



FOOLPROOF

Relational Intelligence

#npfoolproof

Week 1

1 of 5

April 8, 2018

Bottom Line: Raise your relational IQ.

Icebreaker: Who is the most memorable movie villain you can think of? What made him/her so evil?

Key Verse: *An ear that listens to life-giving rebukes will be at home among the wise.* Proverbs 15:31

Outside of Jesus Christ when He was here as a man, King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. In Proverbs, the king gives us much of the wisdom he learned about relating to fools. God showed him so much. As the king, it was important that he knew who he could trust, who he should keep his eye on, and who to avoid.

It's true for us as we lead our own "kingdoms." We learn in life the same thing Solomon knew. Not everyone is the same, and therefore you cannot deal with everyone the same. If you assume that everyone is nice, responsible, and loving, you are going to waste a lot of time, money, energy, love, resources. You will give your heart to people who will either squander it or destroy it or eat up entire seasons of your life.

Over and over again, Solomon drives home one fact. People are divided into three categories: evil people, wise people, or fools. The definitive characteristic that separates them is what they do with advice, correction, and wisdom. Evil people despise advice and wisdom. They love to hurt, control, and inflict pain. There's no point in trying to have helpful dialogue with them. Wise people love wisdom. They not only listen and receive it when it comes; they seek it out! Fools are the people who are not deliberately evil, but they won't listen to wisdom. Though they don't intend to bring chaos and trouble, they do so by refusing wisdom and correction. Everyone who is connected with them gets negatively affected by the ripples from their choices.

Jesus expressed His purpose and desire, that we would "have life, and have it full and overflowing" (John 10:10). That's only possible when I become wise in my own choices about receiving wisdom and correction, and when I manage my relationships with wisdom.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from today's message?

Discuss:

"Not everyone is the same, and you can't treat them all the same." For some Christians, that doesn't seem right. What do you think, and how do you explain it?

"Trying to reason with evil people doesn't work. So stop. Leave them to God." Is this difficult for you? Why or why not?

"It's not that wise people never make a foolish mistake. It's that they never let a problem become a pattern. They take the correction, and change."

"It's almost impossible to be at peace with a fool. They are only interested in a one-sided peace. They have to win."

"It's your job to take stewardship over your own life and stop the insanity."

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How do you reconcile what Jesus warned in Matthew 7 about calling someone a fool with all the other statements recorded in the Bible about fools?

Dwight listed many characteristics of fools. What one or two stood out to you?

Since the basic difference between evil people, wise people, and fools is an attitude toward and response to wisdom and correction, how would you state our responsibility for life?

"The first step in dealing with a fool is to become hopeless—to realize that you are banging your head against a brick wall." What do you do after admitting that you are hopeless to change them?

How would you advise someone who has begun to suspect he/she might be a fool?

NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) Pray for someone to invite to next Sunday's service.
- 2) Each of you write a prayer expressing your desire for relational IQ, and growth in wisdom in relationships. Share next week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Raise your relational IQ.

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:

Monday: Titus 3:10-11, Proverbs 27:12

Tuesday: Proverbs 9:9

Wednesday: Proverbs 12:15

Thursday: Romans 12:14-18

Friday: Proverbs 3:13-18

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)