

# The Wise and Foolish According to Proverbs

## WISE PEOPLE...

## FOOLISH PEOPLE...

### #1 Listen well and speak carefully

### Don't listen well and speak carelessly

Let the wise listen and add to their learning (1:3)

The wise in heart accept commands but...

a chattering fool comes to ruin (10:8)

the mouth of a fool invites ruin (10:14)

Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool (10:18)

a trustworthy person keeps a secret (11:13)

A gossip betrays a confidence, but...

the tongue of the wise brings healing (12:23)

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but...

The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves, but... a fool's heart blurts out folly (12:23)

fools mock at making an agenda for sin (14:9)

the eyes of the wise protect them (14:3)

A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but...

The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but...

the mouth of the fool gushes folly. (15:2)

The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but...

the hearts of fools are not upright. (15:7)

The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but...

the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. (15:14)

The wise in heart are called discerning,  
and gracious words promote instruction. (16:21)

The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent,  
and their lips promote instruction. (16:23)

The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,  
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. (17:27)

Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent,  
and discerning if they hold their tongues. (17:28)

Fools find no pleasure in understanding  
but delight in airing their own opinions. (18:2)

The lips of fools bring them strife,  
and their mouths invite a beating. (18:6)

The mouths of fools are their undoing,  
and their lips are a snare to their very lives. (18:7)

To answer before listening— that is folly and shame.  
(18:3)

the wise bring calm in the end. (28:11)

Fools give full vent to their rage, but...

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### #2 Open to feedback and correction

### Closed to feedback and correction

	Foolish despise wisdom and instruction (1:7)
Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but...	whoever ignores correction leads others astray (10:17)
Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but...	whoever hates correction is stupid (12:1)
the wise listen to advice (12:15)	The way of of fools seems right to them, but...
A wise son heeds his father's instructions, but...	a mocker does not respond to rebukes (13:1)
whoever heeds correction shows prudence. (15:6)	A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but...
Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. (15:31)	
A rebuke impresses a discerning person...	more than a hundred lashes a fool. (17:10)
The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out. (18:15)	
Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. (19:20)	

### #3 Display humility, grace, and fear of God

### Display pride, quick temperament, and strife

with humilty comes wisdom (11:2)	When pride comes, then disgrace but...
wisdom is found in those who take advice (13:10)	Where there is strife there is pride, but...
the prudent overlook an insult. (12:18)	Fools show their annoyance at once, but...
The wise fear the lord and shun evil, but...	a fool is hot headed and yet feels secure (14:15)
	a quick tempered person does foolish things (14:17)
Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor. (15:33)	
A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. (19:11)	
It is to one's honor to avoid strife, but...	every fool is quick to quarrel. (20:3)
	Do you see a person wise in their own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for them. (26:12)
	Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him. 26:4

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### #4 Demonstrate positive sowing & reaping

### Demonstrate negative sowing & reaping

A wise woman builds her house, but...

As a dog returns to its vomit,  
so fools repeat their folly. 26:11

The wealth of the wise is their crown, but...

Complacency of fools will destroy them (1:32)  
with her own hands the foolish tears hers down. (14:1)

The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but...

the folly of fools yields folly. (14:24)  
A person's own folly leads to their ruin,  
yet their heart rages against the Lord. (19:3)

Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but...

Penalties are prepared for mockers,  
and beatings for the backs of fools. (19:29)

fools gulp theirs down. (21:20)

folly brings punishment to fools. (16:22)

Like snow in summer or rain in harvest,  
honor is not fitting for a fool. (26:1)

A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey,  
and a rod for the backs of fools! 26:3

As a dog returns to its vomit,  
so fools repeat their folly. 26:11

### #5 Surround themselves with wise people

### Surround themselves with fools

Walk with the wise and become wise...

a companion of fools suffers harm (13:20)

Stay away from a fool (14:7)

Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the wise. (15:12)

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,  
do not associate with one easily angered,  
or you may learn their ways  
and get yourself ensnared. (22:24-25)

Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words. (23:9)

those who walk in wisdom are kept safe. (28:26)

Those who trust in themselves are fools, but...

### #6 Bring joy to parents

### Bring grief to parents

A wise son brings joy to his father, but...

a foolish man despises his mother. (15:20)

To have a fool for a child brings grief;  
there is no joy for the parent of a godless fool. (17:21)

A foolish son brings grief to his father  
and bitterness to the mother who bore him. (17:25)

A foolish child is a father's ruin... (19:13)

a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him. (23:24)