

God's Plan for Wisdom

THE WISE VS. THE FOOL

Living a life honoring Christ

READ: PROVERBS 28:25-28

INTRODUCTION

The book of Proverbs consistently contrasts the wise and the foolish—not in terms of intelligence, but in how one responds to God, others, and life's challenges. Proverbs 28:25–28 offers a clear distinction between the paths of wisdom and folly by focusing on issues of pride, trust, injustice, and fear.

Verse 25 identifies one who is greedy as a source of conflict: “A greedy man stirs up strife, but the one who trusts in the LORD will be enriched.” Greed is ultimately self-centeredness in action. It disrupts peace and community (cf. James 4:1–2), while trust in the Lord fosters contentment and blessing (1 Timothy 6:6–10; Matthew 6:33). In verse 26, the fool is someone who “trusts in his own mind.” This kind of self-confidence is contrasted with walking in wisdom, which means submitting to God's instruction (Proverbs 3:5–6). Wisdom isn't just knowing right and wrong—it's the humility to seek God's ways above our own (Psalm 119:105).

Verse 27 shows how generosity reflects wisdom. “Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse.” This principle is echoed throughout Scripture: God calls His people to remember the poor (Deuteronomy 15:7–11; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8; James 2:14–17), and promises to care for those who are generous. Finally, verse 28 describes what happens when the wicked rise: people hide themselves in fear. But when the wicked perish, the righteous flourish. This is a reminder that leadership and influence matter—and that living wisely can shape communities for good or for ill (Proverbs 11:10–11; Psalm 12:8; Isaiah 32:1–2).

Together, these verses remind us that wisdom is not just a private virtue—it affects our relationships, our generosity, and even our society. The wise trust God, live justly, give freely, and walk in humility.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to verse 25, how does greed stir up conflict in relationships or communities? What does it practically look like to “trust in the Lord” instead?
2. What are some modern ways people “trust in their own minds” (v. 26)? How can we develop the habit of seeking wisdom from God?
3. Proverbs 28:27 encourages generosity. How does this verse challenge the way we view our money and possessions?
4. How do the actions of the wicked (v. 28) impact a society? What does this verse suggest about the influence of righteous living?
5. Think of someone you know who embodies godly wisdom. What habits or attitudes do they display? How can we learn from their example?

WRAP UP

The contrast in Proverbs 28:25–28 is clear: the fool lives for self—relying on their own thinking, hoarding resources, and ignoring justice. But the wise trust in the Lord, walk humbly, give generously, and make a lasting impact. True wisdom is found not in intellect or status, but in right relationship with God and others. As James 3:17 says, “The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits...” May we be a people who walk in that kind of wisdom—anchored in trust, marked by generosity, and committed to righteousness.

God's Plan for Wisdom

WARNING AGAINST ADULTERY

Flee sexual immorality

READ: PROVERBS 7

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 7 is a sobering and vivid warning against sexual immorality. Written as a father's plea to his son, it paints a powerful picture of the seductive power of sin and the tragic consequences of giving in to temptation. The father pleads for his son to treasure his words and keep wisdom close—not as abstract knowledge, but as life-saving guidance (vv. 1–5).

The rest of the chapter tells the story of a young man who lacks sense (v. 7) and wanders near temptation—literally walking toward the house of an adulterous woman. Her words are persuasive, her approach is bold, and her house leads to death (vv. 6–27). This narrative is not just about avoiding a particular sin; it's about learning how to live with discernment, boundaries, and a fear of the Lord.

Sexual sin is not a new struggle, nor is it confined to ancient Israel. The New Testament repeatedly calls believers to flee sexual immorality, knowing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:18–20). Jesus raises the standard even further, teaching that lust in the heart is itself a form of adultery (Matthew 5:27–30). Proverbs 7, therefore, serves as both a warning and a guide. It urges us to stay far from temptation—not to flirt with it, justify it, or linger near it. In a world saturated with sexual temptation through media, entertainment, and culture, the wisdom of Proverbs 7 is more relevant than ever.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the father in Proverbs 7 uses such vivid imagery to describe the danger of sexual sin? What effect does that have on the reader?
2. What does it mean in verse 7 that the young man “lacks sense”? How might spiritual immaturity lead someone into moral danger?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18–20. What does it mean that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and how should that impact our choices?
4. Jesus says in Matthew 5:27–30 that even lust is sinful. How can we practically guard our hearts and minds against lustful thoughts?
5. What steps can we take to avoid situations like the young man in Proverbs 7—moments where we’re especially vulnerable to temptation?

WRAP UP

Proverbs 7 is not just a cautionary tale—it’s a call to wisdom. Sexual temptation is real, but God has provided the resources we need: His Word, His Spirit, His people. The goal is not just avoidance but integrity and purity that honors Christ. Wisdom sees danger and turns away. Foolishness walks into it blindly. Let us be people who walk wisely—who treasure God’s commands, guard our hearts, and flee from sin—not out of fear, but out of love for the God who made us and saved us. As Ephesians 5:3 reminds us: “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality... because these are improper for God’s holy people.” May we live like we belong to Him.

God's Plan for Wisdom

LIVING IN WISDOM

A daily life of pursuing the wisdom of God

READ: PROVERBS 14:26-33

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 14:26–33 gives a series of contrasts between those who walk in wisdom and those who reject it. These verses explore the fruit of fearing the Lord, the dangers of pride, and the consequences of foolishness. Wisdom is not merely intellectual—it is spiritual and moral, shaping how we respond to God, to others, and to ourselves. Verse 26 begins by connecting the fear of the Lord with strong confidence and security, especially for one's children. This fear is not about terror, but reverence and trust (Proverbs 1:7). It brings stability and peace (Philippians 4:6–7) and serves as a refuge for the next generation.

Verse 27 calls the fear of the Lord a “fountain of life,” preserving us from the snares of death. Jesus echoed this when He said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Living wisely is life-giving. In verses 28–30, we're reminded that humility and peace are better than pride and envy. A tranquil heart gives life, but passion and arrogance rot the bones (James 3:13–16). Wisdom cultivates calm, whereas foolishness leads to chaos and spiritual decay.

Verses 31–33 turn toward justice and insight. Oppressing the poor insults God, who created all people in His image (Genesis 1:27; James 2:5–6). By contrast, generosity honors the Lord. Wisdom dwells with those who seek understanding and live righteously—fools, however, display their ignorance. This passage is a call to evaluate what guides our lives: the fear of the Lord or the way of the world. Wisdom is available, but we must choose to live by it (Ephesians 5:15–17).

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to verses 26–27, how does the fear of the Lord create security and life? What does that practically look like?
2. How does a “tranquil heart” (v. 30) contrast with the way our culture often promotes ambition and unrest?
3. Why is it significant that oppressing the poor is considered insulting to God (v. 31)? How should that shape how we treat others?
4. Read James 3:17. How does this description of wisdom reflect the values of Proverbs 14?
5. In what areas of your life do you most need to seek and apply godly wisdom right now?

WRAP UP

Proverbs 14:26–33 is a snapshot of the wise life—a life rooted in the fear of the Lord, marked by humility, justice, peace, and understanding. In contrast, foolishness leads to chaos, harm, and spiritual decline. As followers of Christ, we’re called to walk in wisdom, not just in theory but in practice. Let us daily ask God to shape our hearts with wisdom, that we might reflect His character and lead others to the “fountain of life” that is found in Him (John 7:38).