

## HOW TO BE A FOOL – EPHESIANS 5:15-17

### INTRODUCTION

1. A fool is “a person lacking in judgment or prudence.”<sup>1</sup>
2. The Bible speaks a great deal about those who are foolish.
3. It reveals that fools are those who ultimately live in rebellion to God (**Matt. 7:24-26**).
4. But what characterizes the fool?
5. How can we know if we are fools?
6. Let us consider how to be a fool so we can avoid becoming or worse, remaining, foolish in our lives.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. CLOSED EYES

- A. *“The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.” (Ps. 14:1).*
- B. It has been said that the one who would deny the existence of God is the most foolish person of all.
- C. Some people do choose to live as though there is no God and that what His will doesn’t matter.
  - i. Perhaps they do this because they ignore the evidence of God’s existence and power (**Rom. 1:18-20**).
  - ii. Perhaps they are more persuaded by the wisdom and philosophy of men.
  - iii. Whatever the reason, such people choose to willfully deny and rebel against God.
- D. Thus, the Bible teaches that it is the height of folly to deny the reality of God, the Creator.
- E. This is because the one who is godless will live their life without acknowledging God and will become corrupt and immoral in their conduct (**Ps. 14:1, 3**).
- F. Because they do not fear the Lord, they will lack the wisdom to approach life properly (**Prov. 1:7, 28-31**).
- G. Because they do not understand and appreciate the character of God, they will do many foolish and harmful things (**Job 2:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Titus 3**).
- H. *“Claiming to be wise, they became fools,” (Rom. 1:21-32).*
- I. Do you have eyes that are open to the truth about God?
- J. If not, don’t be foolish any longer.
- K. Humble yourself, open your eyes, and believe and obey God (**Acts 17:24-31**).

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<sup>1</sup> Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster’s collegiate dictionary*. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

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### II. CLOSED EARS

- A. *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Prov. 12:15).*
- B. Another characteristic of the foolish person in the Bible is a refusal to seek and heed wise counsel (**Prov. 18:2; cp. Ps. 1:1-6**).
- C. They are so sure of themselves, they believe there is no one who could possibly know more or know better than themselves (**Prov. 17:10; 18:13**).
- D. They are so puffed up with pride and so insistent that they are right that they have no qualms about stirring up strife to prove “I am right!”
- E. Such an attitude doesn’t happen overnight but after years of refusing to listen to others, not only one’s parents but eventually God as well (**Prov. 10:1; 15:5**).
- F. Because they will not listen and yield to reason, they will continue to be foolish in their behavior toward God and man (**Isa. 5:20-21; Prov. 10:8; 27:22**).
- G. Do you have ears that are open to godly and wise counsel?
- H. If not, don’t be foolish any longer.
- I. Humble yourself, open your ears, and listen (**James 1:19; Eccl. 5:1-2; Prov. 1:7**).

### III. OPEN MOUTHS

- A. *“A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.” (Prov. 18:6–7).*
- B. Another dangerous characteristic of the fool is their lack of self-control.
- C. In the Bible, many passages speak of the refusal to control one’s speech as foolishness.
- D. Instead of taking care in what comes out of his mouth, the foolish person says things that are destructive and sinful (**Prov. 10:8; Eccl. 10:12-15; cp. Eph. 5:4**)
  - i. Slander, lies, and hatred are uttered by the fool (**Prov. 10:18**).
  - ii. Quarreling and controversy result from their lack of self-control (**Prov. 20:3; 1 Tim. 6:4**).
- E. *“How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!” (James 3:5-12).*
- F. Do you have a mouth that refrains from speaking foolish things?
- G. If not, don’t be foolish any longer.
- H. Humble yourself, bite your tongue and control what you say (**James 1:19, 26**).

### CONCLUSION

- 1. Have you ever been foolish?
- 2. Most of us probably have been at one point or another in our life.
- 3. The answer to foolishness is the gospel of Christ (**Matt. 7:24-27; 13:13-16; Rom. 1:16**).
- 4. Don’t be foolish any longer, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.