

How to Deal With a Fool

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Proverbs 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Proverbs 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

- I. We cause ourselves a lot of unnecessary grief trying to deal with fools.
 - A. We can get some wisdom from the Word of God on how to deal with these people that are everywhere in our lives.
 - B. We all have them in our families.
 - C. We have them in the workplace.
 - D. We have them in our government and in places of authority.
 - E. We run into them daily, or even more often than that, and we need to know what God says we should do with them.
 - F. Apparently, most people do not know, or do not care, what the Bible says about dealing with fools, because most people do all the things that the Bible instructs us NOT to when it comes to dealing with fools.

- II. First of all, you cannot educate a fool – he is absolutely unteachable.
 - A. A fool is not a fool because he lacks knowledge or intelligence; he is a fool because he refuses to seek knowledge.
 1. So the problem is his will to do foolishly, instead of wisely.
 2. His will is under the control of his pride and self-centered view of everything.
 3. His only hope is to lose his pride and his supreme love of self.
 4. Education will not cure a fool of his foolishness.
 - B. A fool believes only in himself – he does not care what other people think or believe.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

1. He lives in total delusion about himself and how others view him, and is unwilling to listen or consider anything but his own views of things.

C. A fool lives according to his feelings and his lusts.

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

D. Talking to him does no good whatsoever, as far as removing his foolishness from him.

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

E. If the person is really a fool, then he cannot be reasoned with and shown his foolishness.

- F. In the first place, he will refuse to listen – that is one of the identifying marks of a fool.
- G. Then also, he is too busy talking to listen to someone else – that is another identifying mark of a fool – he talks incessantly.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 ...a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

Ecclesiastes 10:14 A fool also is full of words:

Proverbs 12:16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

- H. So no amount of verbal persuasion of any kind will have the slightest affect on a fool – and you cannot out-talk him.

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

- I. He loves to argue and strife and drama are what he thrives on.

Proverbs 20:3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

- III. You cannot bring him to consider and understand about God, and how great and powerful and wise He is.

Psalm 92:5-6 O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

- A. A fool denies the existence of God, intellectually or by his practice.

Psalm 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.

- B. You are not going to scare a fool into fearing God and believing in Him.
- C. You are not going to reason with him about God and get him to agree to being a sinner and at enmity with God.

- IV. You cannot reason with him about his sin and its consequences because he thinks it is fun and games.

Proverbs 10:23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Proverbs 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

- A. So everything is a joke, and everything is funny.
- B. He laughs at what should cause him to blush.
- C. He boasts in what he should be ashamed of.
- D. He sees himself and his actions in a completely different way than others see him.
- E. He will laugh at your rebukes, and then he will attack you for them.

- V. You cannot win him with kindness and honor.

Proverbs 26:1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

Proverbs 26:8 As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

- A. It is wasted on him because he only thinks you the fool and he the wise one.

B. He counts it as reward or confirmation for his foolish behavior and attitude.

VI. How then does the Bible say we should deal with these people who are fools?

A. It does not take nearly as long to talk about the answer as it does to talk about the problem:

B. Simple answer: We should avoid them as much as possible:

Proverbs 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Proverbs 9:6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

1. The only way to deal with some people is to stay away from them.
2. No one needs a fool in their life who is full of pride, contempt and hatred for others, foolishness and sin, and ignorant ideas about everything.
3. No matter who they are, we are better off without them being a close part of our life.
4. A fool is not friend material, and it is impossible to have a relationship with someone who is a fool.
5. It will only end in disaster for you and the people you love if you try to maintain close relationships with foolish people.
6. We are better off with no friends than to have fools for friends.

C. In no case should we try to argue or debate with a foolish person:

Proverbs 29:9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Ecclesiastes 10:13 The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

1. There is no way to win.
2. In his mind he does not have to make sense.

Proverbs 26:7 The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

Proverbs 26:9 As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

D. Be a good example of what it is like to not be a fool, because example is the strongest influence in all situations of life.

1 Peter 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

1. The best hope of a fool is to see the good examples of people who are not fools.
2. A fool is a follower, even though he paints himself as an independent know-it-all.
3. The more he is left to himself, the more he will be apt to watch others and see the difference.
4. The more someone is contending, or arguing with him, the more he fortifies himself in his foolish, self-confidence, and pride.