

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

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

Do	H2063	this now	my son	and deliver	H3588	thyself when thou art come
H6213		H645	H1121	H5337		H935
בְּנָאֵל	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
into the hand	of thy friend	H1980	humble	thyself and make sure		
H3709	H7453		H7511	H7292		
רָעֵב:						
of thy friend						
H7453						

Additional Cross-References

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