

A SUMMARY ON FOOLS

TEXT: (Proverbs 26:6-10, NIV)

⁶ Sending a message by the hands of a fool is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison.

⁷ Like the useless legs of one who is lame is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. ⁸ Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool. ⁹ Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. ¹⁰ Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by.

INTRODUCTION

1. "If you say bad things to a brother or sister, you will be judged by the council. And if you call someone a fool, you will be in danger of the fire of hell" (Matthew 5:22, NCV).
2. "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'" (Luke 12:20, NIV).

I. A FOOL DEFINED

A. A Fool Does Not Seek Wisdom

1. "Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions" (Proverbs 18:2, NLT).
2. "Correct the wise, and they will love you. Teach the wise, and they will become even wiser; teach good people, and they will learn even more" (Proverbs 9:8-9, NLT).

B. A Fool Is Undisciplined

1. "Foolish people lose their tempers, but wise people control theirs" (Proverbs 29:11, NCV).
2. "The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get" (Proverbs 21:20, NLT).
3. "Valuables are safe in a wise person's home; fools put it all out for yard sales" (Proverbs 21:20, MSG).

C. A Fool Does Not Submit to God.

1. "Only fools say in their hearts, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good!" (Psalm 14:1, NLT).

II. HOW TO HANDLE FOOLS—THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT DO

A. Don't Give Them Responsibility

1. "Sending a message by the hands of a fool is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison" (Proverbs 26:6, NIV).
2. "Like an archer who wounds at random is one who hires a fool or any passer-by" (Proverbs 26:10, NIV).

B. Don't Sink to the Level of a Fool

1. "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you yourself will be just like him" (Proverbs 26:4, NIV).
2. "Like the useless legs of one who is lame is a proverb in the mouth of a fool" (Proverbs 26:7, NIV).

3. “Like a thornbush in a drunkard’s hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool” (Proverbs 26:9, NIV).

C. Don’t Reward Foolish Behavior

1. “Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool” (Proverbs 26:8, NIV).

III. HOW TO HANDLE FOOLS—THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

A. Listen to What They Have to Say.

1. “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires” (James 1:19-20, NIV).

B. Love Them and Point Them to the Gospel

1. “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2-3, NIV).
2. “Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for *them*” (Matthew 7:12, MSG).