



## ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS: PROVERBS 7:1-27



### I. The Father's Insight

Pr 7:1

My son,

keep my words,  
And treasure my commands within you.

**2** Keep my commands and live,  
And my law as the apple of your eye.

**3** Bind them on your fingers;  
Write them on the tablet of your heart.

**4** Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister,"  
And call understanding *your* nearest kin,

**5** That they may keep you from the immoral woman,  
From the seductress  
*who* flatters with her words.

### II. The Father's Eyesight: How Sin Begins from Within

**6** For at the window of my house  
I looked through my lattice,

**7** And saw among the simple,  
I perceived among the youths,  
A young man devoid of understanding,

**8** Passing along the street near her corner;  
And he took the path to her house

**9** In the twilight,  
in the evening,  
In the black  
and dark night.

III. Temptation & Sin: How it Physically Begins

**10** And there a woman met him,  
*With* the attire of a harlot,  
and a crafty heart.

**11** She *was* loud and rebellious,  
Her feet would not stay at home.

**12** At times *she was* outside,  
at times in the open square,  
Lurking at every corner.

**13** So she caught him  
and kissed him;  
With an impudent face she said to him:

**14** "*I have* peace offerings with me;  
Today I have paid my vows.

**15** So I came out  
Diligently  
And I have found  
to meet you,  
to seek your face,  
you.

**16** I have spread my bed  
Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.  
**17** I have perfumed my bed  
with tapestry,  
With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

**18** Come, let us take our fill  
Let us delight ourselves  
of love until morning;  
with love.

**19** For my husband  
He  
**20** He  
*And* will come home on the appointed day."  
*is* not at home;  
has gone on a long journey;  
has taken a bag of money with him,

**21** With her  
With her  
enticing speech  
flattering lips  
she caused him to yield,  
she seduced him.

IV. Temptation & Sin: How it Physically Ends

**22** Immediately he went after her,  
as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,  
**23** Till an arrow struck his liver.  
As a bird hastens to the snare,  
He did not know it *would cost* his life.

V. Temptation & Sin: How it Spiritually Ends

**24** Now therefore, listen to me, *my children*;  
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:

**25** Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,  
Do not stray into her paths;

**26** For she has cast down many wounded,  
And all who were slain by her  
were strong *men*.

**27** Her house is the way to hell,  
Descending to the chambers of death.

[SLIDE] EXPLANATION

The Outline of Chapter 7

**I. Proverbs 7:1-5** – The Father’s Insight

**II. Proverbs 7:6-9** – The Father’s Eyesight: How it Begins From Within

**III. Proverbs 7:10-21** – Temptation & Sin: How it Begins Physically

**IV. Proverbs 7:22-23** – Temptation & Sin: How it Physically Ends

**V. Proverbs 7:24-27** – Temptation & Sin: How it Spiritually Ends

The Thematic Structure

**Proverbs 7:1-5** Embrace the Father’s Wisdom and Not the Immoral Woman

**Proverbs 7:6-12** The Path to Temptation

Proverbs 7:13 He is Caught

**Proverbs 7:14-17** The Promises of What will Happen

**Proverbs 18** The Motive and Object of Sin

**Proverbs 7:19-20** The Promises of What Will Not Happen

Proverbs 7:21 He is Seduced

**Proverbs 7:22-23** The Path to Destruction

**Proverbs 7:24-27** Embrace the Father’s Wisdom and Not the Immoral Woman

Proverbs 7 Principles

"Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go...

Sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay...

Sin will cost you more than you wanted to pay..."

(Steve Farrar, *Finishing Strong: How a Man Can Go the Distance*

(Sisters, OR: Multnomah Books, 1995), 84.)

**I. Proverbs 7:1-5 – The Father’s Insight**

**Pr 7:1** My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. **2** Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. **3** Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," And call understanding *your* nearest kin, **5** That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words.

[SLIDE] Question: Sound Familiar?

<p><b>Pr 6:20</b> My son, <u>keep</u> your father’s command, And do not forsake the <u>law</u> of your mother.</p> <p><b>21</b> <u>Bind</u> them continually upon your <u>heart</u>; Tie them around your neck.</p> <p><b>22</b> When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And <i>when</i> you awake, they will <u>speak</u> with you.</p> <p><b>23</b> For the commandment <i>is</i> a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction <i>are</i> the way of life,</p> <p><b>24</b> To <u>keep</u> you from the evil <u>woman</u>, From the <u>flattering tongue</u> of a <u>seductress</u>.</p>	<p><b>Pr 7:1</b> My son, <u>keep</u> my words, And treasure my commands within you. <b>2</b> <u>Keep</u> my commands and live, And my <u>law</u> as the apple of your eye.</p> <p><b>3</b> <u>Bind</u> them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your <u>heart</u>.</p> <p><b>4</b> <u>Say</u> to wisdom, "You <i>are</i> my sister," And <u>call</u> understanding <i>your</i> nearest kin,</p> <p><b>5</b> That they may <u>keep</u> you from the immoral <u>woman</u>, From the <u>seductress</u> <i>who</i> <u>flatters</u> with her <u>words</u>.</p>
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[SLIDE] What are the eight commands in Proverbs 7:1-4? List them below.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)

[SLIDE] Key Words:

- **Keeps** (shomer) – Guard one’s life by following the father’s words & commands (Pr 7:1-2)
- **Treasure** – Shelter, keep, and store
  - **Pr 2:1** My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,
- **Bind** – Join, league together
  - **Pr 3:3** Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,
- **Write** – Engrave, record
  - **Pr 3:3** Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,
- **Say** (speak) vs. **Call** (shout)
- **Sister** (blood-relative(near)) vs. **Kin** (distant-relative)
- **Flatters** – deceitful speech

[SLIDE] Live and not Die: The Father Provides Principles to Protect Against the Unfaithful Woman’s Sensuous Schemes

The Father’s Five Principles & Purpose

Pr 7:1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.

- **(1) Inward Life:** One must cultivate a knowledge and love for God and His Word. (Keep and treasure)
  - **Php 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
  - **Jn 14:23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
  - **1 Jn 3:24** Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
  - **Jn 12:48** He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Pr 7:2a Keep my commands and live

- **(2) Outward Life:** One must cultivate the application of God's word and bear fruit, revealing one's love for God. (Keep and live)
  - **Mt 12:35** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.
  - **Pr 9:6** Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.
  - **Ps 26:1** Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. **2** Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. **3** For Your lovingkindness *is* before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth. **4** I have not sat with idolatrous mortals, Nor will I go in with hypocrites. **5** I have hated the assembly of evildoers, And will not sit with the wicked.

Pr 7:2b And my law as the apple of your eye.

[SLIDE] Question: What does the following expression mean?

- "And my law as the apple of your eye."
  - The expression can be translated as the "little man of the eye," due to the reflection on the pupil of someone close in view.
    - **Dt 32:10** "He found him (Israel) in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.
    - **Ps 17:8** Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,
    - **Zec 2:8** For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.
  
- **(3) Word-Centered:** For the law to be the "apple of your eye" is to behold it closely, and beholding it with love and deep affection.
  - [SLIDE] **Question:** How does your life prove you behold God's word with adoration?

Pr 7:3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.

- **(4) Life-Centered:** The reveals the whole person's affection for God's word - so one thinks, so one does. (bind and write)

- **Abimelech - Ge 20:5** Did he not say to me, 'She *is* my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He *is* my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."
- **Giving to the Poor: Dt 15:7** "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,
- **Judah's Sin: Je 17:1** "The sin of Judah *is* written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond *it is* engraved On the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars,
- **Repentance: Jas 4:8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, *you* sinners; and purify your hearts, *you* double-minded.
- **Corinthians: 2 Co 3:2** You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; **3** clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart.

Pr 7:4 Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," And call understanding *your* nearest kin, **(5) Relational Centered:** One should be as intimate with the word as one is with family. You can't separate the word of God from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit and other Believers. (say and call)

- **"Lady Wisdom" Pr 4:6** Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. **7** Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. **8** Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. **9** She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."
  - **Note:** With this analogy you could argue that we should know the details and the big picture, the verse (sister) and the book (kin).

Pr 7:5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words.

**Purpose:** Guard you from the fleshly life and call you to the spiritual life.

- As you review the first four verses and five principles, it's helpful to see Solomon calling his son to live the "Spiritual Life" and avoid the "Fleshly Life."



## SPIRITUAL LIFE VS. FLESHLY LIFE

## (1) Inward Life

**Ro 8:5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7** Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. **8** So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

## (2) Outward Life

**Ga 5:17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

## (3) Word Centered

**Ps 19:7** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; **8** The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; **9** The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. **10** More to be desired *are* *they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. **11** Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward. **12** Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*. **13** Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. **14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

## (4) Life Centered

**2 Ti 3:10** But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## (5) Relational Centered

**1 Jn 2:3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. **7** Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. **8** Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. **9** He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. **10** He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. **11** But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

- [SLIDE] What is the difference between "flattering" and "edifying"?
  - Flattering Speech
    - **Ps 5:9** For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part *is* destruction; Their throat *is* an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.
    - **Ps 36:1** An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: *There is* no fear of God before his eyes. **2** For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity *and* when he hates. **3** The words of his mouth *are* wickedness and deceit; He has

ceased to be wise *and* to do good. **4** He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way *that is* not good; He does not abhor evil.

- **Ps 55:21** *The words* of his mouth were smoother than butter, But war *was* in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they *were* drawn swords.
- **Pr 28:23** He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward Than he who flatters with the tongue.
- **Pr 29:5** A man who flatters his neighbor Spreads a net for his feet.

○ Edifying Speech

- **Ro 14:19** Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
- **Eph 4:11** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- **1 Th 5:9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. **11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

[SLIDE] **Question:** What is the difference between ‘flattering’ & ‘edifying’?

- **Flattering:** Selfish purposes **vs.** **Edifying:** Selfless purposes
- Flattering: not genuine vs. Edifying: genuine
- Flattering: Tear down vs. Edifying: build up
- Flattering: deceitful vs. Edifying: honest
- Flattering: unloving vs. Edifying: loving
- Look at motive (why), means (what), manner (how), and aim/purpose (goal).

[SLIDE] II. Proverbs 7:6-9 – The Father’s Eyesight: How Sin Begins From Within  
**Pr 7:6** For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, **7** And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding, **8** Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house **9** In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.

[SLIDE] **Question:** Where was Solomon in his house? What are the two words related to his location and list them below.

- 1)
- 2)

[SLIDE] Illustration: Latticed Window

### **The Father Knows: The Omniscience of God**

- **Sees and Knows All: Ps 33:13** The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. **14** From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; **15** He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.
- **Your Thoughts → Actions: Ge 6:5** Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually
- **Your Ways: Pr 5:21** For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.
- **Your Sufferings: Ex 3:7** And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.
- **Every Place, Every one: Pr 15:3** The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- **Knows You Personally: Ps 139:1** O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. **2** You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. **3** You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. **4** For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. **5** You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. **6** *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it. **7** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? **8** If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*. **9** *If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, **10** Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about

me; **12** Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

[SLIDE] **Question:** Since God knows all and sees all, how does that impact you personally in the way you think, speak, and live?

**Application:** Pray more, depend upon the Spirit, be humble, be aware, be loving, be patient, and be holy; these are just some of the many ways we can respond to our Lord and Savior.

**Illustration:** A Story with an Unhappy Ending – Far side Comics

**A STUDY OF TEMPTATION: Beware The "When..Then...End" Life-Death Cycle of Sin - Jas 1:13** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. **14** But each one is tempted **(1) when** he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15 (2) Then**, when desire has conceived, **(3)** it gives birth to sin; and sin, **(4) when** it is full-grown, **(5)** brings forth **death**. **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

**NOTE:** Notice the "time implied" between each stage of the sin cycle

I. When

**(1) Lust:** when he is drawn away (dragged) by his own desires and enticed.

II. Then

**(2) Conception:** Desire has conceived

**(3) Birth:** it gives birth to sin;

III. End

**(4) Development:** and sin, when it is full-grown

**(5) Death:** brings forth death.

LUST: The Conditions for Temptation

**Pr 7:6** And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding,

[SLIDE] Illustration: Simple, Youths, Young Man

[SLIDE] Illustrations: If I only Had A Brain!

[SLIDE] **Question:** There are several descriptions of an individual in Proverbs 7:7, what are they?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

[SLIDE]

1. **Simple:** Naïve (Not thinking about the implications and consequences of their sin choices) – **This is not ignorance!**
2. **Youths:** sons / males
3. **Young Man:** Adolescence / Difficult time of temptation for the young men
4. Devoid (lacking) of Understanding (heart/mind): lacking and in great need of thinking rightly
  - [SLIDE] **1 Co 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

[SLIDE] The Choice in the Temptation (A Descent into Darkness)

**Pr 7:8** Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house **9** In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.

[SLIDE] **Question:** In Proverbs 7:8-9, there are eight descriptions given to describe the places and times that lead to the immoral woman. What are they?

[SLIDE] I. The Path to the Place of Sin

[SLIDE]

- 1) Passing along the street – moving in the direction
- 2) Near her corner - intersection
- 3) **He took the path** – stride, walk, march
- 4) **To her house** – destination, dwelling

[SLIDE] II. The Time for Sin to Thrive

[SLIDE]

- 5) **Twilight** – the moment between light and dark, end of the day, start of a new day
- 6) **Evening** – Sunset
- 7) **Black (night)** – word for pupil, lacking light
- 8) **Black (night)** – word for pupil, lacking light Black (night) – word for pupil, lacking light

**Implication:** These two verses reveal the allure of sin and the descent into darkness

- **Jn 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. **21** But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."
- **Eph 2:1** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- **Jn 8:12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- **Eph 5:8** For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **10** finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. **11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. **13** But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. **14** Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."
- **1 Pe 2:9** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

[SLIDE] III. Proverbs 7:10-21 – Temptation & Sin: How it Begins Physically

**Pr 7:10** And there a woman met him, *With* the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. **11** She *was* loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home. **12** At times *she was* outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner...

[SLIDE] Can you identify the eight descriptions/actions of the immoral woman in Proverbs 7:10-12 and list them below?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

- 6)
- 7)
- 8)

#### A. Sin's Attraction

**1. External:** Attire of a harlot – Her dress was the opposite of modesty. It was to bait and trap.

- **Principle:** Clothes reflect the heart's desires (1 Timothy 2:9–10)

#### B. Sin's Heart

**2. Internal:** Crafty Heart (Guarded heart) – she is concealing her true motives

- **Pr 23:27** For a harlot *is* a deep pit, And a seductress *is* a narrow well. **28** She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men.

#### C. Sin's Character

3. Loud (external):

- **Proverbs 9:13** A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing.

**4. Rebellious (internal):** stubborn, unwilling to change, against God's design

- **(Younger Widows) 1 Ti 5:13** And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

#### D. Sin's Activities

**5. Her feet would not stay at home (external):** not settled nor content with the life of marital responsibilities, demands, and limits of the married life. (See Proverbs 31:10-31).

**6. Outside (external):** Can also mean "in the streets," contrasting that she is not "inside" at "home"

7. At times in the open square (external): Contrast where men do their business

#### E. Sin's Viciousness

**8. Lurking at every corner (internal):** lying in wait/ambush w/ predatory/evil intent.

[VIDEO] Illustration: Spider & Gecko

**Summary:** This adulteress woman illustrates the nature of sin. Sin has a thin veneer that conceals her true nature which is predatory.

- **Ge 4:7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it."



**Principle:** The life of lust and pride, exalting and serving self rather than humbling oneself and serving others leads to bondage rather than freedom.

**Implication:** True liberty is found when enslaved to righteousness.

- **Ro 6:15** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! **16** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? **17** But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. **18** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. **22** But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[CONT] III. Proverbs 7:10-21 – Temptation & Sin: How it Begins Physically

**Pr 7:13** So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him: **14** "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. **15** So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you. **16** I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen. **17** I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. **18** Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love.

[SLIDE] Identify all the actions of the immoral woman in Proverbs 7:13-18 and list them below.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)

- 9)
- 10)

[SLIDE]

A. Willingness to Embrace Sin

1) **Caught:** seized and grasped, but the verb tense reveals that he was already ensared, by now it finalized and physical.

B. Enjoys the Temporary Pleasures of Sin

2) Kissed

C. Arrogance, Pride, and Hypocrisy in the Sin

3) With an impudent face she said to him: brazen and bold, no shame

4) *I have* peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows: she will have food, but the religious hypocrisy is stunning.

D. Self-centered & Personalized Nature of Sin

5) **So I came out to meet you:** proceeded straight to him, single focus

6) Diligently to seek your face (Piel): intensely sought and searched out

7) **I have found you:** reached as a goal, obtain as a possession

E. Unsatisfying Nature of Sin: Allure for More

8) I have spread my bed with coverings, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen: prepare beforehand

9) I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon: spray or rain upon

F. Bondage Begins

10) **Come (imperative):** walk with me, it can mean "vanish away together"

**Summary:** We see the nature of sin and how it engages one's flesh and pride. It's a process of remove all hinderances and bringing someone into bondage.

- **1 Jn 2:16** For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

[SLIDE] Promises, Promises!

**Pro 7:8** Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love. **19** For my husband *is* not at home; He has gone on a long journey; **20** He has taken a bag of money with him, *And* will come home on the appointed day."

[SLIDE] From Proverbs 7:8-20, identify how the immoral woman entices and the promises she makes to the man and list them below.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

A. Promise of what will happen

- 1) Let us take our fill of love until morning: to refresh and be filled with water
- 2) **Let us delight ourselves with love:** taste in some contexts, shared experience of enjoyment

False Promise: All pleasure

**Self-Deception:** when we sin, we focus on the perceived benefits only

B. Promise of what will NOT happen

- 3) My husband is not home: no one will know
- 4) he has gone on a long journey: no surprises
- 5) he has taken a bag of money: no chance of getting caught
- 6) and will come home on the appointed day: plenty of time
  - first of the month, full moon
  - the darkness from proverbs 7:9, implies week 1 is the time of the rendezvous

[SLIDE]



**False promise:** No consequences

**Self-Deception:** when we sin, we avoid thinking about consequences or think there will be no consequences

[SLIDE] C. Promise that is Persuasive

**Pr 7:21** With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him.

[SLIDE] Identify the two primary ways the immoral woman engages the man and the two results in Proverbs 7:21?

WAYS

RESULT

- 1)
- 2)

1) **Enticing speech → caused him to yield:** multitude of words to turn one from the straight path to the crooked path of sin

2) **Flattering Lips → seduced:** To be led astray. Used in moral and religious deception.

**Implication:** Temptation has but one tool: The weapon of words.

**Question:** How do you convince yourself to sin?

- **Ge 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

[SLIDE] IV. Proverbs 7:22-23 – Temptation & Sin: How it Physically Ends

**Pr 7:22** Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, **23** Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it *would cost* his life.

[SLIDE] Identify all the words/phrases referring to consequences of his adulteress sin from Proverbs 7:22-23, and list them below.

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1) | 3) |
| 2) | 4) |
| 5) | 6) |

[SLIDE]

A. Irrational Concession and Cost: Pleasure Ignores/Outweighs the Consequences

1) **Went after Her:** escorted (implied grave consequences and/or death)

B. Illustrations of Attitudes Pursuing Sin

2) *Ignorant Animal:* Ox goes to the slaughter: to be butchered

- 3) *Idiot Who Can't Learn*: Fool to the correction of the stocks: chastisement with shackles
- 4) *Invincible Warrior*: Till an arrow struck his liver: not recoverable injury
- 5) *Instant Gratification*: Bird hastens to the snare: hastily or rashly into a snare

### C. Inevitable Outcome

**6) Did not know it would cost his life:** did not "realize" the physical consequences

**Implication:** Like gravity, there is the law of sin and consequence.

- **Ro 6:23a** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### V. Proverbs 7:24-27 – Temptation & Sin: How it Spiritually Ends

**Pr 7:24** Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: **25** Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; **26** For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong *men*. **27** Her house *is* the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

List the four commands in Proverbs 7:24-7:25.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

1) **Listen:** allow the ears actual receive the words

2) **Pay Attention:** accept as true and take action

3) **Do Not Turn aside (your heart):** Don't deviate from the path of truth to the path of sin – Be intentional: Stay on the path truth

4) **Do Not Stray:** Don't deceive yourself – Don't be ignorant – Don't get on the path of sin

Identifying the "Pair". I will provide below one of the two items in parallel. Identify the other one.

- 1) Listen || Pay Attention
- 2) Me || The Words of my mouth
- 3) Turn Aside to her ways || Do Not Stray into her paths
- 4) Cast Down || Slain
- 5) Wounded || Strong men

6) Her House is the Way || Descending

7) Hell || Chambers of death

[SLIDE] Behind the House of Pleasure Is a House of Horror

**Pr 7:26** For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong *men*. **27** Her house *is* the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

[SLIDE] Progression of Sin:

**Cast Down:** Bring to ruin and disaster

**Wounded:** morally → Failure [physically → death]

**Slain:** killed

**Strong men:** mighty, powerful, great

**House** → way to hell (sheol)

**Descending** → Chambers (dark private room) of death

**Implication:** The inevitability of sin and its consequence. This particular sin, places one in bondage with the potential for a life of lust and rejection of God and His salvation.

- **Ga 5:17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
- **Ga 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- **1 Co 6:9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.
- **Heb 13:4** Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
- **Hope: 1 Co 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

[SLIDE] **Conclusion:** The bedchamber of adultery is not bliss but a spiritual battlefield of bloodshed.