

## Proverbs 7 -July 29, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

### **Overview:**

This is a continuation of the previous teaching on adultery from 5:1-23 & 6:20-35. It has been said that “repetition is the mother of learning.” This understanding gives us insight into why the author is repeating this lesson for the *third* time. It must be very important.

### **Commentary:**

V1 This is the fifth time the author has reminded the son to keep the commandments of the father (2:1, 3:1, 4:4, 6:20). The command to keep the commandment implies that he already possesses them. He is not naive.

V2a “live” as contrasted with v22-27 “slaughter (v22b) and death (v27b).”

V2b “apple of your eye” means internalization. The son should not only just obey them but also understand and treasure them (cf. 4:8, 2:4)

V3a “bind” cf. 3:3, 6:21; Dt 6:8

V4 “sister” not sibling but, like Song of Solomon 4:9, has a romantic designation. Intimate connotations in the ancient near east. Will be further developed in 9:1-6.

V5 The purpose (“in order to...”) of this intimacy with wisdom as a woman is to keep the son from the strange foreign woman. His is to have an exclusive relationship with wisdom so as to maintain fidelity. His monogamy with wisdom excludes the folly of adultery and fornication.

V6 starts a section about the story of the fool who is seduced and goes through v23.

V7 “the simple” is dull and immature. He says, “it’s not a big deal.” He doesn’t see anything wrong with porn, flirting, or adultery. “It’s natural,” he says.

In the immediate context 7-9 he is strolling along the city. Perhaps he is like a fly caught in a net. However, v8 says that he goes near her corner. This seems to imply that he knows she is there and again... he finds what he’s looking for.

The obvious lesson here is that we direct our hearts. Remember Prov 4:23 “Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” Be careful what you love. Choose what you desire carefully. Incline your heart to things above and not below. While it may seem that the son is wandering around town, he just happens to find himself in the place his heart intended him to go.

V10 the woman shows up and it is obvious that she is on the prowl. Her appearance speaks volumes. Her dress leads to disaster.

V11a she is outgoing and provocative. She is not shy. She is the aggressor. She goes at him like a lion to prey. Her growl is attractive to him. She is not quiet but loud.

V11b she is not at home where she belongs. She is on prowling around for someone to eat. Contrast this with the woman in Prov 31 and Titus 2:4ff.

V12 her availability knows no ends. She’s seemingly omnipresent. For those looking for her, she is not hard to find.

V13 she is the aggressor... again.

V14 she removes any roadblocks to her bed.

V15 this is an example of the flattery in v5 & 21. She says, “I’ve come out to meet *YOU!* I ‘ve been looking for you!” DON’T BELIEVE IT.

V16-17 She’s made preparations. This is intentional and on purpose. Her seduction is strategic, and she’s made the path easy to fall into. Her bed is soft and smells good.

V18 She comes right out and says what she wants. There is no obtuseness about her. She is straightforward and says, let’s have sex all night long.

V19-20 She continues, “There’s nothing to worry about.” She attempts to remove any excuses or concern about getting caught.

V21 “abundant persuasions” and “enticement” -she says all the right things. She is skilled at her killing.

*The results of seduction:*

V22-23 the trap is sprung. He is slaughtered. He is an unexpected idiot (“ignorant fool”). He has lost his soul (cf. 6:32).

V24 is the refrain from v1. Listen. Pay attention. Don’t forget. Wake up. Be alert.

V25 Avoid her path. Stay away from her at all times and at all costs.

V26-27 The reason to avoid her is that she has a very obvious and predictable pattern of behavior. She kills her victims (cf. 5:5).

Application:

-learn to identify traps. Aggressive women are evil and are to be avoided. Flattery is a killer. She will tell you what you want to hear.

-have an impenetrable defense:

\*be willing to be rude if necessary to stay out of the snare of adultery. As a general rule, I don't touch other women... at all. I am barely nice. I might shake a hand. With rare exception, I will side hug. I absolutely dodge the full-frontal hug.

\*do not flirt. I do not joke around with them. I do not flirt with them. I do not smile. The smile is the open door to access. Learn to mean mug. Do it unapologetically.

Perhaps you think that's an over correction and maybe it is. However, I do not see in Scripture a prohibition against it. I do see much ink spilled on avoiding temptation and outright sin.

Conclusion: The fact that the author felt the need to repeat the lesson on adultery for the third time in three chapters underscores the gravity of the subject. Some sins disproportionately effect people's lives in a negative way. Adultery specifically, and sexual sin in general, fall into this category. Paul has much to say about this in 1Cor 6:12-7:9. He mirrors the command here to flee sexual immorality. 2Tim 2:22 is another theme verse for this topic and gives an alternate pursuit. It should be memorized and obeyed strictly. Taking the time to identify "those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart" will help us know who to spend our time with. Again "you pick your friends, they don't pick you."

Resources: Joe Rigney: More than a Battle; Covenant Eyes

Closing Prayer:

Father, make us men of rightly ordered affections. Make us love what is good and hate evil. Help us to love our wives and children and build families for the kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.