

# 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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## 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 אֵתָּהּ כִּי וְהִנֵּצְ לִי בְנִי אֵפ וְאֵן זֶה אֵת עָשָׂה  
**Do** H2063 **this now** H645 **my son** H1121 **and deliver** H5337 **thyself when thou art come** H3588 H935

וְהָיָה בְּ יָדָהּ הָיָה תִּכְבֵּד לִי רַעֲיָהּ בְּכַף  
**into the hand** H3709 **of thy friend** H7453 H1980 **humble** H7511 **thyself and make sure** H7292

רַעֲיָהּ  
**of thy friend** 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.