I. HOW DOES THE BIBLE DEFINE A FOOL?

A. The Hebrew word means “one who hates wisdom and walks in folly” (Vines).

   1. Further, the Bible uses the word fool with respect to “moral” more than “intellectual” deficiencies. (Unger).

   2. So a fool isn’t stupid or dumb, but rather a person who disregards the wisdom of God for their own.

B. There are several characteristics of fools.

   1. They trust only in themselves—Pr. 28:26.
   2. They are deaf to the instruction of others—Pr. 18:2.
   3. They can’t be disciplined or corrected by anyone—Pr. 15:5.
   4. They are impulsive in speech and actions—Pr. 29:11
   5. They see little wrong with sin—Pr. 10:23.
   6. They are almost unchangeable—Pr. 27:22.

II. WHY IS IT FOOLISH TO BE A FOOL?

A. First, because fools refuse to acknowledge a need for God—Ps. 14:1.

B. Second, because fools think they are always right—Pr. 16:25 and Rom. 1:22.

C. Third, because we can’t trust our own hearts—Jer. 17:9.

D. Fourth, because wisdom comes from God—Pr. 1:7.

III. HOW CAN WE STOP PLAYING THE FOOL?

A. Solomon’s answer is found in our text—Pr. 12:15.

B. Guidelines on where to find good advice and how to take it.

   1. First, be selective in who you listen to—Pr. 14:7.

   2. Second, be receptive to the advice of others—Ecc. 4:13.

   3. Third, be objective about the advice you hear—Proverbs 15: