

Recognizing and Responding to Five Types of Fools

The opposite of having a wise heart is having a foolish heart. Scripture warns that anyone who associates with a fool will be destroyed. Therefore, it is vital that we recognize the various types of fools and learn how to respond to each one. Solomon speaks of five different types of fools in the book of Proverbs and gives precise direction on how to deal with each one. This is valuable information for a wise counselor.

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Types	Characteristics	Treatment
Simple Fool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes every word • Looks for a leader • Ignorant of cause and effect • Is corrupted by scorning fools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give training in wisdom • Have father lead and praise • Teach principles of life • Tell how scorers are punished
Silly Fool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks “a good time” • Has fun breaking rules • Is committed to wrong friends • Has guilt for wrongdoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train to be a “giver” vs. “taker” • Inform parents of misdeeds • Separate from wrong friends • Help to gain a clear conscience
Sensual Fool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneaks out with wrong friends • Is involved in drugs, wrong habits • Engages in immorality • Skilled in deception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn over to court system • Conquer three root problems • Break wrong “soul ties” • Learn to understand vs. trust
Scorning Fool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gets simple fools to do evil • Despised rules and authorities • Creates unrest and contention • Is proud of evil exploits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confine to constant supervision • Publicly punish for crimes • Remove from contact with others • Require hard work, restitution
Steadfast Fool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has seared conscience • Believes it is right to do wrong • Is skilled in argumentation • Seeks followers for self-gain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place in solitary confinement • Expose to laws of God, nature • Refuse to argue, expose his folly • Warn others of his errors