

WISDOM AND FOLLY

THE INVITATION TO WISDOM FOLLY

PROVERBS 9

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.

² She has slaughtered her beasts;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

³ She has sent out maidens; she calls from the tops of the city,

⁴ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!
To him who lacks sense she says,

⁵ "Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I have mixed.

⁶ Leave the simple, and live; walk in the way of understanding."

⁷ Whoever corrects a scoffer gets abuse;
he who rebukes a wicked man gets injury.

⁸ Do not rebuke a scoffer or he will hate you;
rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

⁹ Instruct a wise man and he will be even wiser;
teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied; years will be added to your life.

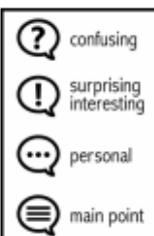
¹² If you are wise you are wise for yourself;
if you scoff you alone will bear it.

¹³ The woman Folly is loud; she is simple; she knows absolutely nothing.

¹⁴ She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on the tops of the city,

¹⁵ calling to those who pass by,

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NOTES - The icons below may be helpful as you take notes on the outline.



¹⁶ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"

To him who lacks sense she says,

¹⁷ "Stolen waters are sweet and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there;
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord taking God with the utmost seriousness.

Wisdom is the habit of observing and accepting the patterns given by the Creator as the terms for living life.

Foolishness is the deliberate disdain, careless ignorance and willful rejection of the ordering of God's world.

Foolishness masquerades as Wisdom.

Foolishness disrupts the relationships of creation.

Foolishness is ultimately empty and destructive.

NEXT STEPS

Embrace practices which foster wisdom in your life:

- Immerse yourself in the scriptures
- Encourage curiosity and actively explore the world
- Ask questions and listen to doubts
- Be humble (you can't learn if you know it all)
- Put learning into practice
- Slow down

Resources:

- "The Attentive Life" by Leighton Ford
- "Becoming Whole and Holy" by Brown, Dahl, and Corbin Reuschling
- "The Good and Beautiful God" by James Bryan Smith
- The Examen of St. Ignatius

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