

THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**AREAS TO SERVE**

**Help us make Sundays the best they can be!**

We have our new "Opportunities to Serve" wall where you can see our immediate needs! Check it out, and help by giving your time!

**Odd-Job Call List**

We also are in need of a team of people to be "on call" for some grunt work around Element. It could be stacking/resetting chairs, cleaning up after an event, painting, or helping move some bark around the property (plus other things).

We are working on compiling a list to call/email as projects come up. If you would like to be on that list, let us know... it doesn't mean you have to say, "yes" every time.

Sign up at the Welcome Center  
or through this QR Code:



**MEN'S PIZZA NIGHT**

June 12th at 6:30pm at Me-N-Ed's Pizza  
moe@ourelement.org



**ELEMENT**  
christian church

[www.ourelement.org/proverbs](http://www.ourelement.org/proverbs)

**THE FOOL**

**Today's Verses:**

Proverbs 14:15  
Proverbs 22:6  
Proverbs 14:20  
1 Corinthians  
1:20-21  
Proverbs 16:25

Proverbs 1:22  
Proverbs 14:15  
Proverbs 15:5  
Proverbs 22:15  
Proverbs 1:32-33  
Matthew 7:24

Mark 6:2  
Luke 11:31  
1 Corinthians  
3:18-19  
1 Corinthians 1:25

# THE FOOL

We are taking this summer to move through the book of Proverbs in an effort to understand God's call to live out practical wisdom in a way that honors Him. Proverbs are meant to be principles and not promises. What Proverbs does is teach us principles for a God honoring culture...it is why our series on Proverbs is also entitled "Counter-Culture," not because we are against culture, but we want to bring about a God honoring culture. We want to be a positive instrument for change in our world by being about what God intended His people to be, a Gospel centered people.

Today we are discussing the Fool. The best way to describe a Fool today would be someone who is out of touch with reality. When the Bible talks about a Fool, it is not speaking about one area of life alone (because a lot of people are 'Fools' in one area.) When the Bible talks about a Fool, it's talking about someone who is out of touch with two basic fundamental facts about reality:

- That there is a created order to the world.
- We are to live within that created order.

What Proverbs teaches us is that we cannot live any way we want and think there are no consequences in our lives. If you try to act as if there's no order to the world and live any way you want (make up the rules as you go), then you are a Fool.

Proverbs tells us there are varieties of Fools. Proverbs gives 3 essential types of Fools.

- *Simple Fools - Proverbs 14:15 The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.* A simple fool is not someone who is unsophisticated, it means that you can't discern between good and bad ideas.
- *Obstinate Fools. Proverbs 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.* A simple Fool believes everybody, the obstinate believes nobody but himself.
- *Ruthless Fools.* The simple fool is devastated by criticism. The obstinate fool shrugs off criticism. The ruthless fool pays you back because they are run by overwhelming pride.

In Galatians 3 the Galatian Christians were turning away from the gospel of grace and Paul calls them "Foolish Galatians." There is only one true antidote to foolishness: **the proclamation of the gospel of the cross.**

## Introduction

One of the reasons Proverbs is harder to read and understand is the book was written to be read in community as a body. Its readers were supposed to be working through the book piece by piece, so we would understand each part together. Foolishness only comes to light by people around us being honest enough to speak about our own foolishness.

## Discussion

Who is the person in your life who is most out of touch with reality?

What do they do that makes them "out of touch?"

## Explanation

When and where in your life have you been foolish?

How did you come to recognize that foolishness?

How are you now different and where have you grown?

## Application – Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-19

Ask others around you where they see foolishness in you.

How does that make you feel?

In what areas do you think you are wiser than other people?

Ask those around you, if, based on their observations, you are accurate in your assessment.

## Mission

How can understanding foolishness give us a greater heart of compassion for those around us?

Are there ways to point out others foolishness in graceful way?

Are there any people you need to have a conversation with this week about foolishness?

How can your GC pray for you?

## Discussion Key

Red – Easy level, not much intimacy, Blue – Intended to dig a bit deeper

Black – Designed to create deeper conversation