

Living A Fool Proof Life

I. Two reasons to read about the Proverbs Fool...

1. To learn how to recognize one.
2. To learn how to avoid being foolish ourselves.

They're presented as unteachable:

Proverbs 1:7b - Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:22c - Fools hate knowledge.

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.

Proverbs 26:11 - As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

Instead of learning, he does this...

Proverbs 18:2 - A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own opinion.

This leaves them all puffed up like a puffer fish!

By the way... A single puffer fish can produce enough toxin to kill 30 adult humans!

To humans, it is 1,200 times more poisonous than cyanide!

Proverbs 14:3a - In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride.

They're deceived!

Proverbs 14:8 - The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit.

They think they're speaking wisdom, when in fact:

Proverbs 15:2b - The mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Proverbs 15:14b - The mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

This is why their mouths and ignorance get them in trouble:

Proverbs 18:7 - A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

Proverbs 10:21 - Fools die for lack of wisdom.

The solution is to become teachable:

Proverbs 8:5 - O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart.

II. How do you deal with fools?

You don't!

At least you don't in the natural!

This is what should happen in the natural...

Proverbs 14:7 - Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

If you choose to hang around fools though, the Bible also lets you know what to expect:

Proverbs 13:20b - The companion of fools will be destroyed.

What if you don't want to be the "companion of fools" but you want to try to reason with a fool?

Scripture is clear about the hostility you should expect dealing with fools:

Proverbs 12:16 - A fool's wrath is known at once.

Ps. 14:1 - The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

This is how miserable it is:

Proverbs 17:12 - Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs, than a fool in his folly.

A fool will hate what you have to say:

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

You'll be scorned if you try to rebuke a fool:

Proverbs 14:9a - Fools mock at sin.

Proverbs 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.

Proverbs 27:3 - A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the provocation of a fool is heavier than both.

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

1. It is so foolish to answer a fool you have to be a fool to do so!

2. You won't be able to help but look like a fool when you respond!

"Don't argue with a fool because onlookers won't be able to tell the difference."

1 Cor. 1:18-21

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Proverbs 26:4-5

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Remember that when you just get into a debate based on opinion, you will lower yourself into the soulish realm instead of the realm of the Spirit.

Life is in the Spirit!

The truth will make you free, but it's probably going to make you miserable first!

James 4:6 - But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5b - "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."