we give our children too much freedom, when we fail to restrain them.
  - The same mistake Eli made (1 Samuel 3:13).
  - Reprove, rebuke, warn, admonish—these apply to parents, too. Can't be Mr. and Mrs. Positive all the time.
  - Conviction is greatly needed, because if we're weak and vacillating, they will take advantage of us.



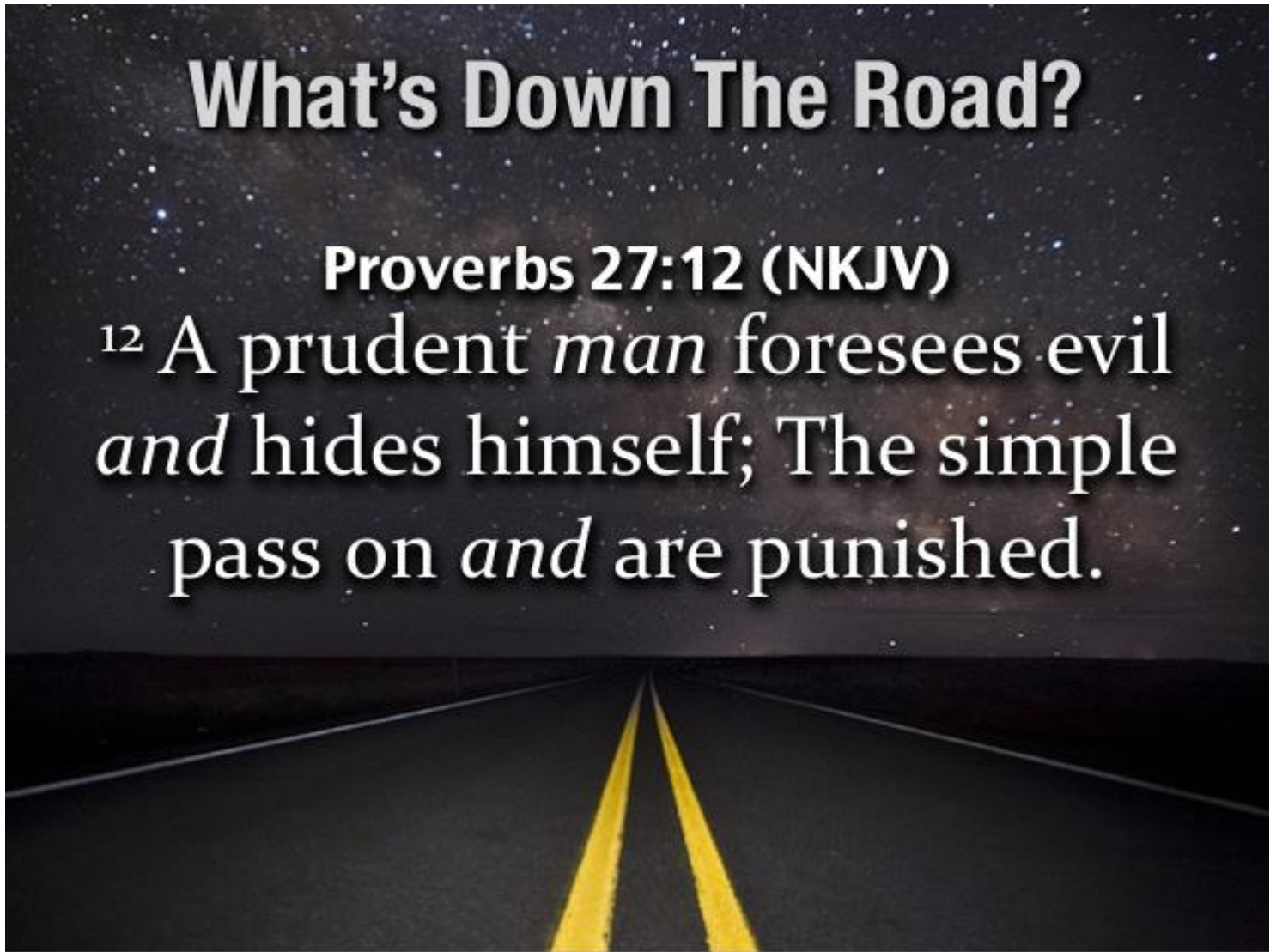
# Playing With Fire

- We're playing with fire when we set a timetable for repentance—"I'm going to make things right as soon as..."
  - May end up being "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13).
  - Hebrews 10:26–29.
    - If it doesn't bother us NOW to grieve God and show contempt for the sacrifice of His Son, what's going to move us to repentance THEN?

# What's Down The Road?

**Proverbs 27:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> A prudent *man* foresees evil  
*and* hides himself; The simple  
pass on *and* are punished.





Play with fire and we  
just might end up in the  
lake of fire (Rev. 21:8).