

The Fool

The Bible not only provides us with what we need to protect us from others and for us to help others, but for us to first check us and help us first - Matt 7:1-5 - "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, YOU WILL be judged, and with the measure you use, IT WILL be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and **pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?** 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 **YOU HYPOCRITE, FIRST** take the plank out of your own eye, and **then you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

First, we must realize we are NEVER to label someone a fool - Matt 5:22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'YOU FOOL!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

(*Though I must never call someone a fool, I **must recognize someone who is a fool. Even if that fool is me**)

We are warned not to allow foolish people as being dependable people in our lives - Prov 14:7 **STAY AWAY FROM A FOOLISH MAN,** for you will not find knowledge on his lips. (Like Eve with Satan Gen 3:1-6)

They are incapable of having wise conversation - Prov 23:9 **DO NOT SPEAK TO A FOOL,** for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

Fools walk blindly - Eccl 2:14 The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both.

In a nutshell, the fool in their foolishness is very dangerous - Prov 17:12 **Better** to meet a bear robbed of her cubs **than** a fool in his folly.

Fools purpose displays their disbelief in God - Ps 14:1 - The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

We must redirect them from their foolishness - Prov 26:4-5 - 4 **DO NOT** answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. 5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, Lest he be wise in his own eyes. NASB

What defines a fool or foolishness?

Focusing on their perception and become angry when you do not - Prov 12:15-16 - 15 **The WAY OF A FOOL SEEMS RIGHT TO HIM,** but a wise man listens to advice. 16 **A FOOL SHOWS HIS ANNOYANCE AT ONCE,** but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

They follow self-wisdom -Prov 26:12 **do you see A MAN WISE IN HIS OWN EYES? There is more hope for a fool than for him.**

Fools live in fairytales as if it's reality - Prov 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but **THE FOLLY OF FOOLS IS DECEPTION.**

Fools work harder NOT smarter - Eccl 10:15 A fool's work wearies him; he does not know the way to town.

Fools provoke instead of speaking knowledge - Prov 27:3 Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but provocation by a fool is heavier than both.

Yelling and over-talk instead of quality conversation - Prov 29:9 If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the **fool only rages and laughs,** and **there is no quiet.** ESV

Fools are easily swayed because they believe anything - Prov 14:15 **A SIMPLE MAN BELIEVES ANYTHING,** but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

Fools do not assess situations and pay for it (They mistake foolishness for fearlessness) - Prov 22:3 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but **the simple keep going and suffer for it.** (Prov 27:12)

* **Question:** If I walk into busy traffic or walk of a ledge, is that fearlessness or foolishness? Why?

Fools look at the outcome they see and not what God says - Ps 92:6-7 - 6 The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, 7 that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, **THEY WILL BE FOREVER DESTROYED.**

His stupidity will be evident - Eccl 10:2-3 - 2 The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. 3 Even as he walks along the road, **the fool lacks sense and SHOWS EVERYONE how stupid he is.**

Unfortunately, we have normalized stupid by trusting in self and trusting in man-

Prov 28:26 **HE WHO TRUSTS IN HIMSELF** is a fool, but **HE WHO WALKS IN WISDOM** is kept safe.

Ps 146:3 **Do not put your trust in princes,** in mortal men, who cannot save.

Fools live in complacency - Eccl 4:5-6 - 5 The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. 6 Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

For the fool, things concerning God will not be based on God – Isa 32:6 For the fool speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil: He practices ungodliness and **SPREADS ERROR CONCERNING THE LORD**; the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water.

Fools strive for fleshly comfort instead of uncomfortable wisdom - Eccl 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of leasure.

Fools advice may sound good, but is toxic- Eccl 7:5 It is better to heed a wise man's rebuke **than to listen to the song of fools**.

Spreading of slander - Prov 10:18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander IS A FOOL.

Please don't mistake slander for needed warnings - 1 Tim 1:18-20 - 18 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Will find pleasure in evil instead of Wisdom - Prov 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.

Fools do NOT learn from discipline –

Prov 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible. NASU

Prov 17:10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment **more than** a hundred lashes a fool.

Not controlling their tongue - Prov 17:27-28 - 27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. 28 **Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent**, and **discerning if he holds his tongue**.

Christians know there is one TRUTH while a fool will use many resources to support their claims - Prov 17:24 A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.

Fool's claims will be unsubstantiated - Prov 13:16 Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly.

Fools are led by what they think is more than Truth –

Prov 18:2 - A fool finds NO pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Eccl 10:12-14 - 12 Words from a wise man's mouth are gracious, but a fool is consumed by his own lips. 13 At the beginning his words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness — 14 and the fool multiplies words. **No one knows what is coming** — who can tell him what will happen after him?

Fools are emotionally driven –

Prov 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Prov 14:16-18 - 16 A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. 17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated. 18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Fools gain wealth through wrong paths - Jer 17:11 Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and **in the end he will prove to be a fool**.

Fool's foolishness WILL BE their demise - Prov 1:32-33 - 32 For the waywardness of the simple WILL KILL THEM, and the complacency of fools **WILL DESTROY THEM**; 33 but **whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm**."

Risks of a fool and foolishness

Wisdom (from God) is the remedy to foolishness - Prov 2:6 For the **LORD GIVES wisdom**, and **FROM HIS MOUTH come knowledge and understanding**.

Fools' words lead to destruction - Prov 10:14 **Wise men** store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.

Fools love speaking nonsense - Prov 15:2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

Nothing is gained from the fool - Prov 15:7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the HEARTS of fools.

If you depend on fools, you will have worthless outcomes - Prov 26:6-11 - 6 Like cutting off one's feet or drinking violence is the sending of a message by the hand of a fool. 7 Like a lame man's legs that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. 8 Like tying a stone in a sling is the **giving of honor to a fool**. →

→9 Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand is a **proverb in the mouth of a fool**. 10 Like an archer who wounds at random is **he who hires a fool or any passer-by**. 11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so **a fool repeats his folly**.

Foolishness can lead to an early death - Eccl 7:17 Be not overly wicked, **NEITHER BE A FOOL**. **Why should you die before your time?** ESV

Fools are asking for punishment - Prov 14:3 A fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

Fools are dangerous with money - Prov 17:16 Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

Foolish children bring grief to parents - Prov 17:21 To have a fool for a son brings grief; there is no joy for the father of a fool.

Fools cannot handle wisdom - Prov 24:7 Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the assembly at the gate he has nothing to say.

Fools will say a lot of nothing - Eccl 5:3 As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words.

Foolishness causes sin, which causes torment - Ps 38:3-6 - 3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. 4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. 5 My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, 6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. ESV

Fools become targets for deception - Rom 16:17-18 - 17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of NAIVE PEOPLE.

Are we foolish?

We must first ask, "What is my perception?" - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, NOT by sight.

Are we sincerely testing everything? - 1 Thess 5:21-22-21 **TEST EVERYTHING**. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

It takes a little foolishness to outweigh wisdom - Eccl 10:1 - As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

Foolishness comes from within us - Mark 7:20-23 - 20 And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and FOOLISHNESS. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." NASB

How to avoid foolishness

A fool must choose to be wise and leave foolishness - Prov 9:4-6 - 4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment. 5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. 6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

Understanding Gods Word gives fools understanding - Ps 119:130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

We must be Spiritual to get that Word- 1 Cor 2:13-14 - 13 This is what we speak, NOT IN WORDS TAUGHT US BY HUMAN WISDOM but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he CANNOT understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Get rid of worldly wisdom to gain True wisdom - 1 Cor 3:18-21 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. 19 For the **WISDOM OF THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHNESS IN GOD'S SIGHT**. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "**THE LORD KNOWS THAT THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE ARE FUTILE**." 21 So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours,

All are born foolish; therefore, parents must raise their children to remove it - Prov 22:15 **FOOLISHNESS IS** bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. NKJV

We are simply commanded to live wise, not as fools - Eph 5:15-17 - 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore **DO NOT BE FOOLISH**, but understand what the Lord's will is.