

WEEK 5- A FIELD GUIDE TO FOOLS

Proverbs 8:27-32, 16:25, 1:22, 14:15, 21:24, 9:7-8, 15:5, 18:2, 26:11

1. A FOOL IS SOMEONE OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY
2. THREE KINDS OF FOOLS IN PROVERBS
 - THE SIMPLE FOOL
 - THE RUTHLESS FOOL
 - THE OBSTINATE FOOL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What part of this past Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. How did Sunday's message change or contribute to your way of thinking about what a fool is?
3. The first main idea this week was "A fool is someone out of touch with reality." The two basic facts of reality they are out of touch with are **1)** There is an order to this world according to how God designed it (Prov. 8:27-32) and **2)** The world is broken due to sin so sometimes things simply aren't going to work out for us (Prov. 16:25). Which of these two realities do you think is harder to understand and accept? Why?
4. On Sunday, Pastor Ryan highlighted the three distinct kinds of fools we see all through Proverbs- The Simple Fool, the Ruthless Fool and the Obstinate Fool. Which of these three remind you the most of yourself? If you aren't sure which type of foolishness you naturally lean toward, how can you find out?
5. If we only operate out of our natural temperament we are often going to be mishandling situations. This means we are all born with a need for feedback and correction from others. When was the last time you asked someone what they thought about how you are living your life, making decisions, etc.? Who in your life could you ask to provide you with that type of feedback? Would you be willing to do this in the next week and talk about your experience at our next meeting?
6. In 1 Cor. 3:18 we see that the way to avoid being one of these three types of fools is to become the right kind of fool or "God's fool." How would you describe what it means to be "God's fool" in your own words? How does 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 help clarify the idea of being God's fool?
7. The message of the gospel can sound pretty "foolish" according to the world's standards. It isn't what any of us would naturally expect the God of the universe to do in order to save us. Do you remember when you first heard the gospel? What was your initial reaction to it? How do you feel about it now?
8. On Sunday, Pastor Ryan said that at the cross we see the truth about ourselves. We see that we are more sinful than we ever dared believe and more loved than we ever dared imagine. Which one of these are you better at understanding? Why are both of these ideas so necessary to growing in wisdom?