

Beyond Simplicity

Our Relationship to Truth,
Ignorance, and Correction



Proverbs 1:20-22

²⁰Wisdom calls aloud outside;
She raises her voice in the open squares.

²¹She cries out in the chief concourses,
At the openings of the gates in the city
She speaks her words:

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

Proverbs 1:1-4

¹The proverbs of Solomon the son of David,
king of Israel:

²To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,

³To receive the instruction of wisdom,
Justice, judgment and equity.

⁴**To give prudence to the simple,**
To the young man knowledge and
discretion.

The Simple: Defined

- ▶ to be spacious, be open, be wide
- ▶ to be open-minded, be simple, be naive
- ▶ to be enticed, be deceived
- ▶ to be deceived, be gullible
- ▶ to be persuaded
- ▶ to be deceived
- ▶ simplicity, naivete
- ▶ simple, foolish, open-minded

The Simple in Proverbs

- ▶ The **simple** believes every word,
But the prudent considers well his steps. -
Proverbs 14:15
- ▶ A prudent man foresees evil and hides
himself,
But the **simple** pass on and are punished.
- Proverbs 22:3

The Scoffer: Defined

- ▶ to scorn, make mouths at, talk arrogantly
- ▶ to boast
- ▶ to scorn
- ▶ to mock
- ▶ to be inflated, scoff, act as a scorner, show oneself a mocker

The Scoffer in Proverbs

- ▶ A proud and haughty man--"**Scoffer**" is his name; He acts with arrogant pride. Proverbs 21:24
- ▶ A **scoffer** does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise. - Proverbs 15:12

The Fool: Defined

- ▶ one who despises wisdom
- ▶ one who mocks when guilty
- ▶ one who is quarrelsome
- ▶ one who is licentious
- ▶ fool, stupid fellow, dullard, simpleton, arrogant one

The Fool in Proverbs

- ▶ To do evil is like sport to a **fool**, But a man of understanding has wisdom. - **Proverbs 10:23**
- ▶ In the mouth of a **fool** is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them. - **Proverbs 14:3**
- ▶ Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a **fool** than for him. - **Proverbs 29:20**
- ▶ Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a **fool** than for him. - **Proverbs 26:12**
- ▶ Though you grind a **fool** in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him. - **Proverbs 27:22**

The Wise: Defined

- ▶ skillful (in technical work)
- ▶ wise (in administration, ethically, religiously)
- ▶ shrewd, crafty, cunning, wily, subtle
- ▶ learned, shrewd (class of men)
- ▶ prudent
- ▶ to look at or upon, have insight
- ▶ to give attention to, consider, ponder, be prudent
- ▶ to have insight, have comprehension

The Wise in Proverbs

- ▶ The heart of the **prudent** acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. - **Proverbs 18:15**
- ▶ The tongue of the **wise** uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. - **Proverbs 15:2**

Their Relationship to Truth

- ▶ The **Simple** lacks it, or easily led from it - Proverbs 14:15; Proverbs 22:3
- ▶ The **Scoffer** laughs at it - Proverbs 1:22
- ▶ The **Fool** hates it - Proverbs 1:22
- ▶ The **Wise** loves it, seeks it, treasures it, dispenses it – Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 23:23

Their Relationship to the Truth

²²How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?

For scorners delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.” – Proverbs 9:22

²³Buy the truth and do not sell it, also wisdom
and instruction and understanding –
Proverbs 23:23

Their Relationship to Their Own Ignorance

- ▶ The **Simple** is unaware of it, or loves it - Proverbs 22:3; Proverbs 1:22
- ▶ The **Scoffer** laughs at it, and anyone who points it out – Proverbs 1:22; Proverbs 9:7-8
- ▶ The **Fool** mistakes it for wisdom – Proverbs 12:15
- ▶ The **Wise** informs it - Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 19:20

Their Relationship to Their Own Ignorance

- ▶ The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise. - **Proverbs 12:15**
- ▶ Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a **fool** than for him. - **Proverbs 26:12**
- ▶ Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be **wise** in your latter days. - **Proverbs 19:20**
- ▶ The heart of the **prudent** acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. - **Proverbs 18:15**

Their Relationship to Punishment or Correction

- ▶ The **Simple** learns from theirs and others – Proverbs 21:11
- ▶ The **Scoffer** hates it, and those who give it – Proverbs 9:7-9
- ▶ The **Fool** is destined to receive much of it - Proverbs 17:10; Proverbs 19:29; Proverbs 26:3
- ▶ The **Wise** loves it, and those who give it – Proverbs 9:8-9

Their Relationship to Punishment or Correction

- ▶ When the **scoffer** is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. - Proverbs 21:11

Proverbs 9:8-9

⁷He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself,
And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms
himself.

⁸Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;
Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still
wiser;
Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

The Fool is Destined for Much Punishment

¹⁰Rebuke is more effective for a wise man
Than a hundred blows on a **fool**. - Proverbs 17:10

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

³A whip for the horse,
a bridle for the donkey,
and a rod for the **fool's** back – Proverbs 26:3

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

Self-Examination

- ▶ Do I love the truth? Or do I love to win the argument?
- ▶ Am I in search of knowledge? Or do I feel like I already know everything I need?
- ▶ Am I grateful for correction and criticism? Or do those who correct me earn my ridicule or hatred?
- ▶ Am I easily persuaded or deceived? Do I resist coming to a conclusion even when there is evidence?

Beyond Simplicity: To Foolishness

²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts became darkened. ²²**Professing to be wise, they became fools,** ²³And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man ... ²⁵who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie.**

- Romans 1:21-25

Beyond Simplicity: To Eternal Condemnation

¹⁰...those who perish, because they did not receive **the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**, ¹²that they all might be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Beyond Simplicity: To Wisdom

- ▶ The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the **simple**. - Psalm 119:130
- ▶ When the scoffer is punished, the **simple** is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. - Proverbs 21:11
- ▶ He who walks with **wise** men will be **wise**, But the companion of fools will be destroyed. - Proverbs 13:20

Personal Responsibility

If you are **wise**, you are **wise** for yourself,
And if you scoff, you will bear it alone. -
Proverbs 9:12

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴But you must continue in the things which you have **learned and been assured of**, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, **for reproof, for correction**, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**