

The Opposite of a Wise Person – A Fool (Part 1)

Selected Scripture

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I. A Biblical Understanding of the Word “Fool.”

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*Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent,
and discerning if they hold their tongues.
(Prov.17:18)*

A. Some people are fools because deny the existence of God:

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*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God”
(Psalms 14:1).*

1. The natural world:

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¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. (Rom.1:18-23, NIV)

2. The human conscience:

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¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) (Rom.2:14-15, NIV)

B. Some people are fools because they fail to properly relate to God - they don't fear Him.

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The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Eccl.12:13)

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The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov.1:7).

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*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
(Prov.9:10).*

“Fear in this context is not the fear one has of an enemy; rather, it is honor and love for the Lord. Such fear is manifested in reverence and awe, a disposition to apply what God has revealed in order to live a life that pleases Him in gratitude for His salvation.”

- R. C. Sproul

Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are.
(Ecc1.10:3, NIV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)