

Description & Characteristics of a *FOOL* in the book of Proverbs¹

1:7 - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, *but fools despise wisdom & instruction.*”

1:22 - “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? *For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge.*”

1:25-27 - “Because *you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke*, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.”

1:28-33 - “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. *Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, they would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke.* Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For *the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them*; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.”

3:7 - “*Do not be wise in your own eyes*; fear the LORD and depart from evil.”

3:35 - “The wise shall inherit glory, *but shame shall be the legacy of fools.*”

5:7-13 - “Therefore hear me now, my children, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Remove your way far from her [or him], and do not go near the door of her [or his] house, lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner; and you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed, and say: *'How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised correction! I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!'*”

8:5-19 – [Wisdom, personified and speaking]: “O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them. *They are all plain to him who understands; and right to those who find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.* I wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion. *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.* Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. *I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me.* Riches and honor are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, and my revenue than choice silver.”

8:35-36 - “For whoever finds me [i. e. **wisdom**] finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD; *but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.*”

9:6-12 - “Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding. *He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.* Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, *and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.*”

¹ Compiled by Mike Edwards, August, 2021. All verses from the NKJV.

10:10 - “He who winks with the eye causes trouble, **but a prating fool will fall.**”

10:13-14 - “Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, **but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.** Wise people store up knowledge, **but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.**”

10:18-19 - “**Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.** In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

10:21 - “The lips of the righteous feed many, **but fools die for lack of wisdom.**”

11:19 - “As righteousness leads to life, so **he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.**”

11:27 - “He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, **but trouble will come to him who seeks evil.**”

12:1 - “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, **but he who hates correction is stupid.**”

12:15 - “**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,** but he who heeds counsel is wise.”

13:1 - “A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but **a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.**”

13:5-6 - “A righteous man hates lying, **but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.** Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, **but wickedness overthrows the sinner.**”

13:13-16 - “**He who despises the word will be destroyed,** but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. Good understanding gains favor **but the way of the unfaithful is hard.** Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but **a fool lays open his folly.**”

13:18 - “**Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction,** but he who regards a rebuke will be honored.”

14:3 - “**In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride,** but the lips of the wise will preserve them.”

14:6 - “**A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it,** but knowledge is easy to him who understands.”

14:7 - “Go from the presence of a foolish man [or woman], when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, **but the folly of fools is deceit.**”

14:9 - “**Fools mock at sin...**”

14:12 - “**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**”

14:15 - “**The simple believes every word,** but the prudent considers well his steps.”

14:16 - “A wise man fears and departs from evil, **but a fool rages and is self-confident.**”

15:2 - “The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, **but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.**”

15:10 - “**Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way,** and **he who hates correction will die.**”

16:18 - “**Pride goes before destruction,** and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

16:22-23 - "Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. ***But the correction of fools is folly.*** The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips."

18:1 - "***A man [or woman] who isolates himself seeks his own desire;*** He rages against all wise judgment."

18: 6-7 - "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows. ***A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.***"

19:1 - "Better is the poor who walks in his integrity ***than one who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.***"

19:3 - "***The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.***"

19:27 - "***Cease listening to instruction, my son (or daughter), and you will stray from the words of knowledge.***"

19:29 - "***Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.***"

21:17 - "***He who loves pleasure will be a poor man;*** he who loves wine and oil will not be rich."

26:3-5 - "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back. ***Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.***"

26:6 - "He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence."

26:8-9 - "***Like one who binds a stone in a sling is he who gives honor to a fool.*** Like a thorn that goes into the hand of drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools."

26:11 - "***As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.***"

27:3 - "A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them."

27:12 - "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; ***the simple pass on and are punished.***"

27:22 - "***Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.***"

28:26 - "***He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,*** but whoever walks wisely will be delivered."

29:1 - "***He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed,*** and that without remedy."

29:8-9 - "***Scoffers set a city aflame,*** but wise men turn away wrath. If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace."

29:11 - "***A fool vents all his feelings,*** but a wise man holds them back."

29:19 - "***A servant will not be corrected by mere words;*** for though he understands, ***he will not respond.***"

29:20 - "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

29:23 - "***A man's pride will bring him low,*** but the humble in spirit will retain honor."