

CHIEF MINISTRIES

February 2013

Evening's darkness draped the city as a young man innocently sauntered through its streets, unaware of the life-threatening danger lurking before him. She was skillful in her trade. Dressed to entice, scented to allure, she was beautiful to gaze upon, the shadows subduing her deceitful features. Her lips prepared to frame the subtly flattering words purposed to snare his undiscerning soul with the ropes of her deceptions. His youthful lack of perception of common sense would become his downfall. She heard the hollow echo of his footsteps reverberating off the building walls. She baited her trap. His heart began to burn, even before he knew what was happening. He heard the poisoned words of fake promise, smelled the perfumed air about her, and looked into the pleading eyes of her face. Each almost believable lie became a tightening cord about his heart, choking out the voice of conscience and pulling down the boundaries of wisdom. Her promises of love, acceptance and pleasure became more provocatively reasonable as she seduced his weakening soul.

Consequences were unimportant. He would live for the moment. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, he followed her into the incensed bedchamber. Slowly and gradually, deception, overtook him, and this simple, unwise soul died, traveling the path of destruction.

Proverbs 7. Identifies this young man as "the simple." The account conveys an all- too- familiar, present-day spiritual drama. Innocent, simple souls, sometimes even possessing good intentions, fall prey to seducing spirits and eventually the end-times foe-Babylon.

Proverbs 22:3 indicates that, in contrast to the simple, a prudent individual takes personal responsibility, hiding when evil is near. The simple person is at great risk and does not enjoy the protection of the secret place described in Psalms 91, 32:7 and 31:20. Why are the simple susceptible to Satan's plots and endangered by evil's attacks against their lives? Why do they become devastated in finances, relationships, ministry situations, churches, and spiritual movements? Again, the answer is found in Proverbs 22:3. The simple suffer horribly from their lack of discernment. The simple "pass on" oblivious to or ignorant of any form of evil around them.

What does the "simple" mean? How does it apply to having common sense in confusing times? The ancient Hebrew words translated as "simple" are defined as "being seduced of, or able to be seduced." Such a condition is figuratively described as being roomy in a moral or mental sense. It portrays a person without boundaries in thoughts, morals, authority or feelings. To be simple also means to be "open to anything and everything without question." Now New Testament Greek defines simple as being innocent and unsuspecting. By definition, we see the simple do not seek safety because they lack moral and mental boundaries, or other necessary tools for discernment to recognize when wickedness is present. In a nutshell, this person can be seduced by the enemy. They are increasingly naïve, trusting, and blind to the reality of trouble around them. They lack an often overlooked and undervalued quality of common sense. Some believers, in an attempt to be "spiritual" throw common sense out the window. Common sense is simply another form of prudence, a gift of God. The "simple", easy prey to a last-days network of seduction are also evidence of the operation of the

mystery of lawlessness mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:7. Lawlessness subtly works throughout the generations to remove the boundaries of truth, doctrine, morality, love, holiness, dignity, etc. The problem of the simple is a product of this age-old mystery.

Paul also warned that in the last days, some believers would depart from the faith because of paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1–2). One cannot be seduced unless one is able to be seduced. This is the plight of the simple. Believers must be taught how to avoid that seduction.

The heart of the simple is a heart unguarded. All protections are gone. In order to overcome this condition, spiritual boundaries must be restored. This is no easy task. Trust me here guys, I've learned this! Prudence must be relearned and valued. Biblical knowledge and doctrinal accuracy (the correctness of what you're learning from the word of God) must be embraced without dogmatism - (taking what you think you know and either trying to make everyone else believe what you do or that you are right and everyone else is wrong). The boundaries of public, personal and private sectors of the human life must once again be defined. We must also be willing to confront the deception of a counterfeit viewpoint of so-called Christian love, which has produced a lack of responsible behavior, accountability and true judgment. Love was never intended to enable or perpetuate sinful behavior. The boundary of consequences is in desperate need of restoration in many of our lives. We've fooled ourselves into thinking, "Oh, we'll get by with that, God loves us enough to let us make it!"

God gave Adam a command. The Garden of Eden was to be kept and tended. Keeping the garden was more than pulling weeds. The Hebrew word *Shamar*, translated in English means "to guard". It implies keeping something safe, to protect, to regard, to attend to, to beware, to take heed, to hedge in. This important concept implies a sense of protective walls or boundaries, which would hedge in the garden of intimacy with God (Genesis 2:15-17)

The human heart is often compared to a garden, a field, and even a vineyard. Proverbs 24:31-34 relates that the individual lacking understanding or prudence is like a vineyard whose walls are in disrepair and overgrown with thorns. Consequently, various enemies are able to rob the vineyard or heart, and poverty results.

The word "keep" is also used in reference to the heart (Proverbs 4:23). Wisdom states that if we value the life-spring within us, we will also guard our heart. The simple have forgotten how to guard their heart. Their boundaries have been torn down. Their waters are often stolen and polluted by invaders. We live in a day when believers are encouraged to be vulnerable and transparent with one another. After all, that is real Christian love, isn't it? Or is it? Vulnerability without wise boundaries allows the heart to be taken advantage of and prostituted. Many innocent souls have been victimized by seducing spirits, because they were encouraged to vanquish the boundaries of wisdom and misunderstood the responsibility of guarding the heart. I can honestly say that had I took the advice I'm writing about now, I would never have had to come to prison!

This principle applies in every area of life. The prudent are protected from such prostitution and abuse. Trust and openness should never be forced if they are to be genuine. These things are developed through the process of time and proof. We get into trouble when people demand that we trust them when time has not proven their faithfulness or commitment. There are boundaries of common sense. We must relearn when it comes to relationships, financial involvement and ministry ventures. The simple person blindly leaps into circumstances without considering the consequences. The devastation resulting from these experiences could have been avoided if prudence had been taught and heeded. Instead, such wisdom was discarded in favor of a counterfeit definition of love, spirituality and trust. Is this generation simple? Is that why Paul warned about the danger of seducing spirits in the last days?

Proverbs 25:28 states that the person who has no rule over his spirit is like a city broken down and without walls. The simple person has no rule over his spirit. He is so open-minded that any enemy can enter and pillage his heart.

Jesus understood and practiced this principle (John 2:24-25). Recognizing that evil was in the hearts of the people, He only gave His heart to them as they were able to responsibly receive and deal with Him and His Word. He never allowed Himself to be prostituted or taken advantage of at any moment. He was in full control, and His boundaries were clearly maintained and healthy. He submitted to the Father's will as to what He would give of Himself to others, imitating the things He saw the Father do and say.

The simple person fails to discern the evil behavior of persons, personality types, and situations that would abuse them and prostitute their heart. Having lost the boundaries of wisdom, they do not even consider the consequences of involvement in anything that comes their way. Due to this, the cords of the snare of the seducing spirits of Babylon entangle them. If they had been hidden in the secret place, the Satanic cords of flattery, false promises of acceptance, denial of reality and more would not have trapped them and their hearts would have been safe. The Bible tells us that individuals who failed to guard their hearts suffered horribly. Samson lost his strength and eyesight after he yielded to Delilah's seductive pressures. He allowed Delilah permission to cross the boundaries of his authority, which guarded the wellspring of his heart, granting her the right to learn and steal the private, holy secrets entrusted to him by God.

Proverbs 1-7, best illustrates how the seduction of Babylon, the mother of prostitutes, operates against mankind. Heeding scriptural wisdom establishes the boundaries needed to defeat this onslaught. Ignoring it results in calamity on all levels, accompanied by an overwhelming sense of fear and panic, extreme emotional distress, resulting in the inability to find answers when needed. Satan's tactics are clear when it comes to removing boundaries. The walls of the heart crumble through various forms of pressure. Flattering words, promises of acceptance, statements that numb the conscience to sin, all act as a jackhammer to good, godly boundaries. If perversion is introduced on a slow and gradual basis through visual mediums - TV, printed pictures, etc. However, we are not doomed to be a constant victim; we can choose wisdom and life and to study to show ourselves approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth, being a workman that is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ.

My point is this men. We must wise up and not give in to seduction of our spirits to the things that come our way behind prison walls. Learn to guard your hearts every single day. I'm praying for you all daily.

Chief

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Christ's

Heart

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