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.