

How Fools Are Made

Text: Proverbs 20:1-30

Introduction

Chapter twenty is a continuation of Solomon's exhortations to his son. He is providing his son with a collection of wisdom that should serve to guide him in the way of success in life. However, as we know, Rehoboam failed the test of life miserably. He proved himself to be the very fool that Solomon had attempted to warn him about.

Transition

We have seen in the previous chapters how a fool is revealed. There are many actions and attitudes that expose a fool for what he is. The question must now be, "How does a person become a fool?" We all enter this world as "the simple." From that point we either become wise, or we become a fool. What is it that makes a man into a fool? In this chapter, we discover some of the core traits that develop men into fools. Notice that. . .

I. Fools Are Easily _____ (vv. 1-3).

A. By their _____ (i.e., wine; v.1).

Life Principle #81: _____

Six Biblical Facts About Drinking to Excess:

1. Leads to _____.

1st occurrence of drunkenness = _____ (Gen. 9:21-23).

2. Leads to further _____.

2nd occurrence = _____ (Gen. 19:31-36; cf. Pro. 23:33).

It is interesting to note that drunkenness first occurred, and then _____. This is usually the progression. (cf. Hab. 2:15).

3. Makes _____ (cf. Pro. 23:29-35).

4. Dulls the _____ (see II Sam. 13:28; Isa. 28:7; cf. Pro. 31:5).

5. Keeps folk out of _____ (I Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21).

6. Puts a man under the wrong _____ (Eph. 5:18).

B. By their _____ (v.2).

1. No _____ of authority.

2. No _____ to authority.

C. By their _____.

1. Will not _____ a fight.

2. Seeks to _____ a fight.

II. Fools Are Easily _____ (vv. 4-6).

A. From their _____ (v.4; cf. v.13).

1. The _____ of the lazy (cf. 22:13; 26:13).
2. The _____ of the lazy (cf. 24:30-34).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #82: _____ (v.13)

B. From their _____ (v.5; cf. 13:20).

1. They will not sit, listen and _____ from the wise (cf. Psa. 46:10; Isa. 30:15; Lk. 10:39-42).
2. They will not make the _____ to draw out the “deep water” (v.5; cf. 18:4)

C. From their _____ (v.6).

1. They _____ about themselves.
2. They _____ others to accomplish their causes.

III. Fools Are Easily _____ (vv. 7-26).

Verse 7 states that a “*just*” (or, righteous) man has a life of *integrity*. The word “*integrity*” is a word that means, “to be complete, full, upright.” The loss of integrity has cost many parents their children (v.7). How does a person lose their integrity and become a fool?

A. By _____ in compromise (v.8; cf. v.26).

—Compromise is when a person _____ a previously held position or belief

B. By _____ personal faults (v.9; cf. I Jn. 1:8).

—Wise leadership quickly admits and accepts responsibilities for fault.

C. By _____ others in business (vv. 10, 14-17, 23).

—A person cannot maintain their integrity and be shady in their dealings.

D. By _____ others with their mouth (vv. 19-22).

1. _____ about others (v.19).
2. Cursing his _____ (v.20).
3. Getting _____ with others (v.22).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #83: _____