

25 Characteristics of a Fool

- **Despises wisdom and instruction.**
⁷The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pr 1:7)
- **Hates Knowledge**
²²“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? (Pr 1:22)
- **Grieves His Mother**
¹A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. (Pr 10:1)
- **Enjoys devising mischief**
²³Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool, but wisdom is pleasure to a man of understanding. (Pr 10:23)
- **Right in his own eyes**
¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. (Pr 12:15)
- **Quick to anger**
¹⁶The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult. (Pr 12:16)
- **Hates to depart from evil**
¹⁹A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools. (Pr 13:19)
- **Deceitful**
⁸The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving. (Pr 14:8)
- **Arrogant and careless**
¹⁶One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. (Pr 14:16)
- **Rejects his father’s instruction**
⁵A fool despises his father’s instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent. (Pr 15:5)
- **Despises his mother (and/or) father**
²⁰A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother. (Pr 15:20)
- **Does not respond well to discipline**
¹⁰A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool. (Pr 17:10)
- **Does not understand wisdom**
¹⁶Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense? (Pr 17:16)
- **Has a worldly focus (carnal value system)**
²⁴The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. (Pr 17:24)
- **Grieves his parents**
²⁵A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him. (Pr 17:25)
- **Hurts his parents**
²⁵A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him. (Pr 17:25)
- **Will not discuss any viewpoint but his own**
²A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion. (Pr 18:2)
- **Provokes others to strife and anger by his words**
⁶A fool’s lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. (Pr 18:6)
- **A smart mouth usually gets him into trouble**
⁷A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. (Pr 18:7)
- **Is quarrelsome (contentious)**
³It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling. (Pr 20:3)
- **Is a spendthrift**
²⁰Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man’s dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. (Pr 21:20)
- **Repeats his folly (foolishness)**
¹¹Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly. (Pr 26:11)
- **Trusts in his own heart**
²⁶Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (Pr 28:26)
- **Cannot resolve conflicts**
⁹If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet. (Pr 29:9)
- **Gives full vent to his anger**
¹¹A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back. (Pr 29:11)