

PITY THE FOOL
PROVERBS 12:15 / 8-6-17 / AM

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—Poverbs 15: