

The Book of Proverbs - VIII

How Do You Deal With a Fool?

I. CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOL

- A. Ps. 14:1 - *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is not God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."*
- B. Pr. 12:15 - *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."*
- C. Pr. 12:16 - *A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame."*
- C. It is as sport to a fool to do mischief - Pr. 10:23
- E. Pr. 10:18 - *"He that uttereth a slander, is a fool."*

II. Ec. 10:14 - A fool is full of words

- A. Pr. 10:18 - *"He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth slander is a fool."*
- B. Pr. 10:14 - *"The mouth of the foolish is near destruction."*
- C. Pr. 18:7 - *"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."*
- D. Pr. 17:28 - *"Even a fool when he holdeth his peace is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."*

III. HOW TO RESPOND TO FOOLS AND SCORNER

- A. Don't be companion. Pr. 13:20 - *"He that walketh with the wise shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*
- B. Don't speak wisdom to fool. Pr. 23:9 - *"Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words."*
- C. Don't answer according to his folly. Pr. 26:4 - *"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."*
- D. Don't trust fool with message. Prov. 26:6 - *"He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage."*
- E. Forsake the foolish. Pr 9:6-9 - *"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."*
- F. Don't reprove or rebuke scorners and wicked.
 - 1. Pr. 9:7-9 *"He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."*
 - 2. 15:12 - *A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.*
- G. Don't keep company with foolish man. Pr. 14:6-7 - *"A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that*

*understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou
perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge."*

H. 22:10 - Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife
and reproach shall cease.

I. 24:9 - The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an
abomination to men.