

Little Foxes: A Little Foolishness

Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom *and* honor.

Ecclesiastes 10:2-3 ² A wise man's heart *directs him* toward the right, but the foolish man's heart *directs him* toward the left. ³ Even when the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking and he demonstrates to everyone *that* he is a fool.

His instinct is broken! Don't walk by road, they ride in girlfriend's car

Why does he walk so boldly in his foolishness? Answer: He does not know he is a fool!

There are fools by the road, fools in the church...

Our natural instincts are mere animal instincts- we are all self-serving and foolish BY NATURE because of sin.

We are entrenched...

Isaiah 5:20 ²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Ecclesiastes 7:26 ²⁶ And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.

"Whatever I find naturally appealing, I will pursue. Whatever does not naturally appeal to me, I will criticize and reject."

Prov. 17:24 ²⁴ Wisdom is in the presence of the one who has understanding, But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

A wise person cultivates understanding as a discipline, but foolishness replaces wise planning with visionary dreaming.

Wisdom teaches us self-control and delayed gratification. Fools believe passion and impulse ARE divine inspiration.

Luke 9:23 ²³ And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

True spirituality/wisdom is living against natural inclination, choosing instead to follow the wisdom of God.

Foolishness is living by untrained instinct and natural inclination- i.e. living from the heart.

Proverbs 21:17 ¹⁷ He who loves pleasure *will become* a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not become rich.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 ¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is vanity.

Psalms 119:66 ⁶⁶ Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.

Faith alone is not enough. Your unspiritual instincts must be constantly opposed and taught God's wisdom.

Spiritual instinct must be trained. Discernment is not just a gift for some- the Holy Spirit teaches us and we can learn it!

Heb. 5:14 ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Proverbs 1:7 ⁷ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The wise seek out God's commands and actively apply them. Fools reject everything that they do not "feel" is beneficial.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid.

Proverbs 15:10 ¹⁰ Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates reproof will die.

When is the last time you did something that did not make sense to you just because a wise person told you to do it?

Wisdom operates on principle

Ecclesiastes 10:15 ¹⁵ The toil of a fool so wearies him that he does not *even* know how to go to a city.

Fools cannot learn, unless it is by painful trial and error! Every effort they make is hindered by their own foolishness.

How can we begin to turn this around?

Proverbs 23:23 ²³ Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 ⁷ “The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.

How much of our money/time goes toward acquiring wisdom, gaining knowledge, or sharpening discernment?

Proverbs 8:12-21 ¹² “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge *and* discretion. ¹³ “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate. ¹⁴ “Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine. ¹⁵ “By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. ¹⁶ “By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly. ¹⁷ “I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. ¹⁸ “Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness. ¹⁹ “My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield *better* than choicest silver. ²⁰ “I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, ²¹ To endow those who love me with wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

Christ is made unto us wisdom.... We not only can, but we will succeed as we put foolishness to death once and for all and pursue God’s wisdom.