

TEMPTATION



Oscar Wilde, speaking for all men at times, once said,
“I can resist anything but temptation”

“You probably don’t know the full strength of temptation”

C.S. Lewis wrote: “Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is... A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later...We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation is the only man who knows to the full what temptation means...”

We’ll define temptation as an enticement to evil filled with false promises, subtle deceit, and outright lies originating from the world, the flesh, or the Devil

Temptation is a matter of the mind/heart long before it is ever an issue of behavior”

“Don’t be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewal of your mind (Romans 12:1-2)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” (Prov. 4:23 NIV)

Thinking —————> **attitude** —————> **behavior**

OUTLINE

- I. Wisdom Speaks— Be Warned and Be Armed (Proverbs 6:20-24; 7:1-5)
- II. Temptation rears its ugly head (7:6-21)
 - a. Looking for love in all the wrong places (7:6-9)
 - b. Seek and You Will Find! (7:10-12)
 - i. Temptation, “Lust of the eye,” She grabs attention (7:10-12)
 - ii. Pressure intensifies (VV. 13-21)
- III. Succumbing (7:22-23)
- IV. Consequences (6:27-35)
- V. Final thoughts/ Admonitions (7:24-27)

APPENDIX: Scriptures Depicting a Fool

I. WISDOM SPEAKS

BE WARNED AND BE ARMED (PROVERBS 6:20-24; 7:1-5)

Proverbs 6:20-24:

²⁰ My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching. ²¹ Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. ²² When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. ²³ For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life, ²⁴ to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

Proverbs 7: 1-5

¹My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; ²keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching 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 insight your intimate friend, ⁵to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words

THE MAIN POINT

Temptation is unavoidable, so be ready to meet the challenge!

Though it is not the only weapon, God's Word is the powerful one Jesus used against the Evil One

II. TEMPTATION REARS ITS UGLY HEAD

a) Looking for Love in all the WRONG PLACES (7:6-9)

(Wisdom narrates) ⁶ *For at the window of my house, I have looked out through my lattice, ⁷ and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, ⁸ passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house ⁹ in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness.*

MOVE THE LINE

B. SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND!

i. Temptation, “Lust of the eye,” She grabs his attention (7:10-12):

¹⁰ And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart. ¹¹ She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home; ¹² now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait



ii. Pressure intensifies (7:13-21)

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars and technical diagrams. On the right side, there are several circular diagrams resembling pressure gauges or dials. One large gauge has a scale from 0 to 210 with major markings every 10 units and minor markings every 2 units. It has a needle pointing towards the 180 mark. Below it is another gauge with a scale from 0 to 100. In the bottom right, there are dashed circular lines with arrows indicating a clockwise direction. In the bottom left, there are solid circular lines with arrows indicating a counter-clockwise direction.

I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING! IT JUST HAPPENED!!
She seizes him and kisses him,

A FALSE PERSPECTIVE
and with bold face she says to him ¹⁴ "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

PRIDE OF LIFE
¹⁵ so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you,

Imagining the surroundings
¹⁶ I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen;

¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloe, and cinnamon.

THE LUST OF THE FLESH
¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love all morning; let us delight ourselves with love

19 For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey; 20 he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home

With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him



**“You cannot keep birds
from flying over your head
but you can keep them
from building a nest
in your hair”**

— Martin Luther



III. THE SUCCUMBING! (7:22-23)

²² All at once he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast ²³ till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life



MINDEN
PICTURES

IV. Consequences (Prov. 6:27-35; 7:27)

*Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire? ²⁸
Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? ²⁹So it is with the man who
sleeps with another man's wife. He who embraces her will not go
unpunished. ³⁰Excuses might be found for a thief who steals because he is
starving. ³¹But if he is caught, he must pay back seven times what he stole,
even if he has to sell everything in his house. ³²But the man who commits
adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys himself. ³³He will be wounded and
disgraced. His shame will never be erased. ³⁴For the woman's jealous
husband will be furious, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.
³⁵He will accept no compensation, nor be satisfied with a payoff of any size.*

*²⁷"...Many a victim has she laid low and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her
house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death"*



**“CAN A MAN SCOOP
FIRE INTO HIS LAP
WITHOUT HIS CLOTHES
BEING BURNED?”**

PROVERBS 6:27

**Sexual sin has
some uniquely
severe
consequences
(vv. 32-35)**

V. FINAL THOUGHTS/ADMONITIONS (7:24-27)

And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth. Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death

Is God's Word Absolutely, Indisputably True?

Is Jesus Christ the Only Begotten Son of the Father, the
Second Person of the Trinity?

The Word of God provides tempted believers (You and me) great hope. First, it proclaims a Savior who has faced temptation at its greatest strength and defeated it finally, ultimately, and decisively

Then it proclaims these truths about us. We are:

- (1) Declared not-guilty,
- (2) Decisively and permanently adopted,
- (3) Born again from above
 - (a) Given new hearts
 - (b) Given new inclinations,
- (4) Indwelt fully by the Spirit of Christ,
- (5) Crucified and buried with Christ,
- (6) Raised and seated with Christ, and
- (7) Receiving the ongoing merciful intercession of Christ and the Holy Spirit.



I must deny who God is and what He has said

I must forget who I am in Christ

RESIST TEMPTATION

BE READY AND BE ARMED: TEMPTATION IS COMING

DON'T FLIRT WITH THINGS YOU KNOW ENTICE YOU

GET TO KNOW GOD MORE AND MORE

KNOW WELL WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE



The question of whether to succumb to
temptation boils down to:

Will we follow wisdom or will we play the fool?"

The background is a dark blue gradient with a starry space pattern. On the right side, there are several technical diagrams, including a large circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 210 and a needle pointing to approximately 180. Below it is another circular diagram with a scale from 0 to 140 and a needle pointing to approximately 100. There are also some smaller circular diagrams and arrows scattered throughout the background.

Rely on God's Spirit for strength

Pursue holiness with all diligence

Always invoke the amazing grace of God

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling!

Appendix 1

Scriptures that describe the fool

Proverbs 1:7; 10:18,23; 12:15; 14:9; 19:1; 26:11; 28:26; 29:11

Ecclesiastes 5:4; 10:12

Psalms 14:1

Luke 24:25