

**The Marks of a Fool**  
Text: Proverbs 26:1-28

Introduction

In the previous two chapters, Solomon very clearly outlines the distinguishing marks of the one who is wise. He now begins, with the same clarity, to reveal the marks of the one who is a fool.

It is important that parents teach their children the marks of recognition. Too many parents today are more interested in their children looking like the latest fad or fashion, rather than demonstrating the characteristics of the wise. Parents must warn their children and help their children to be able to recognize foolishness and avoid it. In this chapter, Solomon defines several different aspects of the fool. Notice...

**I. His Foolishness** (vv. 1-11).

A. Fools cannot handle \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1,8).

1. It \_\_\_\_\_ their own lives (v.1).

—Snow ends a summer, and rain ruins a harvest. So, honor ruins a fool.

2. It \_\_\_\_\_ their friend's lives (v.8).

B. Fools cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 2-3).

1. Never learns the principle of \_\_\_\_\_ & effect (v.2).

2. Never learns the \_\_\_\_\_ way (v.3).

C. Fools cannot learn from \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 4-5).

1. Answering a fool makes you \_\_\_\_\_ him (v.4).

2. Answering a fool makes him think he is \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5).

**LIFE PRINCIPLE #94:** \_\_\_\_\_.

(cf. 29:9).

D. Fools cannot handle \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 6-9).

1. He is not \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6).

2. He is not able to handle \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 7, 9).

E. Fools cannot \_\_\_\_\_ from life (vv. 10-11).

1. He never gets what he \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10).
2. He never \_\_\_\_\_ his foolishness (v.11; cf. II Pet. 2:22).

## II. His Laziness (vv. 12-17).

A. Laziness breeds \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 12, 16).

1. Conceit makes one \_\_\_\_\_ than a fool (v.12).
2. Conceit makes the \_\_\_\_\_ man think he is wise (v.16).

B. Laziness \_\_\_\_\_ work (vv. 13-15). —*Notice...*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the lazy (v.13).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the lazy (vv. 14-15).

C. Laziness breeds \_\_\_\_\_ (v.17).

1. Gets \_\_\_\_\_ other people's business (v.17a).
2. Gets \_\_\_\_\_ by other people's business (v.17b).

**LIFE PRINCIPLE #95:** \_\_\_\_\_

## III. His Deceitfulness (vv. 18-28).

This is perhaps one of the fool's most distinguishing marks. By this trait, he is able to disguise his own foolishness. This is the reason so many people are easily duped and led astray by the fool. Notice the practices of his deceit are both deliberate and dangerous. These verses reveal the inward motives of the fool. They show that the fool cares for no one but himself. This is evident by...

A. His reckless \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 18-19).

1. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.18).
2. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.19).

B. His relentless \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 20-21).

1. Constantly \_\_\_\_\_ the fire (v.20).

2. Constantly \_\_\_\_\_ fault (v.21).

C. His restless \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 22-25).

1. Uses words to \_\_\_\_\_ others (v.22).

2. Uses words to \_\_\_\_\_ other (vv.23-25).

The fool's motivation is revealed in verse 25. The very things that God hates (Pro. 6:16-19), are found in his heart.

### Conclusion

How is a fool's deceit exposed? Just watch his life! Verses 26-27 tell us that a fool will eventually reap what he sows.

1. His hatred for others will be \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 26, 28).

2. His deceptive plots will \_\_\_\_\_ (v.27).