

The Making of a Fool



Teaching Wisdom

- Prov. 1:1-5 - “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; 4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel”

What Is A Fool?

- “Hebrew ‘eviyl’ - appears primarily in wisdom literature; an adjective meaning foolish in the sense of one who hates wisdom and walks in vanity, despising instruction and morality.” (*Vine’s & TCWD*)
- “Greek ‘aphrone’ - mindless, ignorant, egotistic, rash (especially in matters of morality), unbelieving, unwise.” (*Strong’s*)

What Is A Fool?

- “The word is used in Scripture with respect to moral rather than to intellectual deficiencies. The ‘fool’ is not one who lacks mental abilities, rather is one who misuses them. The ‘fool’ is the person who casts off the fear of God, and thinks and acts as if he could safely disregard the eternal principles of God's righteousness and judgment.”
(Unger's Bible Dictionary, p. 375)

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Trust only in yourself.
 - In his own eyes, the fool can do no wrong.
 - Prov. 12:15 - “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.”
 - The fool trusts only in his own heart.
 - Prov. 28:26 - “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.”
 - Prov. 3:5-6 - “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Close your mind to instruction.
 - Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 - Prov. 1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
 - Especially instruction from his father.
 - Prov. 15:5 - “A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Close your mind to instruction.
 - Fools die from lack of wisdom.
 - Prov. 10:21 - “The lips of the righteous feed many,
But fools die for lack of wisdom.”
 - Fools are eager to tell everything they know.
 - Prov. 18:2 - “A fool has no delight in
understanding, But in expressing his own heart.”
 - A fool thinks he knows everything.
 - Prov. 18:13 - “He who answers a matter before he
hears it, It is folly and shame to him.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Close your mind to instruction.
 - What fools know is soon known by all.
 - Prov. 14:33 - “Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But what is in the heart of fools is made known.”
 - Their foolishness becomes apparent to all.
 - Prov. 12:23 - “A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.”
 - Prov. 13:16 - “Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.”
 - It is a waste of time to share wisdom with a fool.
 - Prov. 23:9 - “Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Refuse to profit from discipline.
 - Fools are destined to suffer for their folly.
 - Prov. 19:29 - “Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.”
 - Prov. 26:3 - “A whip for the horse, A bridle for the donkey, And a rod for the fool's back.”
 - Yet they are unlikely to learn from efforts to correct them.
 - Prov. 17:10 - “Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Refuse to profit from discipline.
 - Hatred of correction is the defining characteristic of a fool.
 - Prov. 12:1 - “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.”
 - Trying to correct a fool is folly itself.
 - Prov. 16:22 - “Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.”
 - Prov. 29:9 - “If a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.”
 - George DeHoff, Commentary Proverbs - “When arguing with a fool, be certain he is not similarly engaged.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Be impulsive.
 - A fool vents all of his feelings.
 - Prov. 29:11 - “A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back.”
 - His wrath is soon known.
 - Prov. 12:16 - “A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame.”
 - His impulsiveness makes his folly worse.
 - Prov. 14:29 - “He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Chose to play with sin.
 - Evil is a game to a fool.
 - Prov. 10:23 - “To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.”
 - He makes a joke out of sin.
 - Prov. 14:9 - “Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is favor.”
 - He is not afraid of the consequences of sin.
 - Prov. 14:16 - “A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.”

How Does One Become A Fool?

- Refuse to change.
 - A fool will never change.
 - Prov. 27:22 - “Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.”
 - He hates the prospect of change.
 - Prov. 13:19 - “A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.”
 - He will always return to his sin.
 - Prov. 26:11 - “As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.”

So You Want To Be A Fool? No? Then:

- Cease trusting only in yourself,
- Listen objectively to instruction,
- Resolve to learn from discipline,
- Resist impulses,
- Refuse to consider sin lightly,
- Change when God deems it necessary.

Choose Wisdom Over Folly

- Regardless of what a fool may think of himself, he will never appear as anything except foolish.
 - Prov. 26:1, 8 - “As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool... 8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling Is he who gives honor to a fool.”
 - Prov. 3:35 - “The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.”

Choose Wisdom Over Folly

- Who is the greatest of fools?
 - Psalm 14:1 - “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.”
 - Psalm 92:5 - “O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep. 6 A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this. 7 When the wicked spring up like grass, And when all the workers of iniquity flourish, It is that they may be destroyed forever.”