

**Proverbs 7:1** ¶ My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.  
**Proverbs 7:2** Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

**Proverbs 7:3** Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

As you compare verse 1 with verse 24, it again seems as though Solomon is talking to a group of his sons, but using the personal pronoun to emphasize that what he is teaching is important to each one of them. He urges his sons to make his commandments a part of their being by memorizing them and living in obedience to them. They should consider them to be very dear, as dear as “the apple of your eye,” a reference to the pupil, a part of the body that one takes great care to protect. In verse 3 Solomon is again painting a word picture of memorizing the father’s commandments and making them part of one’s being.

Application from Ironside: "Constant dwelling on the Word of God preserves from sin. Notice that the Word is to be bound and written on both hand and heart. This involves far more than cursory reading of the Scriptures. It is making God’s Word an integral part of one’s life by daily feeding on it that preserves the soul."

**Proverbs 7:4** Say unto wisdom, Thou *art* my sister; and call understanding *thy* kinswoman:

**Proverbs 7:5** That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.

Solomon tells his sons to consider wisdom as a dear sister, something he treasures. The Hebrew for “kinswoman” was interesting; its root stated, “to know (properly, to ascertain by seeing).” This seems to be saying that understanding in this instance comes from observation, which leads directly to the next verse.

**Proverbs 7:6** ¶ For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

**Proverbs 7:7** And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

**Proverbs 7:8** Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

**Proverbs 7:9** In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

**Proverbs 7:10** And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

**Proverbs 7:11** (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

**Proverbs 7:12** Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)

At this point, Solomon begins to tell a story of something he observed. He was looking out the window one day and saw a foolish young man that was obviously unaware of the danger he was about to encounter. He was walking along the street one evening in the dark of night when he came to a corner of the street on which was located the house of a harlot; the implication seems to be that he was aware of who lived there. She was outside, waiting to seduce someone. He noted that the woman was dressed seductively. She was the type of woman that made a point to call attention to herself for immoral purposes and walked about the streets, seeking her next victim.

**Proverbs 7:13 So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,**

**Proverbs 7:14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.**

**Proverbs 7:15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.**

**Proverbs 7:16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.**

**Proverbs 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.**

**Proverbs 7:18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us solace ourselves with loves.**

**Proverbs 7:19 For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:**

**Proverbs 7:20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.**

When the young man approached, she went out and boldly kissed him. She indicated that she had a portion of meat to share with him since she had paid her religious vows that very day. Thinking—Why would she be making a peace offering if she rejects the rest of God’s law?

EBC Abridged: “Apparently the sacrificial worship meant as little to her spiritually as does Christmas to modern hypocrites. Her reference to these fellowship offerings may mean nothing more than that she has fresh meat for a meal or else that she is ceremonially clean, perhaps after her period.”

She told the young man that she had come out seeking him. Thinking—Did she expect him because he walked by her house on a regular basis?

She told him that she had prepared her bed with fine line from Egypt and fragrant spices. She then blatantly asked him to come and “take our fill of love” for each other until the morning because her husband was away from home on a long journey; he was

on a business trip that would keep him away until a specific time. In other words, you have nothing to fear.

Clarke: "The Vulgate says, "at the full moon." The Targum, "the day of the assembly." In other words, He will return by the approaching festival."

"take our fill of love" - This is such a misleading statement. Such activity is not an act of love, but of lust. Young people are so easily misled; they don't realize the truth. More mature people know the truth, but choose to ignore it. It eases their conscience, if it isn't already seared, to call it love.

**Proverbs 7:21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.**

**Proverbs 7:22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;**

**Proverbs 7:23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.**

She continued to flatter him until he finally yielded to her seduction and followed her as readily as an ox that is headed to the slaughter or a fool that is headed to punishment in the stocks; in both situations the victim has no clue of the danger that awaits him. He follows her like a bird that heads to the trap and has no clue that his life is in danger until struck by an arrow.

Verse 22 is translated differently in the NIV: "*All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose.*" The meaning remains the same; the young man is walking foolishly into the trap of sin that will cause his ruin.

**Proverbs 7:24 ¶ Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.**

**Proverbs 7:25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.**

**Proverbs 7:26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.**

**Proverbs 7:27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.**

Solomon concludes the story by urging his children to pay close attention to what he is saying and obey him. He urged them not to let their heart lead them astray by falling for the seduction of the evil woman. He warns that many men have been destroyed by consorting with her. To go to her house is start down the path to hell and death.

Guzik: "Solomon understood that adultery and sexual immorality begins in the **heart**. It doesn't begin in the hormones or glands, and it doesn't begin in the heart in a romantic sense. In the sense that the **heart** describes our deepest loves and desires, a heart that does not properly love and desire God but does love and desire pleasure will **turn aside** to sexual immorality."

EBC Abridged: "A man's life is not destroyed in one instant; it is taken from him gradually as he enters into a course of life that will leave him as another victim of the wages of sin."

It is interesting to think about Solomon giving this counsel in light of his "love life."

*1 Kings 11:1-4 "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father."*

Obviously, he is giving this advice to his sons before his heart was turned against God. Still, one can't help but wonder how the fact that he had so many wives affected how his sons received his teaching. The one we know of, Rehoboam, certainly was no paragon of virtue.