

Doctrine of the Fool

1. Biblically a fool refers to someone who is perverse and thus silly in the sight of God and man. To be perverse is to turn away from what is right or good. It is to be corrupt, improper and incorrect. To be perverse is to act contrary to the evidence. It is to remain obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable.
2. Individuals can know when they are acting foolish. Sometimes they just do not care. On other occasions they repent of their attitude and actions.
 - *1 Samuel 26:21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.*
3. Those who do not repent often die the death of the wicked which is to die as a fool dieth.
 - *2 Samuel 3:33 And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth?*
4. A fool can be recognized by several distinguishing characteristics.
 - *Atheism. Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*
 - *Lack of discernment. Psalms 92:6 A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.*
 - *Intemperate in speech. Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.*
 - *Enjoys making trouble. Proverbs 10:23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.*
 - *Possess an inflated ego. Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*
 - *Silliness. Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.*
 - *Inappropriate anger. Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.*
 - *Hostile to parents. Proverbs 15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*
 - *Illogical. Proverbs 17:7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.*

- Unwilling to receive correction no matter how painful it might be. *Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.*
- Indifferent to Bible doctrine. *Proverbs 17:16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?*
- Dull in understanding. *Proverbs 24:7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.*
- Lack of spiritual insight into self. *Proverbs 18:2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.*
- Meddlesome. *Proverbs 20:3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.*
- Untrustworthy. *Proverbs 26:6 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.*
- Lazy. *Ecclesiastes 4:5 The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.*
- Giggly. *Ecclesiastes 7:6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.*
- Self-destructive. *Ecclesiastes 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.*

5. The Bible predicts what happens to fools.

- The fool will lose wealth. *Psalms 49:10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.*
- The fool will fall from an exalted position to a lower one in life. *Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.*
- The fool will become the servant of others who are wiser. *Proverbs 11:29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.*
- The fool will not receive much honor. *Proverbs 26:1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.*
- The fool will continue to act foolishly. *Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.*

6. Because the fool is so evil and dangerous it would be better and easier to confront an angry bear than a fool committing folly.
 - *Proverbs 17:12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.*
7. Godly parents should pray they do not give birth to a fool.
 - *Proverbs 17:21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.*
8. There is a way for even the most foolish to appear wise and that is to not speak too quickly.
 - *Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.*
9. Because the foolish person will not listen and will despise wisdom there are times when he should not be spoken to.
 - *Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.*
10. When a person argues with a fool it is possible to become just like that person.
 - *Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.*
11. At times the kindest course of action is to confront a fool lest he be puffed with and destroyed by pride and self importance.
 - *Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.*
12. The fool has no capacity for life.
 - *Ecclesiastes 2:14 The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.*
 - *Ecclesiastes 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.*
13. The foolish person is soon forgotten.
 - *Ecclesiastes 2:16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? As the fool.*

14. Every person has the potential of being wise, or being a fool.

- *Ecclesiastes 2:19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? Yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.*

15. It is possible for the spiritual leaders of a nation to be classified as a fool.

- *Hosea 9:7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.*

16. The Lord does not want His disciples to engage in personal name calling in a spirit of anger.

- *Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

17. While God does not engage in name calling in the spirit of personal anger, He does accurately assess a person to be a fool.

- *Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

18. The apostle Paul did call Christians in the church of Corinth fools, not in personal anger but because of the dullness of their understanding of *Bible* doctrine.

- *1 Corinthians 15:36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

19. Knowing the characteristics and end of a fool the Christian must strive to embrace wisdom and store Bible doctrine in the soul for the glory of God and the good of his own heart.