



**STRUCTURE (Proverbs 5:7-14)**

III. Remain Loyal To The Word Of God (7)

**7** Therefore hear me now,  
*my* children,  
And do not depart  
from the words of my mouth.

IV. Remove Yourself From Sources Of Temptation (8)

**8** Remove your way far from her,  
And do not go near the door of her house,

V. Realize Sin Produces Deep-Rooted Regret (9-14)

**9** Lest you give your honor to others,  
And your years to the cruel *one*;

**10** Lest aliens  
be filled with your wealth,  
And your labors *go*  
to the house of a foreigner;

**11** And you mourn at last,  
When your flesh and your body are consumed,

**12** And say:  
"How I have hated instruction,  
And my heart despised correction!"

**13** I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers,  
Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

**14** I was on the verge of total ruin,  
In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

**STRUCTURE (Proverbs 5:15-23)**

VI. Rejoice In Godly Pursuits (15-20)

**15** Drink water from your own cistern,  
And running water from your own well.  
**16** Should your fountains be dispersed abroad,  
Streams of water in the streets?  
**17** Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you.  
**18** Let your fountain be blessed,  
And rejoice with the wife of your youth.  
**19** *As a* loving deer and a graceful doe,  
Let her breasts satisfy you at all times;  
And always be enraptured with her love.  
**20** For why should you, my son,  
be enraptured by an immoral woman,  
And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

VII. Remember God Is All-Knowing & Seeing (21)

**21** For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD,  
And He ponders  
all his paths.

VIII. Recall How God Judges Sin (22-23)

**22** His own iniquities entrap the wicked *man*,  
And he is caught in the cords of his sin.  
**23** He shall die for lack of instruction,  
And in the greatness of his folly  
he shall go astray.

## EXPLANATION

Literal + Application → Principle / Analogy

Literal Sin vs. Sin Personified

### PROVERBS 5: DEFEATING SIN GOD'S WAY

#### I. Receive The Word of God (1-2)

**Pr 5:1** My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding,  
**2** That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge.

- Keywords

I. Pay Attention (command) – listen carefully

II. **"My wisdom" & "My understanding"** – God's word given through the father.

III. **Lend (command)**– stretch to get close in proximity. (ears and mind with the intention to learn and apply) (5x in Proverbs, Pr 2:2, 4:20, 5:1, 5:13, 22:17)

IV. **Preserve (shamor)** – guard, watch over, and cling to (preserving the path - external)

V. **Keep (yinstoru)** – guard, watch over, observe (preserving the person, internal)

- **Pr 16:17** The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil; He who keeps (**shamor**) his way preserves (**yinstoru**) his soul.

VI. **Discretion** – ability to make wise and godly decisions (planning)

VII. **Knowledge** – discernment, skill, ability to act godly (doing)

VIII. **Lips:** This is referencing the words we speak, but it is connected to the words that drive our lives. There is a sense of "thinking before speaking" and avoiding rash or impulsive speech. Additionally, don't miss the contrast between the "lips of a moral man" in this verse and the "lips of immoral woman" in the next verse.

- Lips & Knowledge

- **Mal 2:7** "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And *people* should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.
- **Job 33:3** My (Elihu speaking to Job) words *come* from my upright heart; My lips utter pure knowledge.
- **Pr 14:7** Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive *in him* the lips of knowledge.

- **Pr 15:7** The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool *does not do* so.
- **Pr 20:15** There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge *are* a precious jewel.

New Testament:

- **Mt 13:9** He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (parable of the sower)
- **Re 3:22** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' "
  - Re 2:7, 11, 17, 29. 3:6, 13, 22 (7x, once to each church)

Illustration:

- **Ge 39:7** And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." **8** But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. **9** There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"
- **Implication:** As believers and followers of Christ, it is a fruit of genuine faith to be regularly listening, learning, living, and loving God and others according to God's Word.
  - **1 Jn 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
  - All Biblical learning should translate into greater expressions of love.
- **Question:** How do you listen, learn, live and love God and His word before God, His Church, and the lost?

II. Recognize Sin's Deceptive Nature (3-6)

**Pr 5:3** For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil; **4** But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. **6** Lest you ponder *her* path of life— Her ways are unstable; You do not know *them*.

- Sound Familiar?

- **Pr 2:16** To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words, **17** Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. **18** For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; **19** None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life—

**Question:** Who is the immoral woman?

- A married woman who is unfaithful to her husband
- **Ex 20:14** "You shall not commit adultery.
- **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. **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.

Seven Attributes of the Immoral Woman

A. Fantasy - Sensual Deception Before: Speech and by implication, actions.

1. **Lips:** Drip Honey
  - a. Speech that flatters
  - b. This honey is straight from the honeycomb, the purest and sweetest honey.
2. **Mouth:** Smoother than oil (filtered, refined oil)
  - a. Seductive speech that persuades
    - i. **Contrast: So 4:11** Your lips, O *my* spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk *are* under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments *Is* like the fragrance of Lebanon.

**Implication:** The Bible is silent on what transpires next. But the implication is the adulterous affair has taken place.

B. Reality - Carnal Consequences After

3. **End:** Bitter as wormwood (contrast to honey / sweet vs. bitter)

- a. Wormwood: bitter tasting. It can bring about death if eaten.
- 4. **(End):** Sharp as a two-edged Sword (contrast to oil: smooth vs. sharp)
  - a. Traitor Speech:
    - i. **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.

C. Consequences – Certain Destruction for Adulterers

- o **Le 20:10** ‘The man who commits adultery with *another* man’s wife, *he* who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.
- 5. **Feet (direction):** go down (participle) to death (implies death by some form of judgment)
- 6. **Steps (action):** lay hold (grasp, by choice) of hell (Sheol - death)
  - a. This is willful, intentional behavior.
  - b. **Ro 9:22** What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared (passive, they are preparing themselves) for destruction,

**Implication:** If she is headed for destruction, what will come of those who follow her?

7. **Ways:** Unstable

**Note:** This is an interesting construction in the Hebrew Bible. On the one hand, you have the adulterous woman who does not ponder her path and has unstable ways and the exhortation to the sons to ponder her path and ways and avoid her at all costs, never to know her and her ways.

- a. **Pr 4:26** Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. **27** Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.
- b. **Ec 7:26** And I find more bitter than death The woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, Whose hands *are* fetters. He who pleases God shall escape from her, But the sinner shall be trapped by her.

## Immoral Woman – Illustrated Further

- **Pr 6:23** For the commandment *is* a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life, **24** To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. **25** Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. **26** For by means of a harlot *A man is reduced* to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. **27** Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? **28** Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? **29** So *is* he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. **30** *People* do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. **31** Yet *when* he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. **32** Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He *who* does so destroys his own soul. **33** Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. **34** For jealousy *is* a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. **35** He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.
- **Pr 22:14** The mouth of an immoral woman *is* a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.
- **Pr 30:20** This *is* the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wickedness."
- **Pr 7:1** My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you. **2** Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching 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* intimate friend; **5** That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words. **6** For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, **7** And I saw among the naive, *And* discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense, **8** Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house, **9** In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and *in* the darkness. **10** And behold, a woman *comes* to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. **11** She is boisterous and rebellious, Her feet do not remain at home; **12** *She is* now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. **13** So she seizes him and kisses him And with a brazen face she says to him: **14** "I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows. **15** "Therefore I have come out to meet you, To



seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. **16** "I have spread my couch with coverings, With colored linens of Egypt. **17** "I have sprinkled my bed With myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. **18** "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. **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, At the full moon he will come home." **21** With her many persuasions she entices him; With her flattering lips she seduces him. **22** Suddenly he follows her As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as *one in* fetters to the discipline of a fool, **23** Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it *will cost him* his life. **24** Now therefore, *my* sons, listen to me, And 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 many are the victims she has cast down, And numerous are all her slain. **27** Her house is the way to Sheol, Descending to the chambers of death.

#### A Spiritual Implication

- Babylon (Political and Spiritual) Re 17:1** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, **2** with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." **3** So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. **5** And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH **6** I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

IX. **Re 18:7** In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' **8** Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and

famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her.

X. **Re 19:2** For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her."

- Immoral Woman's Worldly Tactics

- I. **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. **17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- Heart of the Issue

- I. **Col 3:5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- II. Sin is more than behavior:

- Interworking: flesh, world, and the Devil

- **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.

- III. Motivators

- I *want* \_\_\_\_\_. I *fear* \_\_\_\_\_. I *need* \_\_\_\_\_. I *expect* \_\_\_\_\_.

- What are you loving?

- What are you hoping, trusting, and taking refuge in?

- What voices are you listening to?<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> David Powlison, "Revisiting Idols of the Heart and Vanity Fair," *The Journal of Biblical Counseling* 27, no. 3 (2013): 41.

- Have you substituted and settled for the "worldly counterfeit" rather than "spiritually authentic"?
- **1 Jn 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. **21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.**

### III. Remain Loyal to the Word Of God (7)

**Pr 5:7** Therefore hear me now, *my* children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth.

- Keywords

- I. Hear (*shimu*) (Command) – listen to obey

- II. Do not Depart (*tasuru*)** – don't swerve away, don't change direction, don't abandon

- **Note:** Contrast "embracing the word" with "abandoning the sin" in the next verse.
    - **Ps 119:140** Your word *is* very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.
    - **Jn 6:68** But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

**Implication:** You can not separate God's Word from the Person of God. To love God, is to love and obey His word.

- **Jn 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

### IV. Remove Yourself From Sources Of Temptation (8)

**Pr 5:8** Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house,

**Contrast: Pr 8:34** Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

**NT Insight (Put Off / Put On): Eph 4:17** This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; **19** who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **20** But you have not so learned Christ, **21** if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** that you put

**off**, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23** and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and that you **put on** the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

- Keywords

I. **Remove (command)** – avoid, distance oneself, sever, abandon

II. **Do not go near (jussive, command)** – don't approach, don't head in that direction, don't advance towards, don't join, and don't partake

III. **Door** – entrance to sin in this context

- **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."
- **Mt 5:27** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not commit adultery.*' **28** But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
- **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 when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. **15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.
- **2 Ti 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

#### V. Realize Sin Produces Deep-Rooted Regret (9-14)

**Pr 5:9** Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel *one*; **10** Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors *go* to the house of a foreigner; **11** And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, **12** And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! **13** I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! **14** I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation."