

**INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY**  
**A Variation on Solomon**  
**from Proverbs 7**

*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 his children making frequent use of the Internet, maybe the proverb would have read something like this ~*  
(the NIV text is in italics; the paraphrase is in straight type)

**A Father's Counsel**  
**(verses 1-5)**

<sup>1</sup>My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you. <sup>2</sup>Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye. <sup>3</sup>Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup>Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your nearest kin, <sup>5</sup>that they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

<sup>1-2</sup>My son, if you want to experience a truly authentic life, then let my instruction give direction to every choice you will make. <sup>3</sup>Let 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. <sup>4-5</sup>Respect 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 6-9)**

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

<sup>6-7</sup>For I have listened to the stories of men, and I have found among them those who lack understanding. <sup>8</sup>I have talked with those who have surfed the Web and taken the URL which leads to Internet pornography. <sup>9</sup>They 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 10-12)**

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

*<sup>10-11a</sup>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. <sup>11b-12</sup>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, and always inviting.*

**Her Brazen Invitation**  
**(verses 13-20)**

*<sup>13</sup>So she caught him and kissed him; with an impudent face she said to him: <sup>14</sup>“I have peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows. <sup>15</sup>So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you.*

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

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

*<sup>13-15</sup>So 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.”*

*<sup>16-17</sup>With that same shameless licentiousness she designs her website and spreads her beds with all the trappings known to arouse the lusts of men.*

*<sup>18-20</sup>She 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 21-23)**

*<sup>21</sup>With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. <sup>22</sup>Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, <sup>23</sup>till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life.*

<sup>21</sup>With her enticing advertising she has caused many to yield; with hollow and empty pleasures she has led many astray. <sup>22</sup>And 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. <sup>23</sup>Until 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 24-27)**

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

<sup>24</sup>Now therefore, listen closely my children, pay attention to these truths which I have given to you. <sup>25</sup>Oh, please don't let your heart be drawn after her sinful ways and don't allow yourself to stray toward her Internet address. <sup>26</sup>For 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. <sup>27</sup>Make no mistake about this, her website is the way to Hell, and visiting there is like surfing its Chamber of Death.