

## Sinful Shortcuts → Self-Destruction

Proverbs 1:8-19

Sinful shortcuts lead to self-destruction, so avoid them.

1. Why r\_\_\_\_\_ the i\_\_\_\_\_ of p\_\_\_\_\_ who fear the LORD and r\_\_\_\_\_ the i\_\_\_\_\_ of p\_\_\_\_\_ who don't? (1:8-9)

Beginning here in Proverbs 1:8 through the end of Proverbs 9 (9:18), we have a series of extended lessons and offers regarding choosing wisdom and the dangers of rejecting it.

Many of these extended sections are described as taking place in the home (where the family dwells). Proverbs pictures the home, with both father and mother teaching their children, as the matrix for shaping the next generation. (Dr. Bruce Waltke)

Both father and mother are viewed as authorities and teachers of their own children. See 1:8, 6:20, and 10:1.

*Why listen to parents who fear the LORD instead of people who don't?*

Listening to such parents will lead you to experience v\_\_\_\_\_ over e\_\_\_\_\_ and v\_\_\_\_\_ over your e\_\_\_\_\_. That is likely what is symbolized by the "graceful garland" and "pendants" in 1:9.

2. What should you do if e\_\_\_\_\_ people pressure you to run with them after e\_\_\_\_\_ money (to join them in taking sinful shortcuts in life)? (1:10 [and 1:15])

*What should your response be to such offers?*

You should decline. You should not accept. You should say, "NO."

3. What does the s\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_ from such people sound like, and what is the s\_\_\_\_\_ of such people? (1:11-16)

The **sales pitch** sounds like this: "Join us! Be a part of our crew! You'll get your fair share of the treasure we take in! You'll get an equal cut of the easy money that we take from others!"

Their **strategy** is this: Instead of working and waiting for wealth, they are taking what rightly belongs to others, and violence, including murder, is a part of their game.

4. Why should you turn down their invitation and not run with such people? (1:17-19)

The simple answer is that it will destroy you. You will not only disadvantage others. You will destroy yourself.

If you run with such people—if you take such sinful shortcuts, you are setting a trap for yourself. You are ambushing yourself. There are **earthly** consequences for taking sinful shortcuts, and for those who die without trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, there are **everlasting** consequences for taking sinful shortcuts.

The LORD loves you. If you have parents who fear the LORD, they love you, too. And this lesson is really an expression of their love for you.

God's promises are not worthless. God's threats are not empty. Judgment is to follow. Justice will be carried out. Don't be the person who fails to fear the LORD and ignores those truths.

Turn to and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for all of your sins and rose from the dead. God will forgive you for all of the sinful shortcuts which you have taken.

There may still be consequences in this life that you will have to work and suffer through. There may be people or businesses that you will have to pay back, etc. But God will forgive you for your sins against Him and others if you will sincerely seek His forgiveness and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Moving forward in your life, you can then continue to trust in the Lord Jesus to stop taking sinful shortcuts. You can trust in the same Lord Jesus to help you love and serve and benefit others instead of disadvantaging and victimizing others.