

**Proverbs 1:10.** “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent... My son, do not walk in the way with them.”  
(read vs. 10-19)

“My son” occurs about 15 times in the first seven chapters of Proverbs. What does this tell us? A wise father will teach his son and bring him into the process of wisdom (and it is a process). The warning is against two evils: Companionship with sinners (Heb. criminals) (10-14) and greed (15-19). Evil friends are a snare (17). They corrupt good character (I Cor. 15:33). Greed is idolatry (Eph. 5:5), and it robs people of their lives (19). Evil people look for and seduce the simple. No one starts out with bad character; it is made of choices over time. The collapse of character begins with compromise. This is a warning by a father to his son against the compromise of his character. Youth fades, but character endures. Therefore, don’t consent to sinners. In addition, don’t walk with them. “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...” (Psm. 1:1). Character is built at home, and the chief architect is the father. The first few chapters of Proverbs are an appeal by a father to a son. Disobedience to parents is one of the evidences of the last day apostasy (II Tim. 3:1-5). Could it be that today’s apostasy is due to the failure of fathers to teach and admonish their children? The Father is the leader of the home. Leaders go first. Fathers are to model character and to teach it by precept and example. “My son” may be the two most important words in the entire Book of Proverbs. A “son” is a father’s responsibility. If we don’t lead them, someone else will.