

## Can I Get What I Want Through Seduction?

**Proverbs 14:1: (NASB) *The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.***



The Bible is full of inspirational accounts of such female heroes of faith like Abigail, Mary and Esther. It also gives us the cautionary tales of the infamous like Jezebel and Delilah. But there is a class of special women in the Bible - both virtuous and sinful - whose stories are told without mentioning their names. Often, they are associated with well-known men who are named, yet they themselves remain anonymous. Who were these women and what do their experiences mean to us? Today's focus will be on one of those infamous yet unnamed women, the wife of Potiphar. Her role in Scripture is primarily defined as the

seductress who pursued Joseph when he was a slave in her household. While there was nothing honorable in her actions, there are significant lessons we can learn from them.



*Disclaimer: For parents of our younger listeners, please be aware we will be talking about physical seduction throughout much of the episode.*

**Merriam Webster Online Dictionary**

**Seduce** (transitive verb)

- 1: to persuade to disobedience or disloyalty
- 2: to lead astray usually by persuasion or false promises
- 3: to carry out the physical seduction of; entice to sexual intercourse
- 4: attract

We find the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39. Although her name is never mentioned, she played an instrumental role in his life.

Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. His mother was the beautiful Rachel. He was favored by his father resulting in the jealousy of his brothers. They plotted to kill him but finally decided instead to make money by selling him to a group of passing Midianite traders. The Midianites in turn sold him to Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the bodyguard.

*Lesson*

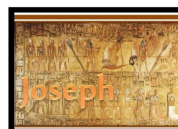


from Joseph

**Living a life of sacred honor** usually reveals itself when circumstances are challenging and life looks as though it is not where we expected to be.

Joseph did not give up!

**He pursued godliness in spite of his difficult circumstances.**



**Episodes 773 and 780  
Who Was That Hero in the  
Multi-Colored Coat?**

Our 2-part series on the life and integrity of Joseph, son of Israel



**Genesis 39:2-5:** (NASB) <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. <sup>3</sup>Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. <sup>5</sup>It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.

The blossoming success of this household was a direct result of two things:

1. God's favor with Joseph and his resulting diligence and integrity, and
2. Potiphar acted on his observation that Joseph was reliable, intelligent and blessed by God.

The Bible specifically describes Joseph as a handsome man. This seems like an unusual detail until we read the next verse.

#### The seduction soon began:

**Genesis 39:7:** (NASB) *And it came about after these events that his master's wife had her eyes on Joseph, and she said, Sleep with me.*

Mrs. Potiphar had a good life - plenty of food, a big house with servants and a husband who provided her with societal stability and wealth. However, she lusted after someone who did not belong to her - this is a form of coveting. We have to be on guard when things are good! Sometimes having everything makes us more vulnerable to the suggestions of Satan because we are comfortable. Do we insult God by demanding more than what He has provided for us?



Let's stop here and talk a bit about Potiphar's wife. (Summarized from Wikipedia) There are writings by ancient rabbis to explain and interpret the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) called the "Midrash." In the specific Midrash we know in English as the Book of Jasher, (which is NOT canonized Scripture), the story expands that Potiphar's wife is being mocked by her friends in the court that she is infatuated with this Hebrew slave boy. She invites them all to her home and gives them each oranges and knives to slice them. She asks Joseph to come into the room and all of the ladies accidentally cut themselves, drawing blood because they are so distracted by his good looks. They now understand what she is talking about and stop mocking her.

While this is clearly not in the Bible, it helps us to humanize the events. We can be attracted to things we should not be attracted to.

#### Joseph's clear and principled response:

**Genesis 39:8-9:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>But he refused and said to his master's wife, Look, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put me in charge of all that he owns. <sup>9</sup>There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?

Joseph refused her advances both physically and verbally, with powerful and godly reasoning:



- Potiphar trusted him implicitly.
- Everything (except Mrs. Potiphar) in that household was under Joseph's authority.
- However, Potiphar's wife was still above Joseph, beyond his authority.
- Acting on her advances would be a sin against Potiphar and more importantly, *a sin against God*.

He had every opportunity to take advantage of her advancements but valued his relationship with God over temporary physical satisfaction. This was beyond breaking the trust of his boss. Joseph saw compromise as a sin against God. This was not the kind of temptation where one can get closer and closer to the line and peer over it, thinking you cannot fall in. There are certain sins - like what is being proposed to Joseph - where some think, "If no one finds out, no one gets hurt." But of course, that is ridiculous.

Joseph shows us how to unequivocally stand for what is right. He not only drew a line in the sand that he proclaimed he would not cross, he lived that proclamation each and every day.

#### **The result of this slave refusing his master's wife:**

**Genesis 39:10:** (NASB) *As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.*

He would not even be in the same room with her! He was doing all he could to keep this from going the wrong way. This can be hard to do when someone is intent on wearing you down. In spite of daily being exposed to her seductive words, he stood in the integrity of his godly choice. This is important for us to note. We need to make sure we are standing on solid ground and we remain there.

(Source: [thediligentwoman.com](http://thediligentwoman.com)) In our modern times, feminism is everywhere. As sexual immorality becomes more acceptable, women are pushing women to be overtly sexual... women's sexuality is on display more than ever...Potiphar's wife is a woman from ancient Egypt. She had no problem expressing her wants and doing everything in her power to meet them.

She is the master's wife and he is the slave. In this situation, she has all the power.



### STANDING AGAINST *seduction*

Joseph saw this seductive compromise  
**as a direct sin against God.**

Opportunities continued to present themselves,  
but his moral boundaries were already securely in place.

**His relationship with God was worth more**  
than any temporary satisfaction, no matter what the cost.

Joseph is a slave and his master's wife is pushing him to abandon all that is honorable. This cannot end well!



**Resisting seduction is difficult all by itself.**  
**What do we do when the seduction escalates to another level?**

One of the basic principles of living a godly life is understanding that no matter how firmly we plant our feet in righteousness, the evil that pursues us *never gives up*. Therefore, our resolve must be the kind that is renewable; otherwise, we are destined to be worn down or caught off guard. We can have the resolve to avoid one instance, but that might not be the end of it. Inevitably, sin returns and does not give up. Darkness is tenacious and we need to stand against it.

**One day while Joseph was working alone in the house, Potiphar's wife came to him again:**

**Genesis 39:11-12:** (NASB) *<sup>11</sup>Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the people of the household was there inside. <sup>12</sup>So she grabbed him by his garment, saying, Sleep with me! But he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside.*

This is no different from a boss asking a subordinate to stay after work once everyone leaves. Is it not odd that in such a big household suddenly no servants are anywhere to be found? Was this odd or planned? Joseph fled outside immediately!

The resolve of Joseph was immovable. Not a moment was lost in hesitation as he left without the garment she tenaciously held on to. This response speaks volumes. Consider what may have gone through Joseph's mind; what emotions might he have been wrestling with as a man?

- He is in his 20's. He is young and vibrant. Was he flattered and even physically attracted to this exotic, wealthy woman?
- Did the excitement and mystery of this seduction play on his ego?
- He is a slave. Could this "secret" relationship benefit his life in the long run? In addition to special favors, maybe she could even help gain his freedom.

She held the power. She had more power than he did. Today we would call this "sexual harassment" from a person in a position of power. This is no different than a relationship between a boss and employee, or teacher and student. There is a decision to make on the part of the subordinate person. Not complying might mean losing your job or failing a course. The #metoo movement brought a lot of this to light since its inception in 2006. Potiphar's wife might have lived in ancient times, but we still have these same situations now.



Biblical perspective on the treatment of women in light of #metoo



If Joseph was wrestling with any of these things, none of it mattered! His ego and possible emotions were no match for his resolve. We all need to ask ourselves this same question: *Does my resolve hold firm despite my ego and my emotions?* Seduction is seductive. It is subtle. It can take us along those little steps that do not feel terribly wrong, but they lead us away from godly principle.

### **What about OUR focus and resolve? How clear are we when faced with seductive circumstances?**

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20:** (NIV) <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the holy spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup>you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

We daily face “normalized” sexual immorality, where sex outside of marriage is just another recreational activity. It is marketed as fun and acceptable, despite the fact that it is despicable. The media convinces us this is common, without consequence and is to be encouraged and even celebrated. There are no purity boundaries. As Christians, we need to set our purity boundaries and make sure we are standing on a firm, godly foundation.

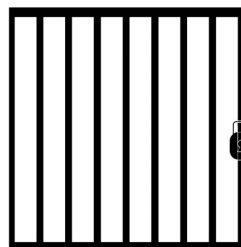
### **Back to Potiphar’s wife. She has now been dramatically rejected - by a slave. She will react venomously - she is not used to being told “no”:**

**Genesis 39:13-18:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, <sup>14</sup>she called to the men of her household and said to them, See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make fun of us; he came in to me to sleep with me, and I screamed. <sup>15</sup>When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside.

### **She took the reality of the situation and completely reversed it!**

<sup>16</sup>So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup>Then she spoke to him with these words: The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make fun of me; <sup>18</sup>but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.

When Potiphar came home, she told him the story she told the servants. Potiphar became angry and ordered Joseph to be put in jail. We have been applauding Joseph’s honor, integrity and godliness. What does this bring him?



*Joseph's honorable choices yielded false accusations, slander and prison!*

It makes one wonder if it is worth it! Lies and more lies, and deep consequences of those lies. Joseph’s life is now in ruins. However, these are only the immediate results. The story is not over until it ends. We know this was an important time in Joseph’s life of salvation and redemption even though it was hard to see the benefit of these actions at this time.



(Source: [thediligentwoman.com](http://thediligentwoman.com)) This woman then turns her sexual desire into vengeance. With the same deliberate intent, she took his garment and lied to others about him. She made herself the victim and he the aggressor. She had no care for Joseph's future. She only wanted to punish. So, she drove the final nail - she went to her husband, said it was her husband's fault for bringing Joseph into their home, and then lied again about the situation. She didn't use her power for good. She used it for her own ends. Potiphar's wife used her sexuality and her femininity to manipulate the men around her. The warning to us - do not be like Potiphar's wife!...Do not tempt the men in your life to sin...(and for those of us who are married) don't use sexuality as a weapon against your husband.

Mrs. Potiphar was wrong, but she serves as a common lesson for us today. Women might be called the "weaker sex," but we still have powers of manipulation that can be used to entice others to sin. Men also can use seduction to undermine the principles of others. Seduction (and its cousin, manipulation) on any level and in any circumstance is *wrong*. There are no excuses. We look to the principled focus of Joseph.

## COMPARING POTIPHAR'S WIFE AND JOSEPH

	<p>Potiphar's wife wanted to <b>satisfy her lust</b> through an adulterous relationship.</p>		<p>Joseph wanted to live a life of integrity that would <b>satisfy God</b>.</p>
	<p>Potiphar's wife <b>relentlessly pursued her sinful desire</b> and continually seduced Joseph.</p>		<p>Joseph <b>relentlessly stood for godliness</b> and steered clear of the seduction as best as he could.</p>
	<p>Potiphar's wife was so desperate in her desire that she tried to <b>force Joseph to lie with her</b>.</p>		<p>Joseph used <b>the force of his godly character to run</b>, even if it meant leaving something behind.</p>
	<p>Potiphar's wife was <b>enraged</b> at Joseph's rejection of her continued seduction.</p>		<p>Joseph was <b>engaged</b> in being a respectable and godly man, no matter what the cost.</p>
	<p>Potiphar's wife <b>disrespected Joseph</b> and falsely accused him as a perpetrator of attempted rape.</p>		<p>Joseph <b>respected Potiphar's wife</b> and did not discredit her, even when he was falsely accused.</p>



Why didn't Joseph defend himself? Possibly for two reasons:

- He is a slave. Would anyone dare to take his word over hers?
- She has status. If he destroyed her marriage through his accusations, her life as a divorced woman in this society would likely have been destroyed.

Joseph should have been put to death for this accusation, but instead Potiphar had him jailed. This might indicate that Potiphar was aware his wife was not a “model of morality.” Or, it may be that Potiphar thought so highly of Joseph that he could not bring himself to order Joseph's death.

The Bible never mentions Potiphar's wife again, but the rest of Joseph's life is well-documented. Because of this incredibly unfair incident, Joseph was eventually introduced to Pharaoh. From prison, Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream to mean a great famine was coming. Pharaoh not only freed him but he made Joseph second in command in Egypt. What a turn of events!

Joseph was second in command in Potiphar's house where he thrived and the household thrived under his care. Then he became second in command over all the land of Egypt, where he saved the land as well, preparing it to thrive despite a terrible famine. Even when his life looked devastating, Joseph's life was within God's providence!

## STANDING AGAINST *seduction*



The account of Potiphar's wife and her attempted seduction of Joseph is **an account of opposites** – Potiphar's wife represents all that is sinful and inappropriate while Joseph represents godliness.

### Ask yourself:

1. To what degree would I go down the road of seducing another to get what I want?
2. How strongly would I stand with such temptation before me?

Joseph really did “practice what he preached,” even though he was jailed for it. Am I willing to do the same?

**This is deadly serious on both sides of the issue.  
How do we realistically understand the warning signs?**

Up to this point, we have primarily focused on warding off the seductive advances of another. Next let's look at the many moving parts of seductive behavior so we can be forewarned as to our personal vulnerability. What we talk about now may be hard to hear. We begin this examination with the basic and powerful principle of choice. Remember, *our actions are the result of our choices*.



### The PROBLEM

**Associating in any way with the wicked causes our actions to be influenced by them. Choosing a *rationalized* approach inevitably yields a *rationalized* response:**

**Psalm 1:1:** (NASB) *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*

Walk, stand or sit with sinners - these are all a problem, as it means we have stopped moving away from evil. When facing sin, we cannot rationalize that we can deal with it - this is a deadly approach. We really should be *running away!* We get lulled into a lack of movement.

What is the *alternative* to this lack of movement?



### The ALTERNATIVE

**Face sin the way Joseph did - by always focusing on godly integrity:**

**Psalm 1:2:** (NASB) *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

We can imagine this is what Joseph did. He lived before the Law and the Ten Commandments were given to Israel. He was of the chosen people of God, and godly principles are obviously part of him. He delighted in them. It was the reason for his incredible success in Potiphar's house, then prison and later in the palace of Pharaoh.

What is the *result* of this focus?



### The RESULT

**Standing firmly planted in the favor of God and yielding fruit that feeds others:**

**Psalm 1:3:** (NASB) *He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.*

Joseph was firmly planted, but he literally ran away from the seduction! This seems like a contradiction. However, he could only run because he *was* planted. He was so firm, so strong and so well-nourished in godliness that he was able to run. Our lives need to look like this.



We will now look at eleven deceptive tactics of seduction. Aside from being guarded when these things appear before us, we need to ask ourselves:

- *Do I engage in ANY of these behaviors? Ever?*
- *How do I repel them if they are coming at me?*

The tactics and context are drawn from Proverbs 7:6-23.

**Here is how these verses start - a classic setup for failure:**

**Proverbs 7:6-9:** (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, <sup>7</sup>and I saw among the naive, and discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense, <sup>8</sup>passing through the street near her corner; and he takes the way to her house, <sup>9</sup>in the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night and in the darkness.*





*A young man lacking sense* - he does not have a foundation. This is important to illustrate why we teach our children about what is important and why.

(Source: <https://www.knowableword.com/2014/05/05/the-11-deceptive-tactics-of-seduction>)  
Excerpts from: *The 11 Deceptive Tactics of Seduction*, May 5, 2014, by Peter Krol, are shown in green.

When we commit sexual sin, we are not victims but perpetrators. Therefore, the solution is to keep the Father's words in our hearts so we might see sexual temptation with new eyes. Then the glamor doesn't seem so glamorous anymore...

THE SAD TRUTHS OF *seduction*  
Sensuality misplaced can subtly become seduction.

Sensuality is built into humanity and is a good thing in its right circumstance. There should be sensuality in a marriage between the partners. When it extends outside of the appropriate setting, however, it can easily become seduction. How does this happen?

### 1. Initiative:

Proverbs 7:10,15: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>*And behold, a woman comes to meet him...*<sup>15</sup>*Therefore I have come out to meet you, to seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you.*

We see the reaching out here; the taking of initiative to engage.

We love to feel loved. We want to feel wanted. We desire desirability. Immorality flatters us. It tells us we're something special. It comes out to meet us...

It can be so subtle and flattering. What should we do when we feel this creeping up on us?

1 Corinthians 6:18: (NASB) *Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

If we are in an inappropriate place, we need to *flee immorality* whether we are being seduced or trying to seduce.

### 2. Dress:

Proverbs 7:10: (NASB) *...Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.*

Women know it; men know it: If you dress a certain way, you'll cause people to think of you in a certain way. But just because they think it, doesn't make it true...

We get involved with wanting to dress in our own fashion. But we have to remember that our dress sends some kind of a message to the people around us. It might be conservative, or seductive, exciting, part of a certain group, team loyalty or whatever it is, it identifies an intent - whether we intend it to or not!



This does not excuse a predatory individual acting on how *they* interpret our intent. But we need to be vigilant in not sending wrong messages.

1 Timothy 2:9-10: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, <sup>10</sup>but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

If we are following Jesus, we are *making a claim to godliness*. If we claim that Christian principles rule us, then we need to dress the part.

THE SAD TRUTHS OF *seduction*  
Acting seductively  
is positive evidence that we have fallen prey  
to the seductions of Satan himself.

If we act seductively, we are acting in the likeness of Satan. He uses seduction and manipulation to bring people to his cause.

### 3. Commonality:

Proverbs 7:11-12: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>She is boisterous and rebellious, her feet do not remain at home; <sup>12</sup>She is now in the streets, now in the squares, and lurks by every corner.

I know everybody's doing it. I know it's "every man's battle" and "every woman's battle." But though immorality is loud and proud, and you can find it on every street corner and in every person's life, it shouldn't be that way...

We can decide to not allow it in our lives by the way we act and by the way we respond. It is our choice.

### How do we handle this in our lives when it is so pervasive?

1 Peter 3:3,4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Your adornment must not be merely external...<sup>4</sup>but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Think on that phrase - *the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit which is precious in the sight of God*. What a comparison. We do not want to go down the road of commonality when we can have this *imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit* instead. It should shine through our actions and our presence.

### 4. Touch:

Proverbs 7:13: (NASB) *So she seizes him...*

Proverbs 7:13: (New Living Translation) *She threw her arms around him...*

The right touch at the right time is like magic. It doesn't have to be sexual (though see the next point); it just has to communicate a sense of concern and value....



This is another subtle point. Seduction is progressive and becomes harder and harder to back away from it. This is why seduction is so seductive!

**When someone approaches us with seductive intent, how should we react?**

**2 Corinthians 6:17:** (NASB) *Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean, and I will welcome you.*

Do not touch.

5. Foreplay:

**Proverbs 7:13:** (NASB) *...and kisses him...*

...The Bible teaches that kissing is sexual (Proverbs 7:13, 22:14, Song of Solomon 1:2). Of course, not the "holy kiss," which obviously was equal to a wave or handshake (Romans 16:16). I know you know the difference between that which welcomes and that which arouses.

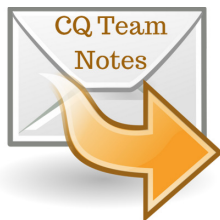
We need to be honest with ourselves - are we dabbling with something because it generates a little excitement, or arousal, when we know better? **DO NOT TOUCH!** It is like being caught in a strong current where we cannot get out. It draws us in and we are caught before we realize it.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4:** (NASB) *<sup>3</sup>Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier in active service entangles (to weave in, to entwine, to involve with) himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*

Stay focused on **THE** important things and be completely opposed to those things that are contrary to godliness.

## THE SAD TRUTHS OF seduction

The moment we begin to slow down and consider that which is seductive, we openly invite that seduction to show us more.



**Becca adds: (excerpted on the audio)** For myself, and probably many other women, the story of Potiphar's wife can seem almost irrelevant to our lives. I am a happily married woman. I have never been and will never be tempted by any other man, so it's easy to think there aren't as many lessons in it for me outside of avoiding temptation for sin in my life.

Instead, think of Potiphar's wife as more than a two-dimensional person with only evil and seduction on her brain. By considering the reasons (NOT excuses) for her behavior, it makes the story a bit easier to relate to. We know Potiphar gave control of his house over to Joseph (meaning, he wasn't really connected with what was going on with anything other than what he ate), and therefore it's possible that as a result he didn't spend a whole lot of time talking to or spending time with his wife. While he may not have been necessarily a "bad husband," clearly the communication between husband and wife was lacking and they likely weren't spending a whole lot of quality time together.

Women today are more likely to cheat if they feel lonely, or if they lack attention or support - to fill an emotional need.



Their relationship is a good reminder that if you feel out-of-sync with your spouse, it's important to take the time to hit the reset button and prioritize time together and discuss the things that might be pulling you away from each other. When you make sure you are spending quality time together away from the noise of the world (and your phones), it allows you to reconnect and remember why you love that person so much and find a way to be on the same page again. Prioritizing important relationships, particularly with a spouse, prevents temptation from setting in and allowing those seeds of discontent room to grow.

Unfortunately, the art of seduction is a well-crafted process that is designed to overpower and manipulate another. Be warned!

**Warning signs are one thing.**

**How do we handle the blatant actions of our own seductive behavior?**

Even though this topic is so far off of what our Christian behavior should look like, it still needs clear identification so we can firmly set our sights on what needs to be destroyed. While the discovery process can be painful and even embarrassing, the strength we gather for the fight is worth it.

**THE SAD TRUTHS OF** *seduction*  
 To seek what I desire  
 through the seduction of another is a vile act  
 of disrespect towards that person AND towards God.

**6. Piety (religiousness):**

**Proverbs 7:13-14:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>...And with a brazen face she says to him: <sup>14</sup>I was due to offer peace offerings; today I have paid my vows.

She is acting so religiously; she appears trustworthy! She claims to be doing the things that God wants her to do.

You think you can trust this girl with your life. But immorality can't be trusted, no matter how often she serves in the church nursery. Remember that sexual temptation is not something "out there." It's right "in here" where we might not expect it.

Sexual immorality is a major issue within certain large "mega-churches," the Catholic church and others. We need to be alert and aware to not allow *pseudo-religiousness* to be part of the temptation to go down this road of seduction.

**A case in point:**

**Matthew 23:25-26:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

This is an important verse to take personally. We cannot fool around with the religiousness we proclaim to have. Our inside morality must be as pure as the outside we present to the world.



## 7. Taste:

Proverbs 7:14: (NASB) *I was due to offer peace offerings...*

Of the various Old Testament sacrifices, peace offerings were the only ones that ordinary people - not just priests - got to eat. Solomon portrays this woman as having divinely-blessed lamb chops and hamburgers hot and ready. She's got dinner waiting...What is the point? Only that immorality will promise to satiate every physical desire.

There are so many different pieces to seductiveness. It uses the sanctity of spirituality (the sanctity of participating in the *peace offerings*) to trap the individual.

### Here is how we stand against such things:

Galatians 6:8: (NASB) *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the spirit will from the spirit reap eternal life.*

To what are we sowing? Into what are we investing our time, effort and intention? Our results come from whatever we sow to or invest in. If we minimize our spirituality by allowing it to become a deceptive part in our lives, we will reap corruption.

## 8. Sights:

Proverbs 7:16: (NASB) *I have spread my couch with coverings, with colored linens of Egypt.*

Immorality looks so good. It's amazing what pounds of makeup and lumens of stage lighting can do to the most normal person.

We can make ourselves to look like something we are not to get a result that should never be. We can also frame a situation so that it "looks" like something different. Do we engage in that on any level or at any time? Are we trying to seduce or manipulate someone for any reason?

### What should we do?

Hebrews 12:2: (NASB) *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Earlier we talked about who has the power. In the case of Joseph, he did not have the power - Mrs. Potiphar did. In reading the above verse, we see who has the real power. Seated *at the right hand of the throne of God* is the position of the greatest power in the universe! If we want to lock into power, we need to *fix our eyes on Jesus*. Other sights become meaningless.

## 9. Smells:

Proverbs 7:17: (NASB) *I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.*

Immorality smells so good. A little deodorant can go a long way. The right fragrance can even cover the smell of death. Especially cinnamon...

Fragrances were invented to make us tolerable to each other. When used for a tool of seduction, this takes something good and corrupts it. Do not let our march towards death be covered by a false fragrance!



**James 1:14-15:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. <sup>15</sup>Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

Here in the ninth deceptive practice, the idea of death has emerged. This is no accident. We need to be careful that whatever we see, taste and smell does not take us away from those things that are most important.

## THE SAD TRUTHS OF seduction

The disrespect that fuels seduction opens the door to great delusions that are fueled by dishonesty.

Seduction brings delusions as a result of dishonesty. If we are on this road, can we fool ourselves into thinking we are Christians if we are doing such things?

### 10. Adventure:

**Proverbs 7:18:** (NASB) *Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with caresses.*

Immorality promises something special. In fact, it promises that *you* are something special...There's an adventure to be had...it's exciting!

It is exciting but deadly. That momentary excitement, that thrill, ends up in a crushing defeat and often destruction of lives.

### How do we focus on staying away from the enticement of that adventure?

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>*Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; <sup>27</sup>but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

Our bodies can become slaves of a seductor. To avoid this, we must stay in control. The discipline of mind and body to be about the Father's business will help us to stay in control. The adventure we have to be in His service, by God's grace, will help us to keep our focus on the right things.

### 11. Isolation:

**Proverbs 7:19-20:** (NASB) <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, at the full moon he will come home.*

Seduction's final tactic is the promise of isolation. Nobody sees us. Nobody will know what happens here tonight...With the promise of isolation comes the promise of invulnerability. Because no one knows about it, we will get away with it.

What an incredible deception - "no one will ever know."

**Really?**



**Hebrews 4:12-13:** (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*For the word of God is living and active... and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* <sup>13</sup>*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Darkness is not dark enough to hide from God. Seduction does not bring anything good, valuable, precious or memorable; it just brings sorrow, sadness, death and destruction.

### The sad end result that seduction brings:

**Proverbs 7:21-23:** (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*With her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him.* <sup>22</sup>*Suddenly he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool,* <sup>23</sup>*Until an arrow pierces through his liver; as a bird hastens to the snare, so he does not know that it will cost him his life.*

When we fall prey to seduction, it can cost us our spiritual lives and the lives of those around us. Its expense is incalculable. How many have looked back and regretted their involvement in this kind of situation? This regret cannot be undone. The further away from God we get, the harder it is to come back - although it is possible.



## STANDING AGAINST seduction

There never has been - *nor will there ever be* - a positive personal application of seduction between human beings. If we are prone to such behavior, let us **recognize, repent and restart**. If we are prone to succumbing to such behavior, let us **repent, reevaluate and recommit**.

This is about looking at our lives and seeing the choices we have. We have choices about what we do, say and think; we have choices about the places we can go. We can get away from those things that are so tempting and enticing.

We can talk to someone we trust spiritually, who is going to hold us up and walk with us in the right direction. This person will help us to stand up, brush off, repent, get back on our feet and back to serving God. We cannot entertain *for an instant* anything that has to do with seduction.

**1 Peter 5:8:** (NASB) *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

If you are involved on either side of seduction, could Satan be finding you?

**So, can I get what I want through seduction?  
For Jonathan, Rick and Julie and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!**



Join us next week for our podcast on June 21, 2021  
Ep. 1183: Who Successfully Challenged Jesus?

### Bonus Material and Study Questions

***Going into the unknown is how you expand what is known. – Julien Smith***

#### The Proverbs this episode was based on:

**Proverbs 7:6-23:** (NASB) <sup>6</sup>For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, <sup>7</sup>and I saw among the naive, And discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense, <sup>8</sup>Passing through the street near her corner; and he takes the way to her house, <sup>9</sup>In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and in the darkness. <sup>10</sup>And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. <sup>11</sup>She is boisterous and rebellious, her feet do not remain at home; <sup>12</sup>she is now in the streets, now in the squares, and lurks by every corner. <sup>13</sup>So she seizes him and kisses him and with a brazen face she says to him: <sup>14</sup>I was due to offer peace offerings; today I have paid my vows. <sup>15</sup>Therefore I have come out to meet you, to seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you. <sup>16</sup>I have spread my couch with coverings, with colored linens of Egypt. <sup>17</sup>I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. <sup>18</sup>Come let us drink our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with caresses. <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, at the full moon he will come home. <sup>21</sup>With her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him. <sup>22</sup>Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, <sup>23</sup>until an arrow pierces through his liver; as a bird hastens to the snare, so he does not know that it will cost him his life.

**Proverbs 5:1-6:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My son, pay attention to my wisdom, Incline your ear to my understanding, <sup>2</sup>so that you may maintain discretion and your lips may comply with knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. <sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Sheol. <sup>6</sup>She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, she does not know it.

#### Jesus warned us about the efforts of others to undermine or freedom in Christ:

**Matthew 5:11-12:** (NASB) <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.





# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1182: Can I Get What I Want Through Seduction

<https://christianquestions.com/character/can-i-get-what-i-want-through-seduction/>

See:  CQ.Rewind  
SHOW NOTES

1. What was the cause of Joseph's success in Potiphar's household? What did Potiphar observe about Joseph? How can we apply his example to our lives today? (See Genesis 39:2-5)
2. How did Joseph respond to the initial advances of Potiphar's wife? What can this response teach us? Was Joseph able to relax after his initial principled response? Explain. (See Genesis 39:7-10)
3. What did Joseph do when the seduction became more aggressive? How can we imitate him in seductive circumstances? Why does Paul tell us sexual sins are particularly bad? (See Genesis 39:11-12, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
4. How did Potiphar's wife respond to Joseph's rejection? What can we learn from the differences in the focus of Joseph and Potiphar's wife's lives? (See Genesis 39:13-18)
5. How can we be influenced by wickedness around us? What can we do to keep from allowing it to happen? What is the result of this alternative? (See Psalms 1:1-3)
6. What are some warning signs of seduction? (See Proverbs 7:10-13) How does each antidote effectively address each sign of seduction? (See 1 Corinthians 6:18, 2 Corinthians 6:17, 1 Timothy 2:9-10, 2 Timothy 2:3-4, 1 Peter 3:3-4)
7. What makes seduction so tempting even though we know it is wrong? What is its end result? (See Proverbs 7:13-23, Matthew 23:25-26)
8. What can we do to withstand the temptations from seduction? (See 1 Corinthians 9:25-27, Galatians 6:8, Hebrews 4:12-13, 12:2, James 1:14-15, 1 Peter 5:8)
9. Do you have experiences with seduction in your life? How are you handling them? Has the story of Potiphar's wife made you see your circumstances in a different way?