

THE WAY OF FOLLY

Proverbs 9:13-18

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is folly? Do you think folly is bad? What is the end result of folly?
- How do you guard against making foolish decisions?

The wisdom of God often looks very different than what we instinctively desire or choose to do. Most of us try our hardest to not make foolish decisions. And for good reason. We don't want to look like fools, bear the consequences of our bad decisions, or have others judge us accordingly. While these might be good incentives to avoid folly, the most fundamental reason to avoid folly is that it distracts us from the life-giving wisdom of God. Join *Groundwork* as we dig into the book of Proverbs to learn how the Bible characterizes folly, how we can avoid its pitfalls, and what it means to live lives marked by the wisdom of God.

Listen: [*The Way of Folly*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Dave Bast discuss the difference between knowledge and wisdom. In his sermon, "Fourfold Treasure," Charles Spurgeon describes the difference this way: "Wisdom is...the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the more fools for what they know. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom." Can you think of a time in your life when you mistook knowledge for wisdom? What did that experience teach you?
- After reading Proverbs 5:3-6, Dave talks about the fact that folly is seductive and enticing, but that it leads to emptiness, death, and ultimately destruction. When have you witnessed or experienced this truth?
- So why do fools choose folly? Dave suggests one reason is that "...they lack imagination. They cannot project themselves into an alternative future in which things don't go the way they are going ..." How can hope in the promises of God lead us away from folly and toward wisdom? Do you find it easy or difficult to hope in the promises of God?
- In segment 3, Scott and Dave share three biblical practices for avoiding folly: 1) acknowledging God, 2) being teachable, and 3) listening to those who are older and wiser. Which of these practices comes naturally to you? Which do you struggle to live out? How might you cultivate these practices in your life?

Related Passages

- **Proverbs 1:20-31**

- **Proverbs 4:1-5**
- **Proverbs 5:3-6**
- **Proverbs 16:31**
- **Psalm 1**
- **Psalm 14**
- **Luke 12:13-21**

Conclusion

Near the end of the episode, Dave says, “The person who is wise will be humble and will recognize they do not have all the answers.” In a similar vein, in his book, *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer writes, “Not until we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God’s holiness and sovereignty, acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts, and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom become ours.”

Reflect on your own life. Write down any specific examples of times you behaved foolishly. Consider how a lack of humility might have limited your ability to:

- acknowledge the sovereignty of God
- be teachable
- listen to those who are older and wiser than you

Then pray about these areas of pride in your life. Ask the Spirit to make you aware of situations when you need to practice humility in order to grow in God’s wisdom.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-way-of-folly>

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