

Love Or Lust?

I. How To Spot A "Bad Date"

Proverbs 2:16-22

16 To deliver you from **the immoral woman**, From **the seductress** who flatters with her words, **17 Who forsakes** the companion of her youth, And **forgets the covenant** of her God.

**[a woman who "won't commit" to marriage]
[totally selfish; cares for no one else
—and this means YOU]**

18 For her house leads **down to death**, And her paths **to the dead**; **19 None who go to her return, Nor do they regain** the paths of life-

**[one-way street to HELL (if you don't repent)]
[even if you are the first for her, you won't be the last—
has she done this before, or will she do it again?]**

20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. **21** For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; **22** But **the wicked** will be cut off from the earth, And **the unfaithful** will be uprooted from it.

**[clear-cut decision; no circumstance(s) cloud the issue]
[God's terms are definite and set: immoral, seductress,
forsaker of husband, forgetter of God, wicked,
unfaithful = Romans 7:1-3]**

II. "Picture Perfect"

Proverbs 5:1-23

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; **Lend your ear** to my understanding, **2** That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge.

[listen to good advice before "she" speaks]

3 For the lips of **an immoral woman** drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; **4 But in the end she is bitter** as wormwood, **Sharp** as a two-edged sword. **5 Her feet** go down to **death**, **Her steps** lay hold of **hell**. **6** Lest you ponder her path of life-**Her ways** are **unstable**; You do not know them. **7** Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. **8 Remove your way far from her,**

And do not go near the door of her house,

[how she really looks CF Proverbs 23:31-33]

**[the only dependable thing about her is—
she takes you down to hell with her!]**

9 Lest **you give your honor** to others, **And your years** to the cruel one; **10** Lest aliens be filled with **your wealth**, And **your labors** go to the house of a foreigner; **11** And **you mourn** at last, **When your flesh and your body are consumed**, **12** And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! **13** I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! **14** I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation."

**[that "flushing sound" is your entire life
going down the drain]**

**[the "victim" is NOT innocent, but self-destroyed!]
[conscience can really hurt, too late—after the fact!]**

15 Drink water from **your own cistern**, And running water from **your own well**. **16** **Should your fountains** be dispersed abroad, **Streams of water** in the streets? **17** Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. **18** **Let your fountain be blessed**, And **rejoice with** the wife of your youth. **19** As a **loving deer** and a **graceful doe**, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And **always be enraptured with her love**.

[faithfully married is the ONLY safe sex!]

[keep focused on what you have, not what you have not]

[marriage should give a man: purity, satisfaction, seduction, gratification verses 18-19]

20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by **an immoral woman**, And be embraced in the arms of **a seductress**? **21** **For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD**, And He ponders **all his paths**. **22** **His own iniquities** entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in **the cords of his sin**. **23** **He shall die for lack of instruction**, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

[Joseph knew this, Genesis 39:6-12]

[have a God-aware conscience, Hebrews 4:13]

III. There's No Else One To Blame

Proverbs 6:20-7:27

20 My son, keep your **father's command**, And do not forsake **the law of your mother**. **21** Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. **22** **When you roam**, they will lead you; **When you sleep**, they will keep you; **And when you awake**, they will speak with you. **23** **For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,**

[who's to blame from here on?
forewarned is forearmed, **2 Peter 3:17**]

24 **To keep you from the evil woman**, From the flattering tongue of **a seductress**. **25** Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids

[**"beauty is passing" 31:30**
[longing looks into lustful eyes don't find
"soul mates" 2 Kings 9:30; 2 Peter 2:14].

26 **For by means of a harlot** A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And **an adulteress** will prey upon his precious life.

27 Can a man take **fire to his bosom**, And his clothes not be burned? **28** Can one **walk on hot coals**, And his feet not be seared? **29** **So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.**

[what's the "Fear Factor" in this?]
[today, would it be "X-treme relationships"?]
[this simpleton will self-destruct in 10 seconds]

30 People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. **31** Yet when he is found, **he must restore sevenfold**; He may have to give up all the substance of his house.

[thievery is NOT excused by God, but it hasn't the same effect on its victim as adultery. There is NO "relative value" system to sin!]
["sevenfold" must represent completeness, for it is not so in Moses' Law, Exodus 22:1-15; Luke 19:8]
[what may adulterers/adulteresses have to "give up" to try to "take back" what they have done?]

32 **Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.**

33 **Wounds and dishonor** he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. **34** For **jealousy is a husband's fury**; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. **35** **He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased** though you give many gifts.

[it is NEVER based on need but greed]
[it is totally unjustifiable & inexcusable]

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.

[Safety Rules are given for a reason]
[name your "next of kin"]

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**.

**["simple"=without moral guide;
"youths"=without experience;
"devoid of understanding"=without knowledge]
[by stealth of darkness, John 3:19; 12:35-36, 46]**

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.

**[the invitation fills his senses (of sight, sound, smell,
security) and he loses his sense (of judgment)!]**

["macho" means "like an animal"]

**[an "ox" is easily led; a "fool" is easily duped;
a "bird" is easily trapped—none have foresight]**

[can you say "Stupid"?)]

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.**

[Samson lost to Delilah, **Judges 16:4-21**]
[there is no "return address" for fools!]
[the original "chamber of horrors"]

IV. An Offer You MUST Refuse!

Proverbs 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous; She is **simple**, and **knows nothing.** **14** For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, **15 To call to those who pass by**, Who go straight on their way: **16** "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; **And as for him who lacks understanding**, she says to him, **17** "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." **18 But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.**

[immoral, brash, indecent, ignorant—what a "catch"!]
[nothing personal—she'll "bed" any fool!]
[it's exciting, like thievery—who can resist?]
[however, there's absolutely no "honor among thieves"]

V. She Will Show You "No Mercy"

Proverbs 30:20 This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wickedness."

[no pangs of conscience, whatever--
AND NO LOVE FOR YOU, EITHER!]