



Proverbs 7

Message: Warning Against the Adulterous Woman

Proverbs 7 warns against the dangers of adultery and seduction, particularly for young people. It uses a story about a foolish young man being led astray by an adulterous woman to illustrate the destructive consequences of yielding to temptation. The chapter emphasizes the importance of following God's wisdom and commandments as a way to avoid such dangers.

Proverbs 7 presents a **vivid narrative** where a naïve young man is lured by a woman who is dressed provocatively and behaves recklessly. She uses flattery and promises to draw him into a sexual encounter, emphasizing the absence of her husband and the potential for pleasure.

The Consequences: The story ultimately highlights the destructive nature of such actions. The young man, blinded by lust and desire, is trapped and ultimately suffers the consequences of his actions. The chapter compares this to the fate of an ox, a deer, or a bird caught in a trap, emphasizing the inevitability of pain and destruction.

The Warning: The chapter concludes with a direct warning to Solomon's son to guard their hearts and minds against such temptations. It stresses the importance of listening

to wisdom and keeping God's commandments as a way to stay on the right path and avoid the perils of temptation.

Key Themes:

Proverbs 7 reinforces several key themes from the book: the importance of wisdom, the dangers of sin and temptation, and the need for careful discernment. It also underscores the idea that yielding to temptation can lead to ruin and suffering.

In contrast to the Proverbs 31 woman, the Proverbs 7 woman is the prototypical "wild thing." She's rowdy and has lost her moorings, deciding she's going to make her own decisions about how to live her life; about her sexuality, and about how to interact with men.

The woman in Proverbs 7 is a young married woman who crosses boundaries and puts no hedges of protection around her to avoid sin—she plots and plans an adulterous relationship. It tells us she is "wily of heart," which means she is crafty and manipulative. She will get people to do what she wants. It does not say she is a prostitute, but she is dressed as a prostitute, and we see she is a "church-going" woman as she has "offered sacrifices." Her heart is not centered at home, and she is ungovernable or "wayward" and remains intent on getting what she wants.

She is aggressive and takes charge in her relationship as she "seizes him and kisses him." This young woman took matters into her own hands as she planned a seductive evening for this young man while her husband was away on business. The outcome is devastating to both of them because sin always has consequences.