

Internet Pornography



A Variation on Solomon

by Don Schmidt

Some time ago my devotional reading was in Proverbs 7, and I began to imagine what Solomon might have written if he had lived at the beginning of the Third Millennium. With regular Internet users in his family, maybe the proverb would have read something like this ...

A Father's Counsel (verses 7:1-5)

¹⁻²My son, if you want to experience a truly authentic life, then let my instruction give direction to every choice you will make.
³Let it give direction to what you see on the Internet, and let it guide your fingers as they explore for you this new world of the Web.
⁴⁻⁵Respect these words as if they were a sister whom you love, and they will keep you from the digital pornography which has been put there to entice and seduce you.

An All-to-Common Story (verses 7:6-9)

⁶⁻⁷For I have listened to the stories of men, and I have found among them those who lack understanding.
⁸I have talked with those who have surfed the Web and taken the URL which leads to Internet pornography.
⁹They have done this in the privacy of their digital world, seduced by a sense of false

security and the thought that no one will ever know.

Easy Access (verses 7:10-12)

^{10-11a}And there they encountered a woman with the attire of a harlot and wickedness in her heart. She was bold and pretentious, without concern for what is right.
^{11b-12}Like the Black Widow, she travels her digital world of the Web, actively seeking men wherever they are found. From the marketplace to the living room, she is never more than a keystroke or download away—always lurking, always available, always inviting.

Her Brazen Invitation (verses 7:13-20)

¹³⁻¹⁵So she has caught many and teased them with her sensuality. With shamelessness she proclaims the “lawfulness” of her conduct and suggests that it’s “all about you.”
¹⁶⁻¹⁷With that same shameless licentiousness she designs her website and spreads her beds with all the trappings known to arouse the lusts of men.
¹⁸⁻²⁰She invites all who will to come and enjoy her pleasures while no one is looking and their choices can be clothed in the seductive anonymity of an Internet screen name.

The Painful Reality (verses 7:21-23)

²¹With her enticing advertising she has caused many to yield; with hollow and empty pleasures she has led many astray.

²²And many who visit her website are about as clueless as an ox being led to its slaughter, a fool toying with the bondage of addiction, and a spider who has entered the deadly web of his Black Widow.

²³Until the morning comes and in the pain of their emptiness they realize that they have compromised their integrity and sacrificed their character on the altar of temporal pleasure.

The Father's Final Plea (verses 7:24-27)

²⁴Now therefore, listen closely my children, pay attention to these truths which I have given to you.

²⁵Oh, please don't let your heart be drawn after her sinful ways and don't allow yourself to stray toward her Internet address.

²⁶For many are the men she has wounded in this way, and every one destroyed by her once thought that they were too strong to be snared.

²⁷Make no mistake about this, her website is the way to Hell, and visiting there is like surfing its Chamber of Death.

What Solomon Really Said (Proverbs 7, NKJV)

But don't take my word for it, read the following counsel from God's Word ...

¹My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. ²Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. ³Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴Say to wisdom, "You *are* my sister," and call understanding *your* nearest kin, ⁵that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress *who* flatters with her words.

⁶For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, ⁷and saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding, ⁸passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house ⁹in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

¹⁰And there a woman met him, *with* the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. ¹¹She *was* loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home. ¹²At times *she was* outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner.

¹³So 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. ¹⁵So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you.

¹⁶I have spread my bed with tapestry, colored coverings of Egyptian linen. ¹⁷I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love. ¹⁹For my husband *is* not at home; he has gone on a long journey; ²⁰he has taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home on the appointed day."

²¹With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him.

²²Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, ²³till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it *would cost* his life.

²⁴Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children; pay attention to the words of my mouth: ²⁵Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; ²⁶for she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong *men*. ²⁷Her house *is* the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.

If you or someone you know is struggling with pornography or sexual addiction, there is help available. The gospel of Jesus Christ does have the answer many are seeking.

Please contact one of the organizations listed below which are dedicated to helping believers experience victory and healing in this area of their lives :

The National Association for Christian Recovery at 714.529.6227 or

www.christianrecovery.com

Prodigals International at 888.869.6468 or

www.iprodigals.com

Focus on the Family at

800.232.6459 or

www.pureintimacy.org

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