

# Proverbs 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

## Analysis

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Solomon provides urgent counsel for escaping unwise surety: humble yourself, go immediately, and plead earnestly. The Hebrew 'raphash' (humble/abase yourself) demands swallowing pride—a key Reformed theme. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. The threefold imperative (do this, go, make sure) shows the seriousness of the situation. This verse teaches that recognizing our foolish decisions and acting swiftly to rectify them demonstrates wisdom and humility before God.

## Historical Context

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The phrase 'make sure thy friend' literally means 'storm' or 'importune' your neighbor. In ancient business culture, persistence and direct confrontation were expected when seeking release from obligations.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. When have you needed to humble yourself to correct a mistake? How did God use that experience?
2. Why is immediate action emphasized in dealing with financial or spiritual entanglements?
3. How does this passage challenge modern notions of pride and saving face?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ אֵת	כִּי	וְהִנֵּצְ ל	בְּנִי י	אֵפ וְאֵן	זֶ אֵת	עֲשֵׂה
<b>thyself when thou art come</b>	<b>thyself</b>	<b>and deliver</b>	<b>my son</b>	<b>this now</b>	<b>Do</b>	
H935	H3588	H5337	H1121	H645	H2063	H6213
וְהָב	סֵלָה	הִתְכַּבֵּר	לִי	רֵעִי:	בְּכַף	
<b>thyself and make sure</b>	<b>humble</b>	<b>of thy friend</b>	<b>into the hand</b>			
H7292	H7511	H7453	H1980			
				רֵעִי:		
				<b>of thy friend</b>		
				H7453		

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 4:10** (Parallel theme): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.