05 – AVOIDING TEMPTATION

✓ Remember I Said: Proverbs is essentially a book on child training. (It's a dad "training up his son in the way he should go".) He talks to his son about a *lot* of things, but one thing *keeps* coming up: How to resist temptation.

Prov. 1:10 – "My son, if sinners pressure you to do what is wrong, don't give in" (4:14-15, 5:8. 6:5; 23:20-21).

✓ There's no way around it! Your kids are *going* to face peer pressure. They're *going* to be tempted in life. The question is: What can we do, as parents, to prepare them to stand strong in those moments?

Preparing Your Children to Face Temptation

✓ The Book of Proverbs identifies three things that will prepare your kids for temptation – knowledge, understanding, and wisdom – (Prov. 2:10-11, 16; Prov. 7:4-5). It takes all 3 of those to protect them from sin.

a.) Knowledge is giving them the facts – ("Drugs are bad!"). It's important you give them that knowledge, but you can't stop there! (Knowledge, by itself, isn't enough to keep them out of sin.)

b.) You need to take the next step, and tell them *why* drugs are bad, so they'll have understanding. (So, you tell them, and they get it! They understand. You've got them onside! But that's *still* not enough.)

c.) You need to take the final step and explain **how** they can avoid drugs. (What do they *do* when the peer pressure is on? How can they stand strong, when everyone's watching to see what they'll do?) The Bible calls "knowing *how* to do it", wisdom.

✓ You can't leave out the "why" and the "how". (You probably got away with saying, "Do it, because I said so", when they were 5. But now that they're 15, they need *more* than that! If you want them to stand strong (when you're not standing beside them), you've got to give them all three. The "what", the "why", and the "how".

Temptation Truths

a.) When the devil tempts your kids, he only shows them the "fun" side of sin. He never shows them the end result. (The devil doesn't show them the negative consequences of sin. So, *you* need to.)

b.) Distance is your friend, when it comes to temptation. (This is something that Proverbs points out repeatedly: You can't sin, if you're not there. So, don't go there!)

✓ At this point, the dad puts it into a real-life situation. His son is a young man. His hormones are racing. So "dad" talks to him about:

Two Women He Needs to Avoid

a.) The Strange Woman – (The Harlot)

Prov. 7:5,10 – "That (wisdom and knowledge) may keep you from the strange woman, from the stranger who flatters with her words … Suddenly, there she was in front of him, dressed like a harlot, intending to seduce him."

b.) The Evil Woman – (The Adulteress)

Case Study #1 – The Strange Woman

Prov. 7:4-26 – "Let wisdom be your sister and make understanding your closest friend. That they may guard you from the strange woman, even from the stranger that is smooth with her words."

✓ That's her M.O. – her method of operation. She's smooth.

"I stood at the window of my house looking out through the shutters, and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding." (Understanding would have kept him.)

"Passing through the street near her corner; he went the way to her house."

✓ There's his 1st mistake. (Remember, you can't sin, if you're not there. Unfortunately, he went there.)

"In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And behold, there met him a woman with the attire of a harlot, with only one thing in mind. She's been lying in wait, dressed to seduce him."

✓ Notice, the next two verses are in parenthesis. Here's something *wisdom sees* that the young man doesn't know.

"(She's bold and shameless, often in the streets, lying wait at every corner.)"

✓ Notice, it said she'd been lying in wait at every corner. Why is that important? She's going to meet a young man and say, "I was looking for you! (Nobody else – just *you*!) And finally, I found you! Here you are!"

"So, she caught him, and kissed him, and with no sense of shame, she said: 'I had to offer a sacrifice, and there is enough meat left over for a feast. So I came out to meet you, Diligently I sought your face, and I have found you.

Come home with me, and I'll fix you a wonderful dinner …' (And then, she propositions him.)

"With her much justifying and enticing arguments she persuades him, with the allurements of her lips, she leads him [to overcome his conscience and his fears] and forces him along." (Amp)

✓ There's so much I could point out here: She's a good talker, and he's *void of understanding*.

✓ He has no understanding. That means he's got little or no defense. He had "fears". And his "conscience" told him not to do it. But that wasn't enough! (He fell because no one prepared him to stand.)

"He follows her impulsively like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer bounding towards a trap where a hunter waits to shoot an arrow through its heart. He's like a bird flying into a net, never seeing the danger he's in. Now, son, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. Don't let your heart turn aside to her ways; don't stray onto her paths. Because of her, too many men have thrown away their lives."

✓ Notice, "dad" is giving him the *end result* that Satan tried to hide.

Prov. 5:1,3-4, 6-12 – "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow your ear to my understanding. (There's wisdom and understanding again!) *For the lips of a strange woman drip as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil; But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Lest you should ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, so you can not know them."*

✓ That's what I've been saying! Satan hides the outcome. He shifts things around so you can't see how her life turns out. (But this dad is giving his son "inside information".)

"Now then, my son, listen to me. And do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house."

✓ Remember I Said: That's the mistake the other fellow made. "He went the way to her house." (If he wasn't *at* her house, could he have sinned? No. Remember that!) Then he lists some more consequences.

"Lest you give your honor unto others, and your years unto the cruel. Lest strangers drain your resources, and your hard-earned pay end up in the house of a stranger. And you mourn at the last when your flesh and

your body are consumed. *And you say, 'Why didn't I listen to my parents? Why didn't I pay attention to my teachers?"* (Regret.)

Case Study #2 – The Evil Woman – (Adulteress)

Prov. 6:23-25, 27-34 – "For the command is a lamp, and teaching is a light, And the correction that comes from them is the way to life. To keep you from another man's wife ("the evil woman") …

Don't let your heart lust after her beauty or allow her to captivate you with her alluring eyes. Can a man build a fire in his lap and not burn his pants? Can he walk barefoot on hot coals and not get blisters? So it is with the one who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished."

✓ Then he throws in two verses that don't seem to fit.

"People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is hungry. But if he is caught, he must pay back seven times what he stole, even if it means selling everything in his house. But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he that does it destroys his own soul." (Mind, emotions, and will.)

✓ Why did he bring up stealing bread, in the middle of a discussion on adultery? Because adultery is theft. In fact, it's worse than any other theft. If you steal *bread*, you can pay it back. But when you commit adultery, you can never pay back what you stole from that relationship. (Now he goes back to *your* consequences.)

"A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away. For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance."

✓ Who's the man? Her husband. What's "the day of vengeance"? Whatever day he finds out about it.

"He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though you give many gifts."