

The Seduction of Sin

Based on Proverbs 7:6-23

Introduction

- Where are you in your spiritual journey today?
 - Are you discouraged, overwhelmed with personal problems?
 - Do you feel you have lost relevancy with Christ, distant from Him?
 - Are you struggling with personal sin and feel like giving up?
- Or perhaps you're fighting the good fight.

Today I would like to talk about our struggle with personal sin and how we can get the victory.

We all struggle in the area of temptation and personal sin.

We are living in difficult times.

2 Tim. 3:1 *"But mark this: There will be difficult/terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power."*

Matt. 24:12 *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."*

- Why do we get trapped into doing wrong and sin even when we want to do what is right?
- It is because we are enticed and seduced by the charms of sin.

What is sin?

It is the breaking of the spiritual law or moral principle, through a willful act. While the wrongs we do are certainly a by-product of sin, they are not the sum and substance of sin.

In the overall meaning sin is rebelling against God and rejecting God and defying who He is and what He stands for.

Proverbs 7

- In this chapter sin is depicted as a prostitute or an adulterous woman who pulls people away from the path of righteousness.
- How does sin capture and enamor us? It woos us. It seduces us!
- It shows only what we want to see, tells us only what we want to hear, promises only what we want to happen.
- Literally it seduces us, seeking to become our constant companion, a lover to whom we are devoted and enslaved.
- How does this seduction by sin actually happen? And why do we so easily fall prey to its enticement?

Proverbs 7:6-23 depicts the seduction process and clearly illustrates why we respond as readily as we do to sin. Through this chapter we are going to learn how to be better equipped to withstand the charms of sin.

Verse 6 – The story begins with a witness observing from his window someone being entrapped by sin. The witness has chosen to remain inside, closeting himself and protecting himself from overt sin. We must never purposely expose ourselves to sin and evil. If we do we run the risk of becoming trapped by it.

Verse 7 – The observer sees someone becoming victim of sin - a simple young inexperienced man lacking better judgment. He is not wise. He doesn't realize that he is putting himself in a precarious situation – in harm's way. He is not considering the consequences of his actions. He is not bringing

into perspective the implications of what he is about to do. All of his attention is given to gratify his desire and perhaps fantasy.

-The ramifications of his act are going to harm him.

Proverbs 2:11-12 *"Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse."*

Verse 8 – He is putting himself in a very vulnerable situation and exposing himself to sin. He literally puts himself in the path of sin. He is playing with fire and he is going to get hurt. Sin leads to injury.

2 Tim. 2:22 *"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness."*

Verse 9 – Twilight, day fading as the dark of night sets in. This foolish lad spent a long time waiting and lingering. He is waiting in darkness and in seclusion. He is toying and flirting with temptation, eventually he talked himself into doing what he knew he shouldn't.

We are not unlike this youth. More often than we care to admit we skirt on the edge of respectability, tease ourselves with impurity and rationalize our behavior when we overstep the boundaries of morality.

Notice it was getting very dark. Sin and evil is often committed in darkness.

Ephesians 5:11-12 *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret."*

He may have been thinking, "In the dark no one will know if I give in." What can we learn from this? We are apt to sin if we think we won't get caught. More often we convince ourselves that no one will know or find out, but sooner or later we will get caught. There's a very real spiritual law which says, *"Be sure your sins will find you out."* (Num. 32:23).

Prov. 5:21-23 *"For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly."*

Verse 10 – The harlot is dressed to kill. She is the personification of wickedness and sin. Her esthetics appeal to her victims. She evokes lust through the victim's eyes. Sin eagerly awaits our consent and will take any foothold it can get.

Verses 11-12 – We are told that she (sin) is cunning of heart...boisterous and rebellious. It is sin's nature to be deceitful, to have hidden motives and manipulative ploys.

Two characteristics of sin are described here:

1/ It is boisterous and loud 2/ It is rebellious and defiant.

Sin's seduction is unruly, wild, and at times uncontrollable. At the beginning sin may be subtle, like before the lion attacks its prey, but it is never subdued.

Sin is everywhere and it lurks all around us. As believers we are saved from the penalty of sin but not from its presence.

Justification means we are saved from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification means we are being saved from the power of sin.

Glorification means we will be saved from the presence of sin.

Verse 13 – What a greeting the foolish young man received! She grabs him and kisses him. She kissed him to evoke an emotional response, to make him feel desired and wanted. What an appeal to the ego! With a brazen face she speaks. No shame or guilt. That’s how sin lures us.

Verse 14 *"I have fellowship offerings at home"*. She had an abundance of food. *"I fulfilled my vows"*. What she is saying is that she has performed her religious duties. She is disarming his conscience. To ease any thought of guilt or moral obligation. Does this sound familiar? "I'm a religious person", "I believe in God", "I pray at times", "I go to church", "I give to the poor when I can."
We tend to rationalize our sin by thinking that we're not really that bad. We'll make it up to God after.

Verse 15 – "So I came out to meet **you** I looked for **you** and have found **you**!" Again an appeal to the ego. The center of attention – self, ego. More or less she was thinking: "Talk to him. Appeal to his ego and pretend he’s interesting."

Verses 16-18 – An appeal to the senses - the sensual
The eyes: *"I have covered my bed with coloured linens from Egypt."*
The nose: *"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon."*
Taste: *"Come let's drink deep of love till morning."*
Touch: *"let's enjoy ourselves with love."*

Verses 19-20 – There is no one around and no one will find out. We can spend a long, long time together.

Verse 21 – With many persuasive words she seduced him. She gave him no time to rethink or reconsider. She pushed herself on to him. That’s how sin works. It throws everything at us just to fulfill the lust of our heart.

Verses 22-23 – *"All at once he followed her"*. He fell for the trap he had setup for himself. Now he is led off with a chord around his neck like an ox to be slaughtered.
"An arrow pierces him" He did not have the armor on. He left himself exposed to be taken down by the enemy. The consequence of this fall will cost him his reputation and eventually his life.
"...little knowing it will cost him his life." Playing games with sin is a very serious thing. It has consequences. Sin gives birth to death.
Sin fascinates then assassinates!

Conclusion

James 1:13-15

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Next week we are going to look at how God provides a way out.
We are going to look at "How to Safeguard Against Sin."