



# FOOLPROOF

## *Foolish Is as Foolish Does*

#npfoolproof

Week 2  
2 of 5

April 15, 2018

**Bottom Line:** Foolish is as foolish does.

**Icebreaker:** If you could choose your age forever, what age would you choose and why?

**Key Verse:** *But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it.* Luke 7:35

Jesus was discussing his cousin, friend, and forerunner John the Baptist. John's disciples had come to Him from visiting John in prison, where he was unjustly imprisoned because of his refusal to ignore the blatant sin of the king and his sister-in-law. After they talked with Jesus a few minutes, the disciples left and Jesus turned His attention to the crowd. He said that many of the people mocked and made light of John the Baptist, but actually, no one who had ever lived was greater than John. He compared John and the people who mocked him. He said on the other hand, they were like children, alternately shifting moods, playing, dancing, and whining. Then Jesus told the bottom line. What makes a fool and what makes a wise person is not a matter of personal opinion. Jesus said that wisdom proves itself in the lives of the people who follow it. So does foolishness.

Foolishness is evident in the basic patterns of life. There are central "grooves" that develop in a fool's mind and life because of repeated behavior. He will behave in predictable ways, and the bottom line of all of those predictors is very selfish and self-focused. Proverbs lists well more than a dozen predictable patterns in the life of a fool. He/she is "always right," self-satisfied, deceitful, prizes his own opinion, and is arrogantly confident. He/she is angry, creates chaos and strife, is destructive, and spreads slander. To try to relate to a fool is exhausting.

The book of Proverbs not only helps us identify a fool, but it helps us see with wise eyes how to change things for a better and more satisfying life. It begins by taking charge of the only person I can control—myself. God will help me do that and define new and effective boundaries that will help my fool as well. I can face the criticism and anger from making these hard decisions because wisdom will be proved right by life.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Discuss:

"The fool thinks "all the rest of the world but me is screwed up." He has supreme self confidence."

What's the difference between appropriate confidence and arrogant foolishness?

"A fool's anger is an intimidating tool. It can be a blast of fiery hot rage, or smoldering anger that lasts and lasts, or it can be icy cold isolation. Either way, a fool's anger is tough enough to ensure that he/she typically gets his/her own way."

Why do people give in to a fool's anger, even when they realize it is sheer manipulation?

"A fool is always creating disorder and strife. Chaos swirls around him or her." Why is that?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

How is it both hard and wise to ask God to show you the reality of your situation?

Discuss: There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."  
— C.S. Lewis

Discuss: Your goal cannot be to have the fool change; your goal must be to find the freedom that allows you to be the person God intended you to be, no matter what choices your fool makes. Your journey is really about YOU, and all God wants to accomplish in YOUR life.

Does that feel selfish to you? How does it fit with the directive to lay down our lives for others and carry each others' burdens, and "thus fulfill the law of Christ"?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Identify the unwise, unhelpful, perhaps even sinful ways we often respond to our fool's behavior.
- 2) Pray for wisdom and change in our own lives.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Foolish is as foolish does.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Proverbs 28:26

Tuesday: Proverbs 18:6-7

Wednesday: Proverbs 10:23

Thursday: James 1:5

Friday: Jeremiah 29:11

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*