

Proverbs 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. 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. 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 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. 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." 21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. 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. 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.

Solomon spends the entirety of chapter 7 talking about the immoral woman and the men she destroys. The immoral woman can capture the simple and the mighty. At the beginning of the chapter Solomon describes the one trapped by the

seductress as "simple" and "devoid of understanding." He is easily convinced by human reasoning. The immoral woman convinces him that they will never get caught. Once she has set her hook he immediately goes after her as an ox to the slaughter and a fool to jail.

Eventually an arrow will strike his liver and he will die. There is no escape. Solomon says, "Her house is the way of hell, descending to the chambers of death."

Notice also that this is something that takes place in the darkness of the night. If you are trying to keep something a secret, you probably shouldn't be doing it.

Here is the advice Solomon gives:

1. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways.
2. Do not stray unto her path.

One thing that really struck me from this passage is the phrase, "And all who were slain by her were strong men." Never get to the point where you think you are beyond the reach of the immoral woman. She has taken down men mightier than us. I'm reminded of 1 Cor 10:11-13 where Paul writes, "*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 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.*"

This passage provides both a warning and an assurance. The warning is, don't ever think you are out of the devil's reach. The comfort is, God will provide a way to defeat the devil when you come face-to-face with him in battle.

If you are a king, a president, a senator, congressmen, a pastor, a preacher, or simply a disciple, you need to hear Solomon's warning to avoid anything that would entice you to travel down the path to sexual immorality.