

Fools (Part 1)

I just finished reading through Proverbs and saw some good verses dealing with fools. It helps me come to a better understanding of what a “**fool**” is, and the traits of a fool, so that I can identify them in my own life and deal with them with the Lord’s help, and also in the lives of my kids that I’m trying to “**train up**.”

This list is certainly not exhaustive, but perhaps it will motivate you to keep looking for understanding from God’s word about what a fool is in hopes of identifying and dealing with these things in your life or the lives of your children.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Pr 1v7

Psalms 14v1 and 53v1 say that “**the fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...**” so according to the Book, atheism is the mark of a fool as well as any refusal to “**fear**” the Lord. Rejecting “**wisdom and instruction**” is a dangerous character flaw. Not only can it cause someone a lot of trouble in this life, but it makes it much more likely that they will reject instruction from God’s word in places like Romans 3:23 and Acts 16:31. In the life of the Christian it can cause apathy and disobedience toward the Lord’s leading in their life. May the Lord help us to be tenderhearted toward what He’s said!

“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?” Pr 1v22

Here, fools are connected with simpletons and scorers (are you listening Little Dicky Dawkins?!) and it says that they HATE knowledge. Talk about living dangerously! Having a disdain for learning is absolute madness and can lead to rejection of instruction from God’s word about “**the wages of sin**”!

I think we all know kids from school who would never do well on tests and who were actually proud of their ignorance. Often, they’d make fun of students who were actually putting forth serious effort to learn what was being taught in class. “**a fool hath no delight in understanding...**” If a person hates knowledge and has no interest in learning it will be hard for them to see their need for a Saviour!

The company I used to work for sent me off to some training in some various manufacturing processes. The instructor was a gentleman in his seventies, and at the end of class one day he said “I like you kid, you seem like you actually enjoy learning stuff.” I said that I did and thanked him for explaining things well. Almost immediately the next class from a nearby factory began to file in to take their seats, all of them talking and laughing loudly. The instructor leaned over to me and said, “I can’t stand teaching these guys. They don’t care about any of this.” I said “Well, “**a fool hath no delight in understanding...**” He stared at me for a moment then said, “Say that again!” And reached for his writing pad to write it down. We became friends and I found out that he was a retired rocket scientist and took up teaching more as a hobby than anything else. He had once worked on a launch project with Werner von Braun (perhaps the greatest rocket scientist of all time) and was a well

read and brilliant man. However, he was an even bigger fool than the factory workers whom he didn't like because he didn't believe that God existed or that he was a sinner! He had rejected every bit of instruction from the Holy Bible in terms of sin and the wages of it. I was able to give the gospel to him very clearly on a number of occasions, but to this day he remains a "**fool**". Perhaps the Lord will work in his foolish heart before it's too late!

"A fool's wrath is presently known...He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly..."

Pr 12v16/14v17

Fools are quick tempered, unlike the Lord. Aren't you glad that the Lord is nothing like us?! If the Lord was as quick tempered as I am I would have killed me a long time ago! I'm so thankful that He is "**slow to anger...**"

Also, Pr 16v32 says that "**he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty**" and James tells us to be "**...slow to wrath...**"

As a child I was EXTREMELY quick tempered. My Mom and Dad had to deal with me many a time for "losing it" over the smallest things. After I trusted Christ, the Spirit of God started working in me and I stopped being a walking, ticking time bomb! However, I still do have to watch myself so I don't fall into my old ways and I need God's word to keep cleaning me up (Psalm 119v9, John 15v3)!

I'm so thankful that even though I am quick tempered, the most "**slow to anger**" Person in the universe gave me a perfect Book to show me wisdom and His Spirit to teach me how to deal with stuff like that. Praise the Lord!

Obviously there are lots and lots of verses and examples of fools and foolishness throughout the Bible, but I encourage you to take a look at this subject as well while asking the Lord to deal with you on anything in your life that needs addressing!