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Avoid the Seductress

7: 1-27

A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.

In **Solomon's eleventh teaching (to see link click [Aj](#) - Proverbs for the Youth) the king counsels his son to avoid the seductress.** This is the last of four sets of instructions **the father** gives **the son** concerning proper sexual relationships: (1) **Ap - Protection from Wicked People: Deliverance from the adulteress with seductive words**; (2) **5:1-23**; (3) **Bh - Warning Against Adultery**; and here (4). Previously, **Solomon** had warned us against sexual foolishness. But here in **7:1-27** he warns us about the strategies of sexual temptation. After looking at these strategies, we will then turn to the B'rit Chadashah to see the fuller relevance of it to us today - where we can all go for **the love** we crave.¹⁶⁸



Like many of the lessons of the first part of the book, this one begins with an appeal to pay close attention to the teaching that follows. **My son, follow my advice and**

store up my commands within you (7:1 NIV). Solomon saw something. **He** wanted **his** teenage **son** to see it too, so **he** could walk into adulthood fully alert. **Obey my commands and you will live! Guard my instructions as the apple of your eye (7:2 Hebrew).** For **the son's** part, **he** is to **guard** this teaching as **he** would **his** own **eyes**. **The father's** intention is to encourage **his son** to stay on the right path. The familiar phrase **apple of your eye (Deuteronomy 32:10 and Psalm 17:8)** refers to **the pupil of the eye**, which the ancients thought was a sphere like **an apple**. We protect our **eyes** because **they're** priceless to us, and so should we honor and protect **God's Word** by obeying **it**. Sexual **sin** often begins with undisciplined **eyes** and **hands (Matthew 5:27-30)**, but **the heart** of the problem is . . . **the heart. Tie them on your fingers as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart (7:3 NLT).**¹⁶⁹

He is to call **Lady Wisdom** (see [Am - Lady Wisdom's Rebuke of the Foolish](#)), **his sister. Love wisdom like a sister, make insight a beloved member of your family (7:4 NLT).** If we **love God's wisdom** as we **love** those in our **family**, we wouldn't want to visit the house of **the seductress.**¹⁷⁰ The purpose for developing an intimate relationship with **Lady Wisdom** is to block out an illicit relationship with **the seductress. They will keep you from the adulterous woman, from listening to the flattery of a seductress (7:5 Hebrew).** It is telling that **the father** mentions flattery as the first characteristic of **the woman** that might attract **the son** to an illegitimate relationship. It is not **her** beauty, but **her** appeal to **the young man's** pride that is so dangerous.

The victim (7:6-9): The father now recounts a story to **the son** in order to make **his** point about the dangers of a relationship with **a woman** other than **his** wife. The first few verses simply set the scene. **The father** tells **the son** that **he** was looking into **the street** and noticed **a young man** who seemed to be minding **his** own business.¹⁷¹ **While I was at the window of my house, looking through the curtain, I saw a simpleminded young man (1:4 and 22) who lacked common sense (7:6-7 NLT).** **The simpleminded** person is related to the Hebrew verb meaning *to be open*. **He** is committed to keeping **his** options open, uncommitted, still exploring life, we might say. So this particular **simpleton** is feeling restless early one evening and takes **a walk. He** is curious. **He** has heard about a certain part of town (or certain sites on the Internet). So **he** goes there, probably thinking, "I'm strong, I can handle this. I need to see these things for myself anyway."¹⁷² So, in **his** foolishness, **he walked** right into the area of temptation. **He crosses the street near her corner, walking in the direction of her house.** The path

described as the one to **her house**, but doesn't mean that **he** was heading to **her house** or even knows where **her house** is. But, **the father** is only the neighbor in the story. **Twilight turns into evening, and finally night, dark and black (7:8-9 CJB)**. An omen of bad things to come.

The huntress (7:10-12): **The father** describes the event to **his son** as if it were unfolding before **their** eyes. Unexpectedly, almost as though **she** is lying to ambush **him**, **the woman came out to meet him, dressed seductively with devious intent (7:10 NIV)**. **She** is not a prostitute, but **she dresses** like one. **She** keeps **her** real thoughts to **herself**. **Her** motives are hidden, and says what others want to hear or what **she** wants them to hear. This points out how dangerous **she** is. **She** doesn't know what a relationship is. **She** has never experienced it. **She** can only role-play a relationship, but she never gives **her** heart away. Sex **she** gives, but **herself she guards**. This brainless **young man** has no idea what **he** is **walking** into.¹⁷³ In terms of **her** actions, however, **she** is anything but silent. **She is the brash, boisterous and defiant; the rebellious type**. This description suggests just how much **she** lacks self-discipline. **Never content to stay at home, she** is out on the streets lurking at every **corner** looking for victims **(7:11-12 Hebrew)**. Against **her**, **the simpleminded** fool has no chance. In the clutches of this scheming **seductress**, **he** is like puddy in **her** hands.¹⁷⁴

The tactics (7:13:21): Then **the father** quotes **the woman's** invitation to **him**. It begins with an unusual pick-up line, the ancient equivalent of, "I have just been to church." **She threw her arms around him and kissed him, and with a brazen look she said, "Just today I have made my peace offerings and fulfilled my vows" (7:13-14a NLT)**. **She** presents **herself** as a pious **woman** by covering **her** lust with sacred **peace offerings** (see the commentary on [Leviticus Ak - The Peace Offerings: At Peace with God](#)). An **Israelite** would know that some of the food offered in this way would be returned to the offeror to eat at home that day or the next.¹⁷⁵ To understand **her** excuse, it is helpful to know that **the peace offerings** made during the festivities at the Temple (and earlier at the Tabernacle) were part of an occasion of joy (**Numbers 10:10**). This suggests that, just as people use religious holidays today as an excuse for debauchery, so **the Seductress** here was using a festival as an occasion for wallowing in wickedness. **You're the one I was looking for, and I have found you (7:15 ESV)! Her** motives remain hidden. **She** also has no apparent feelings of shame as **she** crosses all godly sexual boundaries. **Her** religious activity was only a pretense, an effort to cloud any sense of wrongdoing that **she** had. Nothing this **woman** says can be

believed.

My bed is spread with beautiful colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Only the rich owned furniture in their homes in this world. So this **guy** thinks **he's** hitting the jackpot. A beautiful **woman**, a great feast, a luxurious setting, exotic experiences are all just waiting for **him**. **Her** sexual enjoyment appeals to all the senses, not just touch and taste (**the peace offerings**), but also sight (**the colored linens**) and smell (**myrrh, aloes and cinnamon**).¹⁷⁶ Like **Potifar's wife** (see the commentary on **Genesis Ji - Potiphar's Wife said: Come to Bed with Me!**), **she** doesn't mince words, saying: **Come, let's drink our fill of "love" till morning; let us delight ourselves with caresses (7:16-18 NLT).**

Her final argument aims to remove **the young man's** fear of **her husband** catching **them** in **adultery**. **You** have nothing to fear **for my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He has taken his bag of money with him and will not be home until the moon is full (7:19-20 Hebrew).** The offer was **sin-with-no-regret**. **Her** enticements are similar to Satan's. Appealing to Eve's lust for food and a sense of independent wisdom, the Adversary threw aside Eve's reservation not to **sin** with the promise, "Nobody will ever know."¹⁷⁷ But if **she** is willing to betray **her husband**, why does **Mr. Dimwit** think **she** will be fair to **him**? When (not if) a man or woman tempts you with the assurance that no one will ever know, that person is really saying to you, "**God** doesn't exist." **With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk (7:21 NIV).**

The kill (7:22-23): Finally, with **her** pathetic lies, **she** captures **him**. This **young man**, on impulse, falls for the temptation. **Suddenly he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer caught in a trap awaiting the arrow that would pierce his heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing that it would cost him his life (7:22-23 NIV).** But why like a dumb **ox**? Because **the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).** They just are. We cannot change that by any amount of wishful thinking. We must not think, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." It doesn't. But by the time this **young man** feels the consequences, it will be too late.¹⁷⁸

Thus, listen to me, my son, and pay attention to what I say. Solomon gave advice to **his son** to keep **him** out of the trap: **Don't** be gullible, **don't let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths (7:24-25 NIV).** In other words,

stay far away. Don't allow **yourself** to get close to falling into **adultery**. If **the Adulteress** comes and meets **you** on the road, **turn** the other way. Don't walk in the red-light district if **you** want to avoid **sin**.¹⁷⁹

He was not the only one. History is like a battlefield, with casualties of sexual foolishness lying everywhere. **For she has been the ruin of many; numerous men have been her victims**. It is no accident that Babylon's most important female deity, Ishtar, was the goddess of love and war, because in this world of folly (see the commentary on [First Corinthians An - The Foolishness of Worldly Wisdom](#)), sex and violence have long gone together. But Ishtar is a powerful goddess. In our modern world, studies now show that pornography can rewire the brain with addictive power, taking us prisoner.¹⁸⁰ The result being: **Her house is the road to the grave** (see [Af - Sh'ol](#)). **Her bedroom is the den of death (7:26-27 NLT)**.

But we can be wired back for intimacy with **ADONAI** and real relationships with others through **God's** redeeming **love**. It is not good enough for us to know how foolish we have been. We also need to know how good it really is to be **loved**. Maybe you have noticed that something is missing from this entire passage here in **Proverbs**. The word "**God**" doesn't appear anywhere in the text. But elsewhere in the Bible we find out how good it is to be **loved** by **Him**.

Don't you know that your bodies are parts of the Messiah? So, am I to take parts of the Messiah and make them parts of a prostitute? Heaven forbid (Hebrew: *chalilah*, meaning *that's a contradiction, it makes no sense*)! **Sexual** relations involve a union; **the man** and **the woman** become **one flesh**. The most essential meaning of the phrase **one flesh**, is **sexual** union (**Mt 19:4-6a**). **Don't you know that a man who joins himself to a prostitute becomes physically one with her? For the TaNaKh says, "The two will become one flesh" (Gen 2:24), but the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (1 Cor 6:15-17)**. The believer who commits *porneia* ends up getting **the Lord** involved in the act because he and **Messiah** are **one** (**Jn 14:18-23, 15:4** and **7**). Since the believer is **one** with **Him**, and **he** is **one** with **the prostitute**, our **Lord** is placed in an unthinkable position in **Paul's** reasoning. **Messiah** is not personally tainted with **the sin**, any more than the sunbeam that shines on a garbage dump is polluted. But **His** reputation is dirtied because of the association. Not good.¹⁸¹

As Ray Ortland explains in his commentary on *Proverbs*, the concept of being "**born again**" (see the commentary on [The Life of Christ Bv - Jesus Teaches](#)

Nicodemus) is biblical, but it is often misunderstood. Many people need to be saved from their salvation. They have been **“born again”** in the sense that they have believed in **Messiah** by faith, but have failed to realize that there is a difference between **ADONAI** as savior and **ADONIA** as **Lord**. This is how **First Corinthians 6:15-17** above shows us the difference.¹⁸²

There is a difference between **Messiah** being **the Savior** of your life and **Him** being **the Lord** of your life. If you don't surrender all the “sacred cows” of your life to **Yeshua**, then **He** is not **the Lord** of your life. You retain control of parts of your life that you don't want to surrender. You might say, “**Lord**, I trust **You** with my marriage, but I need to be in control of my finances.” Or you think, “**Lord**, I trust **You** with my job, but I need to control my sex life.” If you think like that, you are only flirting with Him. You need to fully surrender. **He loves** you unconditionally even though you hold out on **Him**. But your relationship will suffer.

Here is what it means to be a believer. You become joined to **the Lord Yeshua Messiah**, in body and spirit, through **His** finished work on the cross. Through the baptism of **the Ruach Ha’Kodesh**, you are actually united with **Messiah** in such a way that what is true of **Messiah** is true of you, minus **His** deity (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Kt - I Am the True Vine**). From head to toe, all that you are is not only *for* **Messiah** but also *of* **Messiah**. That includes your sexuality, married or single, because you are one with **Messiah**. You have been joined by grace to **the Lord**. You have been brought into union with the most loving **Person** in the universe. **He** is giving **His love** to you with all **His** passionate heart. **The Bible is saying that Messiah and you have become one spirit, the way a married man and woman become one flesh.** But to be one spirit is even more profound, more intimate, deeper and richer than to be one flesh. And **Paul** wrote to sinful believers. Throughout the B’rit Chadashah **the Corinthian** church was the biggest mess of all. Nevertheless, **Messiah loves** and redeems people that no one else can **love**. **He loves** you to this full extent. Will you believe it? Will you receive it? Will you make **Him the Lord** of your life and surrender everything to **Him**?

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** that **Your love** is far more wonderful, more valuable, more comforting than any other joy, pleasure or earthly lover. **Your** steadfast **love** is such a great joy and comfort that it is better than life. David proclaimed what a comfort and rock of strength **Your love** was when he was in the midst of the wilderness and his life was in danger. David was comforted by knowing **Your** great **love** for him and he considered **Your love** even better than life! **Since Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You (Psalms***

63:3).

You are never too busy for me. **My help comes from ADONAI, Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. Your Keeper will not slumber. Behold, the Keeper of Isra'el neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalms 121:2-4). You** delight in hearing and answering my prayers. **Now this is the confidence we have before Him - that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have the requests we have asked from Him (First John 5:14-15). Your wisdom** always gives the best and perfect answer. **But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all without hesitation and without reproach; and it will be given to him (James 1:5).**

Following **Your love** is the wisest thing to do. Other loves may look flashy for a short time but they will soon be over. **Your** love is both deep, wide and eternal! **I pray that from His glorious riches He would grant you to be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Ruach, so that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to grasp with all the kedoshim what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled up with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19). Thank You** for offering me **Your** awesome **love** and having **You** as my heavenly **Father**. In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen