

The Slippery Slope

Strengthening Your Purity – Path to Destruction – Proverbs 7

Kids love snow days. Adults despise them.

Maybe you remember the times of waking up and seeing that it was snowing and snow had already deeply blanketed the earth while you were sleeping. Any other day and your mom would be struggling to get you out of bed, but on a snow day, you are racing down stairs to see the weather report. The news continues to show the list of schools. Finally, you see yours and you rejoice.

You race upstairs to get your snow clothes on so that you can be the first to sled down “the hill”. For the next several hours kids are speeding down “the hill” and having a blast. All the energy held back during school is let loose on this day. God bless snow days.

Why is speeding down a hill so much fun for kids?

Snow is fun unless you’re the one shoveling it. Sledding is fun unless you’re headed for trees.

Undoubtedly, some children will head home with bumps and bruises from the sledding. They may have been going too fast or were not watching where they were going and ran into the trees. Why is it that all good sledding hills have trees at the bottom?

Anyway, these beat up kids head home and recount the tale of their demise to their parents. Then they show the pieces of the broken sled. Unfortunately, some have had broken bones and concussions along with the broken sled. Fortunately, most will heal.

I hope you have a good picture in your mind about sledding, because this picture describes what the father in Proverbs 7 is telling his son. They are watching from the window a young man who is not grounded in the Word, not learning from life, not resolved to do right, is flirting with fire, and is deceived by the darkness. He is about to slide down a hill.

Sexual purity must be strengthened. Those who do not will find themselves on “the hill” and racing for destruction.

Why could the path to sexual impurity and immorality be seen as a “slippery slope”?

This young man in verses one through nine has climbed to the top of “the hill”. He has put himself in a position to slip and fall. In fact, he has chosen to start sliding down the hill. Let’s take a look at this hill.

“Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his life.”

Proverbs 7:22-23

The word used for *cunning* in verse ten is the Hebrew word *nāṭsar*, which means to guard or conceal.

In Proverbs 7:10, we see a woman coming out to meet this man. She is dressed in provocative and immodest attire. This young man sees this, but does not comprehend because he has not strengthened his purity. The woman knows this. Notice the commentary said of her. She is cunning, which means to keep back or guard.

What do you think she is keeping back?

No matter our gender, we respond well to encouragement and praise. We like to hear people tell us how good we are. This woman knows that the young man will be aroused through her words, so she holds back anything that would discourage him or keep him from sliding. So she lets him see with his eyes what is pleasing and then lets him hear with his ears what is encouraging.

At this point, the father explains to the son the reputation this woman has. Read through verses eleven and twelve and explain in your own words her reputation.

The father makes it clear this is a woman that is given to causing a great commotion or turmoil (boisterous). She is stubborn, a backstabber, and a busy body. She lies in wait to ambush anyone she can simply to gratify her own desires.

Why would a woman or man do such a thing?

It may be a control issue, or a way to enact revenge on a mate. It may be many different things, but it comes down to self-centeredness and sin. Strengthening your sexual purity has everything to do with God and others, while immorality is only about self gratification. Those involved in sexual impurity are all about making themselves feel good. This is the exact opposite of a godly relationship.

Now the woman comes to the point in verse thirteen of grabbing him and kissing him. He has been aroused through the sight of her and the sound of her. Now, she used touch to continue to entice him. This young man is racing down the slippery slope and it just picked up speed.

As the chapter continues, we see the woman continuing to use words to entice him. She is painting a picture in his mind of the bed chamber. He has already felt her body pressed against his and now his mind is going off with dreams of passion. She has already appealed to the sense of sight, sound, and touch, but she takes it a step further. She uses the smell of myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. She is hitting every one of his senses except taste.

Why do you think she appeals to sight, sound, touch, and smell?

Seize, from verse 13, comes from the Hebrew khawzak, which carries the meaning of being strong or conquering.

This young man is sliding faster and faster. He is experiencing the ride with most of his senses so it continues to build. He is experiencing a thrill that gets his adrenaline going and his heart pounding and it seems like the ride will last forever, but he knows that somewhere along the way he lost control. It is just a passing thought and he goes back to the thrill.

Back in verse thirteen, there is a key word. Scripture says that the woman seizes him. The Hebrew word there means to take charge or have courage. If you remember, the young man had not made a choice to do right. Here, the woman is making the choice for him. She tells him what to do and continues to entice and persuade.

Verse twenty-two gives us the response of the young man. "Suddenly he follows her." He committed and took the step. It is the thrill of the ride just at the bottom of the hill when the sled is at its fastest speed. The woman appealed to four of his five senses. She used all her bait and he went for it.

The word used here for suddenly is not the aspect of surprise, but more the idea of an impulsive act. The young man did not step back and take into consideration what was taking place. He did not think through what was happening. He just acted.

Why is it so easy to be impulsive in a situation like this?

It is an unfortunate sight. This young man is enjoying the ride, but has no idea what lays at the bottom of the hill. Nevertheless, there is hope.

Think of the sledding. A child is racing down a hill and sees the trees. Before he gets there, he can bail out or put on the breaks. Now granted, the faster he is going, the harder it makes it, but he can still bail. It may mean some bumps and bruises, but that is nothing compared to hitting the trees.

The same is true in sexual purity. If you find yourself on that slippery slope, you can still bail. There may be damages, but nothing compared to the bottom of the slope. This young man could have stepped away at any point and so can you.

Snow days can be fun and sledding a sport, but sexual purity is no game and that hill is not fun.

Don't lose your senses and slip!

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
