

## Message #44

## Proverbs 14:1-6

C. W. Slemming, a former pastor and Bible teacher from Great Britain, who died in 1974, said of this section of Proverbs: “Right and wrong are placed side by side. Wisdom and folly are put together, virtues and vices are contrasted, allowing the one to expose the other.” He then went on to say, “...each verse is a mine of practical information and application to every-day moral living.”

**GOD’S WISE WAYS OF LIFE ARE TOTALLY OPPOSITE OF MAN’S FOOLISH WAYS OF LIFE AND THE DIFFERENCES WORK THEMSELVES OUT IN VARIOUS PHASES OF LIFE.**

It is impossible to be walking in a wise direction and foolish direction, godly direction and godless direction, righteous direction and unrighteous direction at the same time. One cannot be wise and be a fool at the same time.

**DIFFERENCE #1** – A woman’s relationship to her family determines wisdom or folly. **14:1**

The wise woman is one who is skillful and crafty in the ways of God and the foolish woman is not. The Hebrew word “foolish” is one that refers to a woman who craves power and preeminence. The wise woman is one who is constantly building her house, not tearing it down. A foolish woman constantly belittles and tears down her own family members, including her children and husband. The motive is she wants the preeminence and power.

**DIFFERENCE #2** – A person’s behavior determines one’s attitude toward God. **14:2**

Dr. Sid Buzzell said, “A person’s attitude toward the LORD—either fearing Him or despising Him shows up in his behavior. His conduct is either upright or devious.”

**DIFFERENCE #3** – A person’s speech determines a person’s foolishness or wisdom. **14:3**

The idea is that a fool is one who constantly waves and brandishes speech that is proud. The wise person watches his speech.

**DIFFERENCE #4** – A person’s willingness to work determines a person’s gain. **14:4**

Wisdom and folly are quickly discerned by a man’s attitude toward his work. A hard-working, disciplined, industrious person is a wise person. A lazy, undisciplined, unmotivated person is a fool.

**DIFFERENCE #5** – A person’s truthfulness determines his faithfulness or phoniness. **14:5**

When you put a faithful person of God on the stand, he will not deceitfully lie; but one who is false will continually breathe out deception. A faithful witness will always stand for truth.

**DIFFERENCE #6** – A person’s ability to grasp God’s truth determines if he is a scoffer. **14:6**

It is not the pursuit of Bible knowledge that determines wisdom; it is the ability to understand. One whose life is a mockery to God’s truth will never grow to a deep knowledge of truth.