

For the purposes of this message we will consider “seduction” to refer to those acts of persuasion, except for physical coercion, that lead to sexual intimacy including any mental or emotional aspect. Jesus expanded the realm of sexual intimacy from the physical to the mental and emotional in Matthew 5:28, which fits well with the exhortation in Proverbs to guard one’s heart.

The world around us is full of attempts to seduce, a not unsurprising fact in light of Romans 1:24. But this should challenge us to be prepared to stand firm against seduction.

I. **The disastrous outcome of seduction**

1. *Death* – Prov 7:27; 2:18-19; 5:5.
2. *Hurt & Ruin* – Proverbs 5: 3-4, 8-11.
3. *Regret* – Proverbs 5:12-14
4. *Devaluation* – Proverbs 6:26

II. **The many faces of seduction**

1. *Physically seductive attraction* – Physical attraction is intended for marriage but misused in seduction (*cf.* the Song of Solomon; Pro 5:18-19. It is warned about as improper outside of marriage (Prov 6:25; 7:13). It is implied that a woman’s clothing can be seductive (Prov 7:10; *cf.* 1 Pet 3:1-6; Prov 31:30).
2. *Seductive words* – There appears to be greater warnings about seductive words than physical attraction (Prov 2:16; 7:5; 5:3; 6:24; 7:21). Smooth talk seems to please the ego. It suggests special importance (7:15), special attention (7:16-17), and special pleasures (7:18).
3. *Emotionally seductive attraction* – This is tied closely to seductive words which play with the emotions. It is “sweet talk”, lips dripping with honey (5:3). Words alone take the man captive (5:20 – captivated, intoxicated, exhilarated, enraptured). Some profess an emotional excitement to the secretiveness (Prov 9:17). of being secretive. Even the wayward woman and young man of Proverbs 7 might have felt this.
4. *Unintentional seduction* – It may not be the intent of a person to lead another into a illicit relationship, but that is where it heads. It may start as a desire for attention, or from being naive. But these are the problems of the “simple” in Proverbs and the call to learn wisdom is appropriate.

III. **The effective war against seduction**

1. *Guard your path!* ... by avoiding the places of seduction (Prov 7:25; 5:8) and by being open, obvious, and public in all relationships (Prov 9:17; Prov 7:9, 19-20 – a secretiveness can be inferred).
2. *Guard your eyes!* (Pro 23:26-27; Job 31:1)
3. *Guard your heart!* The eyes are the gateway to the heart and are often mentioned together (Prov 23:26; Matth 6:22-23; Prov 6:25). We can guard our hearts by knowing God’s Word, being obedient to it and accepting his discipline (Prov 7:4-5; Prov 6:23; Psalm 119:9, 11). We need to see ourselves as God does (James 1:23-25) and guard against any idolatry of the heart (Rom 1:22-24).
4. *Enlist help!* The married man can receive help from his wife in a healthy sexual relationship (1 Cor 7:1-5; *cf.* Prov 5:18-19) and in her having Biblical priorities – peace, gentleness, and a quiet spirit – above even physical “attractiveness” (1 Pet 3:1-6), “good food” (Pro 15:17; 17:1), or a luxurious home (Prov 21:9, 19). Every man can be helped by fighting together with 1 or 2 other trusted men (Eccl. 4:9-12).

IV. **The danger for a woman**

Though Proverbs was written primarily to young men, much can still be inferred from Proverbs concerning women as well from other Scriptures.

1. Women, too, can be seduced, as can be inferred from the following “faces of seduction” in Proverbs.
 - a. It can be “seductive” when a man ranks a woman higher in his life than another (also special) woman. *Cf.* Prov 30:21-23 and 31:28-31. The servant girl has her ego fed (and becomes arrogant) when elevated above the wife. The wife uniquely should be appreciated (and praised) not merely for beauty but especially for her character.
 - b. It can be “seductive” when a man gives a woman the things she values. This might especially include time and attention, what the absentee husband of Proverbs 7 was not giving and the wayward woman was apparently seeking.
2. A woman, too, can effectively war against seduction. The guidelines above are equally appropriate: guard your path, your eyes and your heart. Specifically, guard against those things which de-sensitizes you to the seriousness of infidelity or sexual immorality, *cf.* Prov 30:20.

God desires for all His children, single or married, to avoid sexual immorality. It is sin against one’s own body (1 Cor 6:18), against Christ (1 Cor 6:15-20) and against others (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). It distorts the picture given in the marriage relationship of the union which Christ has with His Body, the Church (Eph 5:22-33). We need to effectively fight against seduction and commit ourselves to purity. The fear of the Lord and applying God’s Word to our hearts is a great place to begin.