

Review: 10:1-2:

One sinner destroys much good and one sin will ruin one's good reputation, JUST LIKE "dead flies" will ruin a jar of precious ointment.

A good reputation (in one's life) is the result of months, even years of godly wisdom, honorable conduct, and upright conversation. A little folly will ruin it all.

(V2): The contrast of a wise man's heart guiding him IN WISDOM and away from folly, and the fool's heart leading him astray into foolish and sinful ways.

(V3): "Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, (on the road of life and in how he navigates this life) his wisdom fails him, and (when his wisdom fails him), he says to everyone (else) that they are the fools".

One of the many pictures of "A Fool" is "HERE" presented to us by the wisdom of "The Preacher, King Solomon, who wrote about "The Fool" more than any other "inspired" writer of the Holy Scriptures, (PERHAPS) because of all the folly that God revealed to him in his own life when his wisdom failed him.

Note: The wisdom of God didn't fail Solomon, his own wisdom did!

When he became King in Israel after King David his father, his reign commenced in humility before God, which we see in his prayer unto his God, in 1 Kings 3, when he asked for wisdom, understanding, and discernment to judge God's SO GREAT people! God was greatly pleased by the prayer of Solomon, and so honored him to be wiser than any before him and then any that would come after him (Save Christ):

Proverbs 18:12: "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, AND BEFORE HONOUR IS HUMILITY"

But then Solomon turned aside (when his wisdom failed him), he sinned against God, and cast God aside for the false gods and idols of "his many wives" who drew his heart away from God. *Nehemiah 13:26*

"Did not Solomon King of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: NEVERTHELESS even him did outlandish women cause to sin"

Solomon's honorable reputation would now be tarnished by his folly, idolatry, and sin against God.

So you see, Solomon knew first-hand the effects of folly on a wise and honorable reputation, because he experienced it.

(V3) Solomon presents to us one of the characteristics of a fool.

Fools walk through life (arrogantly, full of themselves, know-it-alls) presenting themselves to others to be gifted with that which they do not possess! Wisdom!

BUT.....it doesn't take long for fools to be discovered (to those who know them) when their "claimed or pretended wisdom" fails them before all who hear and know them, and who SEE their folly firsthand.

Proverbs 25:14: "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain". Proverbs 26:12

But amazingly, even after fools are openly discovered to be fools, STILL they will boldly proclaim, I am not a fool, but EVERYONE ELSE is a fool.

With this in mind, let us CONSIDER some of the "Attributes of a Fool" from the Word of God and THEN look within your own heart, as I will into my heart, to see if any of these attributes have taken up residence in our hearts.

Look honestly and see if there be any folly residing within you, any foolishness that you have become comfortable with, that has become part of your character; do you have any "dead flies" in the ointment of the apothecary?

Child of God you should have an excellent reputation in the world, one that honors Christ! But never forget that "a little folly" will not only ruin your reputation, but will bring dishonor to the testimony of Christ!

Consider these attributes of "A Fool" and MORTIFY them when you find even a trace of folly in your spirit:

The fool is always right: Proverbs 12:15

1. Proverbs 15:28

The fool despises true wisdom: Proverbs 23:9

2. Proverbs 1:5, 9:9, 18:2

The fool answers before they hear the matter: Proverbs 18:13

3. John 7:40-52; Isaiah 9:1-2, Matthew 4:12-16

4. To these religious fools, everyone else were fools!

The fool is quick to anger: Proverbs 12:16, 14:17, Ecclesiastes 7:9

5. Proverbs 19:11, 14:29, James 1:19

The fool is full of words: Ecclesiastes 5:3, Proverbs 15:2, 29:11

- Proverbs 10:19, Ecclesiastes 10:12-14

Proverbs 17:28: "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of wisdom"