

FOOL

DEFINITIONS:

Kitchen--[The fool] is one who is thick-headed and stubborn...by his refusal to listen to wisdom...He has no place for truth in his life and no time for the fear of the Lord (49).

Waltke--[Fools are] morally deficient characters that prompt their irrational behavior. They are blockheads because, [being] deaf to wisdom, [and having a] distorted moral vision...they delight in twisting values that benefit the community (111).

3 Characteristics of fools:

1. Fools stubbornly resist listening

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

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

Proverbs 17:10 A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool.

Proverbs 18:2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.

Proverbs 20:3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

Proverbs 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 26:4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him.

5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That he not be wise in his own eyes.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

2. Fools pridefully continue sinning

Proverbs 14:16 *A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless.*

Proverbs 10:8 *The wise of heart will receive commands, But a babbling fool will be ruined.*
9 *He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out.*
10 *He who winks the eye causes trouble, And a babbling fool will be ruined.*

Proverbs 26:11 *Like a dog that returns to its vomit Is a fool who repeats his folly.*

Proverbs 27:22 *Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.*

3. Fools inadvertently repudiate blessing

Proverbs 14:33 *Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, But in the hearts of fools it is made known.*

Proverbs 17:7 *Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, Much less are lying lips to a prince.*

Proverbs 17:16 *Why is there a price in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, When he has no sense?*

Proverbs 24:7 *Wisdom is too exalted for a fool, He does not open his mouth in the gate.*

Proverbs 26:1 *Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool.*

Proverbs 26:8 *Like one who binds a stone in a sling, So is he who gives honor to a fool.*

REMEDIES:

1. Cultivate a soft heart to the truth

Parable of the soils—Mark 4:13-20; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 2:1-3

2. Repent from sin by taking ownership

2 Cor. 7:10; Ps. 51:4; Dan. 9:7-19

3. Seek what God says is good the way God says to seek it

Matt. 5:3-12; 2 Tim. 2:21-22; Heb. 12:14-15; James 3:13-18