

# Fool & Wiseman in Conflict

*Proverbs 18:1-18:21*

*Puritan Reformed Church - Pastor David Reece*

*Lord's Day November 20th, Anno Domini 2022*

## OUTLINE OF PROVERBS

- 1) Child / Youth - Collection I<sup>1</sup> - Chapters 1-9 - 1:1-7 - Introduction  
**Purpose:** 1:2-3 - 2 To know [to perceive] wisdom [Hokmah] and instruction [musar], To perceive [differentiate] the words of understanding, 3 To receive [possess] the instruction [musar] of success [haskel], Justice [sedeq - righteousness / truth in judgment], judgment [mishpat - decision, choice], and equity [maysharim - order/smoothness/beauty];  
**Thesis:** 1:7 - 7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
  - A - 1:8-19 - The Father's Invitation vs. The Gang's Invitation
  - B - 1:20-33 - Wisdom Rebukes the simple
  - C - 2:1-22 - The Father Warns against evil men and the unchaste woman
  - D - 3:1-4:27 - The Father Commands that teaching be heeded
  - D' - 5:1-6:35 - The Father warns against the unchaste woman
  - C' - 7:1-27 - The Father Warns against the Woman Folly
  - B' - 8:1-36 - Wisdom's invitation to the simple
  - A' - 9:1-18 - Wisdom's Invitation vs. Folly's Invitation to the simple
- 2) Young Man / Adult - Collection II - 10:1-22:16 - The 375 Proverbs of Solomon
- 3) Young Man / Adult - Collection III - 22:17-24:22 - The Thirty Sayings of the Wise
- 4) Young Man / Adult - Collection IV - 24:23-34 - Further Sayings of the Wise
- 5) Father / Leader - Collection V - 25:1-29:27 - More Proverbs of Solomon from Hezekiah's Men
- 6) Father / Leader - Collection VI - 30:1-33 - The Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh
- 7) Father / Leader - Collection VII - 31:1-31:31 - The Sayings of Lemuel

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<sup>1</sup> Collection I outline Modified from Bruce Waltke NICOT: Proverbs - page 12

## **PROVERBS 18:1-18:21 - The Verbal Combat of the Fool and the Wiseman**

### **18:1-18:11 - The Strife Creating Speech of the Fool Vs. The Defense of the Righteous**

**18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;  
He rages against all wise judgment [sound wisdom].**

**2 A fool has no delight in understanding,  
But in expressing his own heart.**

**3 When the wicked comes, contempt comes also;  
And with dishonor comes reproach.**

1) Intro - Strife and the alienating tendencies of sin

**4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;  
The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.**

**5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked,  
Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.**

**6 A fool's lips enter into contention,  
And his mouth calls for blows.**

**7 A fool's mouth is his destruction,  
And his lips are the snare of his soul.**

**8 The words of a talebearer [gossip or slanderer] are like tasty trifles,  
And they go down into the inmost body [Lit. rooms of the belly].**

2) Body

**9 He who is slothful in his work  
Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.**

3) Conclusion

**10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower;  
The righteous run to it and are safe [secure, lit. set on high].**

**11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
And like a high wall in his own esteem.**

4) Contrast: The Defense of the Righteous

### **18:12 - Bridge**

**12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty,  
And before honor is humility.**

## **18:13-18:21 - The Peace Creating Speech of the Wise**

**13 He who answers a matter before he hears it,  
It is folly and shame to him.**

**14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,  
But who can bear a broken spirit?**

**15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge,  
And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.**

5) Introduction - The Unteachable Fool and the Teachable Wise

**16 A man's gift makes room for him,  
And brings him before great men.**

**17 The first one to plead his cause seems right,  
Until his neighbor comes and examines him.**

**18 Casting lots causes contentions to cease,  
And keeps the mighty apart.**

**19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city,  
And contentions are like the bars of a castle.**

6) Conflict & Justice

**20 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth;  
From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.**

**21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.**

7) The Power of Speech

## **Conclusion**

The Fool picks fights over more things than the wise man, and the wise man ends fights more readily than the fool. But when the wise man fights he gains more than the Fool does and gains the spoils of victory. The Wise man knows that he Cannot win his fights by his own power, but trusts in God to give him gain even in contention when the cause is just.