



# FOOLPROOF

## When You Love Your Fool

#npfoolproof

Week 4  
4 of 5

April 29, 2018

**Bottom Line:** Refuse to give your life away in pieces.

**Icebreaker:** If you were going to be on a TV reality show, which one would it be and why?

**Key Verse:** *Turn away from evil and do good.* Psalm 34:14

Love relationships with fools are generally fairly easy to recognize. They are characterized by childish behavior. If the childish behavior of the fool goes on long enough without boundaries and correction, the fool's behavior will end up defining the other person as well. That person will end up giving up their own life and integrity in pieces. They will find that they haven't changed their fool, but they themselves have changed, and they think it's for the better.

God's Word gives us very plain and specific directions on moving away from immature behavior and turning to wisdom in our relationships. It can be summarized in one sentence: "Turn away from evil and do good." Then God's Word is filled with very tangible guidelines on how to do that.

One of the ways we turn away from evil and do good is by detaching from people who do evil. Proverbs carried many warnings about staying away from these people, avoiding fools, and making sure the people we invite into our lives are willing to follow wisdom. David said, "I do not spend time with liars or go along with hypocrites. I hate the gatherings of those who do evil, and I refuse to join in with the wicked" (Psalm 24:4-5). That seems much easier to say than do when the fool is someone you love. How do you detach yourself from a person who is your spouse or your own flesh and blood when you know they are a fool, and their evil behavior is affecting and infecting you?

A first step is an adjustment to a basic belief. Setting boundaries does not make you mean, uncaring, or unchristian. It is a very vital part of taking care of your one and only life, the life for which you will answer to God. It is a vital way of showing love to God, yourself, and others. If you can't turn away from evil, you can't do good.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

"If you don't detach and set boundaries, you are giving yourself away in pieces. With boundaries you only give away what you can give wisely, which means you can afford to be generous with more people over more time."

"The first thing you need to know is that the person who is angry with you for setting boundaries is the one with the problem." – Dr. Henry Cloud

"Don't erase and redraw your boundaries for people who disrespect you and continually step over the line. You may need to erase the opportunity for them to be close to you, at least for a time."

"You have to dare to love yourself, and love and obey God at the risk of angering or disappointing others."

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

"Telling the truth is an act of love. My goal is to speak the truth in love. There are a lot of people speaking the truth with no love, and a lot of people talking about love with not much truth." – Shane Claiborne

Truth is like surgery; it hurts but it cures. A lie is like a painkiller. It can give temporary relief but allows illness to fester and become fatal.

"You cannot settle for a relationship that will not allow the truth. It will destroy both of you."

How do you wisely set a boundary when you really love an angry fool?

How do you know when a boundary needs to be severe, long term, and permanent?

How do you pray for and recognize God's wisdom for the situation?

## NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) Identify at least two unhealthy things you have done in relating to your fool that you know are unwise; things you never thought you would ever do.
- 2) Identify and pray through a plan to go to God quickly with your pain, impulses, and feelings. List *Boundaries* books that are helpful.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Refuse to give your life away in pieces.

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: 1 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Corinthians 13:4

Tuesday: James 4:1-2

Wednesday: James 3:17-18

Thursday: Ephesians 4:25-27

Friday: Romans 8:26-27

***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)*