

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 13

Proverbs 7

INTRODUCTION: In listing the great chapters of the Bible, one would hardly expect to find the 7th chapter of Proverbs included. However, here is a chapter that should be taught to every child and teenager. It shows the steps into sin and impurity taken by young people. For the study of this chapter, we will deal with verses 6 through 27. Notice the step-by-step fall into sin.

- I. LACK OF INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING. Read Proverbs 7:7. Here is a young man who has not been trained. He has not been taught properly. Ah, here is the place to start. Parents should start in early childhood, training the child to be decent and giving him understanding about the temptations to impurity and looseness with the opposite sex.
- II. IDLE TIME. See Proverbs 7:8a. Notice the words, “Passing through the street.” Here goes the young person headed toward sin. He begins by just hanging around. A young person should be kept busy. His parents should know where he is at all times. He should not just hang around places with nothing to do.
- III. BAD NEIGHBORHOOD. In Proverbs 7:8, notice the words, “Passing through the street near her corner.” If he hadn’t been in the wrong place, he wouldn’t have gone to her house; but he first idles his time away, and then he goes to the wrong place. Then you also find in verse 8, “and he went the way to her house.” The person who doesn’t drink will more likely begin to drink if he hangs around places where liquor is served. A young person will come nearer cursing if he hangs around with the cursing crowd. It is vitally important that our young people be taught to stay away from places where wrong is the usual.
- IV. LATE HOURS. Notice Proverbs 7:9. He continues his downward fall. He stays out too late. John 3:19b says, “...men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” Young people should not be allowed to stay out into the late hours.
- V. IMPROPER CLOTHING. In Proverbs 7:10, notice the words, “the attire of an harlot.” (Teacher: Stress here the importance of dressing modestly and the danger of girls wearing miniskirts, shorts, clothing that is too tight, etc.)
- VI. UNLADYLIKE CONDUCT. Read Proverbs 7:11. Here he reminds us that a lady is supposed to have a quiet and meek spirit. A young lady is asking for trouble when she becomes loud, stubborn, rebellious, cocky, aggressive, etc.
- VII. ALONE ON THE STREETS. See Proverbs 7:12. You will notice that here is a young lady on the streets alone. This is very dangerous, especially in the night hours. Notice in verse 12 that she “lieth in wait at every corner.”
- VIII. A KISS. Notice in Proverbs 7:13 that she “kissed him.” The terrible sin will come later, but it starts with a kiss. Young people should be alerted to the dangers of kissing and having improper conduct between the sexes.
- IX. IMPROPER CONVERSATION. Read carefully Proverbs 7:14-18. It is very important that young people talk about the right things. When the conversation becomes immoral, the deeds will soon become immoral.
- X. THE FALL. This is found in Proverbs 7:22-27.

- XI. ADVICE TO PARENTS. Satan has pointed every weapon in his arsenal at our young people. Promiscuous petting, Hollywood movies, secular magazines, the new morality, lewdness in dress,

television, popular songs and the permissive society have all joined hands to try to corrupt the morals of our youth. If a child reaches the marriage altar retaining his purity in our generation, it certainly will be on purpose, not by accident. It will be the result of prayer, training, and discipline as administered by loving parents. These points are dedicated to helping us to rear clean, chaste and moral young people.

1. The child should attend a fundamental church that takes a stand against the permissive society, indecent dress, improper exposure of the body, and unwise association between the sexes. He should hear a man of God thunder against sin and for righteousness. He should be taught the “thou shalt nots” of the Bible. He should get the idea from early childhood that he is to keep his body pure and clean and save it for the one God has for him.
2. The wise parent will have definite rules about a boy and a girl not being in a car alone together. Our three daughters were never allowed to be alone in a car with a boy. More sin is committed in automobiles than in motel rooms and red-light districts. The wise parents will never say such things as, “I trust my daughter.” The truth is, the parent should not even trust himself in a circumstance that would lead to wrong. The Apostle Paul was always conscious of the possibility of his turning back. He warned the Galatian church that if he himself returned and preached any gospel other than the one they had heard, he should be accursed. The child who does not spend hours and hours alone with a member of the opposite sex in a car certainly has not missed anything that he shouldn’t miss.
3. A child should obey strict rules concerning his hours out of the house. Eleven o’clock was always the curfew at our house, and it is late enough for any child or teenager to be out. When Becky and her fiancé, Tim, were with me in my office planning their wedding, we were discussing the time of the wedding. Tim suggested a certain hour, and Becky looked at him with a startled expression and said, “Tim, we can’t have it that late; we wouldn’t get in by eleven!” All those years of having to be in by eleven had impressed her, and subconsciously she felt she should be in by eleven o’clock even on her wedding night.

Not only should these rules be set, but they should be rigidly enforced. When I was a boy, I was always in by eleven; but at the age of 17, one night I was with the wrong crowd, and I stayed out until after one o’clock. At one o’clock the wine bottle was passed around in the car. There were six of us present. Five took a drink. The bottle was in my hand; I lifted it to my mouth, when suddenly conviction like an arrow pierced my heart. I threw the bottle down and spilled it on the floor of the car and shouted, “TAKE ME HOME!” They laughed and made fun, but they took me home. When I got home, I saw a beautiful sight. My mother was kneeling in front of the old wood stove praying for me. She was praying something like this: “Dear Lord, bless Jack. Keep him pure; keep him clean. He has always been a good boy. You know, dear Lord, I have had to be both a mother and a father to Jack. I have done my best. Please take care of him and help him to be a good boy.” I then said, “Mama.” She looked up and jumped into my arms and said, “Son, I knew you wouldn’t do anything wrong.” That was the last time I ever got home late. Let us teach our boys and girls to have strict hours.

4. The parent should teach the child the sanctity of the body. Girls should be taught that their bodies are very sacred and should be treated as such. A boy should be taught of the sanctity of his own body and of how sacred is the body of a little girl. Children should be reminded that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Each child should be taught to keep his own body dedicated and pure and to observe the sanctity of the opposite sex.
5. The child should be taught to be disciplined in his eating habits. This may seem strange in a lesson on purity, but children who have no restraint in the feeding of their bodies will likely have little or no restraint in resisting other temptations that come to the body. If leaving off stimulating food, such as highly seasoned sauces and other foods hard to digest, does nothing else, it at least teaches the child to say “no” to the appetites of the body. This discipline can be transferred to the temptation of immorality and misbehavior toward the opposite sex. One discipline helps another.

6. Proper clothing should be worn. Tight clothing should be discouraged. Clothing that needlessly irritates the body should not be worn. Clothing that exposes too much of the body should be avoided.
7. The child should have the proper physical exercise. Active, muscular exercise utilizes a vital force that is a powerful moral factor. It is best that a child have plenty of physical exercise.
8. The parent should see to it that the child is very busy. Somebody has said that the only men free from bad habits are those whose paths keep them so everlasting busy that they never have any time to go loafing. The parent should help create hobbies that will tend to fill the idle hours as well as keep boys and girls apart much of the time. Seize every opportunity to use a child's interests toward a proper hobby.

Along this line, it is wise for a child not to develop hobbies that are quiet and cause him to be alone. Too many hours of listening to stereo music is not good. Too many hours of playing alone is not good. Hours spent behind locked doors are dangerous. Outdoor games are better than indoor games. Active games are better than quiet games. Group games are better than games played alone.

9. The child should not be allowed to attend Hollywood movies or read questionable literature. Plenty of good literature should be provided, especially novels of adventure, heroic action, etc.
10. When a child reaches the teen years, he should be challenged by his parents to set a goal of staying pure until he gives himself to the one of God's choice. This should be stressed over and over again so that he will work and point toward such a goal. It should be one of the biggest goals in his life and should be constantly kept before him.
11. The child should never be allowed to see his parents unclothed. Modern psychologists and counselors seem to think they know more than God along this line. The simple truth is that the Lord frowns on children being able to see the bodies of the parents. Such things as bathing together, undressing together, etc. should be taboo! It is unscriptural!
12. Little boys should play with little boys, and little girls should play with little girls. Brother Hyles' daughters were never allowed to play with little boys, and his son was never allowed to play with little girls. So many children have drifted toward homosexuality because of boys developing feminine tendencies and girls developing masculine tendencies.
13. The child should never be allowed to be alone unclothed or scantily clothed. After bathing, he should be required to clothe himself completely. This eliminates presenting unnecessary opportunities for a child to fondle his own body or become overly interested in himself and his body.
14. A girl should do girl's work, and a boy should do boy's work. In an effort to make ladies of girls and men of boys, the parents should see to it that the girl does not mow the yard, prune the trees, chop the garden, etc. These are boys' tasks. The boy should not wash the dishes, iron, etc. These are girls' tasks. The boy should mow the yard, clean the garage, clean the basement, do repair work around the house, etc.; and by all means, he should be taught to sweat. This is vital, not only in making him normal, but also in keeping him pure.
15. The mother should counsel with the daughter; and the father, with the son. In some cases, the order may have to be reversed because of parents being unwilling to cooperate; but as children grow older, they should be taught about reproduction, etc. All writers on the subject of sexual immorality agree that it is largely due to ignorance. Because this is true, this does not give the schoolteacher a license to train someone else's child about such delicate and sacred subjects. There comes a time in the life of a young lady when she needs to have a talk with her mother. It may be explained to her that for long months she was a part of her mother's life; and, after long days of pain, suffering and discomfort, she actually came from her mother's body. With tender words, nothing but the holiest feelings can be aroused from such a conversation. Children should be taught to talk on these subjects with no one but their mothers and fathers. It should be explained that this is too sacred a field to discuss with others and that God has made this so sacred that the discussion should be within the family circle.

A girl has a right to instruction concerning the hygiene of menstruation, the function and sacredness of motherhood, and care of infants. The time when this should be taught is up to the individual mother; but it should always be done very privately, sweetly, tenderly, and with prayerful and godly atmosphere.

Boys and girls should be taught proper hygiene. They should be warned about venereal diseases and should, in general, be instructed by those who love them most and those whom God gave them to instruct them concerning life.

Stress should be given to the fact that no joke should ever be told about something so sacred. Girls should be taught to shrink from every touch and to resent any approach to familiarity on the part of a boy. Again, let it be emphasized that the parents should decide when these subjects are approached. They alone should teach them. When the young people decide to marry, the wise parent will have a long talk with the young person, giving him proper books to read and advising him to seek medical advice concerning marriage, love, reproduction, etc.

Let there be much charity given as we think of when and how the aforementioned should be done, but let us leave it to the parents and not shove the responsibility off to some public schoolteacher whom we hardly know, if at all. The modern sex education program in the public schools is certainly unwise, unscriptural, and oftentimes immoral. Let us keep something so sacred in the confines of the family circle or, at best, within the confines of the pastor, doctor, and parents.