



Dealing with Foolish People



Lesson Five

May 3, 2022

**The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.
Proverbs 4:7**

In this series on dealing with foolish people, we have covered in depth the many characteristics and types of fools that are identified in Scripture. In a nutshell, these are some of the important points to take away from this study:

- You can't change fools.
- Fools are not prone to listen to any advice, even when you are trying to be helpful.
- Fools are unteachable, unreliable, and undisciplined.
- Fools are self-centered and selfish.
- You must protect yourself from the effect they can have on you.
- You must draw boundaries for the fools in your life, especially those very close to you.

Most of our study has come from the book of Proverbs. Remember that proverbs are general principles not universal laws. But also remember that there is hope for fools who can recognize their sinful condition, confess their sins and allow God to change them. The story of the prodigal son tells us there is hope for a fool who, after suffering the consequences of his/her sin, decides to turn their life around.

We have also focused on the importance of "getting wisdom," because that is the way we avoid foolish behavior ourselves. And that wisdom comes from knowing and living according to God's principles as set forth in the Bible.

This week Jan Silvius, author of *Fool-Proofing Your Life*, will join us and primarily she will talk about the challenges you face in relating to the fools in your life. In her book, Jan says:

Making excuses and characterizing the fool as a "different" sort of person—one who needs and deserves special consideration—eliminates the need to confront bad behavior and to draw healthy boundaries (p. 87).

By being entangled with your fool you have become what you never thought you would be: a controlled person. The first step toward change comes when you discover the truth that you do not have a relationship; rather, you have an arrangement (p. 113).

Come prepared with your questions. Jan will be glad to address your particular situation and offer good advice from God's Word.