

NAÏVE

DEFINITIONS:

Waltke—Though the gullible are not said to be wicked or godless and not compared to the “fool,” their gullibility is not without moral or religious significance or danger for themselves and their associates. Until they repent, they are grouped with morally culpable fools and mockers (1:22, 32; 8:5). Uncommitted, they naively trust every word (14:15), bumble into misfortune (22:3; 27:3), and inherit folly (14:18); their “apostasy” kills them (1:32). Only if they leave the community of their peers and set out on the way of insight, and learn cunning (8:5; 9:4, 6, 16), can they live (9:6). Their basic need is “shrewdness”...In short, though saveable, they are morally culpable apostates, lumped together with fools and mockers (1:22, 32; 8:5), and headed for death (1:32) (111).

Kitchen—The naïve person is one who is open and vulnerable to any influence that the winds may blow upon him. The naïve lack judgment (39).

Ross—The naïve person is one who is gullible, easily enticed and falls into traps (905-906).

3 characteristics of the naïve:

1. The naïve completely lack biblical convictions

Proverbs 14:15 *The naïve believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps.*

Proverbs 7:7 *And I saw among the naïve, And discerned among the youths A young man lacking sense, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house, 9 In the twilight, in the evening, In the middle of the night and in the darkness. 10 And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart.*

2. The naïve consistently seek fleshly fulfillment

Proverbs 9:1 *Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;*

² *She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table;*

³ *She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city:*

⁴ *“Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks understanding she says,*

⁵ *“Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed.*

⁶ *“Forsake your folly and live, And proceed in the way of understanding.”*

Proverbs 9:13 *The woman of folly is boisterous, She is naive and knows nothing.*

¹⁴ *She sits at the doorway of her house, On a seat by the high places of the city,*

¹⁵ *Calling to those who pass by, Who are making their paths straight:*

¹⁶ *“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here,” And to him who lacks understanding she says,*

¹⁷ *“Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”*

¹⁸ *But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of Sheol.*

3. The naïve constantly incur unnecessary consequences

Proverbs 22:3 *The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it.*

Proverbs 27:12 *A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, The naive proceed and pay the penalty.*

Proverbs 14:18 *The naive inherit foolishness, But the sensible are crowned with knowledge.*

REMEDIES:

-Recognize what’s at stake for being naïve—**Proverbs 1:30** *“They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. 31 “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices. 32 “For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them. 33 “But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil.”*

-Develop an increasing distrust of yourself—**Jer. 17:9** *“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*

Only the word of God can give you discernment about your heart—**Heb. 4:12** *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

-Don’t blame anything or anyone else besides yourself for the consequences you incur—**Ps. 51:4** *Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.*