

DO NOT BE MISLED: "BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER." COME BACK TO YOUR SENSES AS YOU OUGHT, AND STOP SINNING; FOR THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE IGNORANT OF GOD—I SAY THIS TO YOUR SHAME.

**1. The Simple**

The Original Open Minded Man

The second moral category in the book of Proverbs is the category of "simplicity." The student must not confuse this with the intellectually simple, for this person may be quite intelligent. Rather the simpleton is one who is usually young, who is easily led (he is naïve), either into wisdom or into folly.

I. His Character

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|--|------------------|
| A. He goes astray  | Ezek. 45:20      |
| B. He prefers folly to wisdom                                | Prov. 1:22       |
| C. He is easily lured into temptation                        | Prov. 7:2-23     |
| D. He is wayward   | Prov. 1:32       |
| E. He is self-satisfied                                      | Prov. 1:22       |
| F. He doesn't like discipline                                | Prov. 1:22-25    |
| G. He is gullible  | Prov. 14:15      |
| H. He is imprudent   | Prov. 1:4        |
| I. He is undiscerning  | Prov. 1:4, 14:15 |
| J. He lacks sense  | Prov. 7:7        |
| K. He is incautious  | Prov. 22:3       |
| L. He is untutored   | Prov. 1:4        |
| M. He is incapable of seeing the consequences of his actions | Prov. 22:3       |

FOLLY

The naïve person who does not submit to discipline will become a fool. The status of folly has three subdivisions, the insensitive fool the stubborn, or morally insolent fool, the stupid fool . The first of this group, the insensitive fool, has six basic characteristics.

**2. The Insensitive Fool**

I. His Character

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|---|-------------------|
| A. His is unteachable                         | Prov. 17:16       |
| B. He abuses speech                           | Prov. 12: 23      |
| C. He abuses his emotions                     | Prov. 18:6        |
| D. He ignores the consequences of his actions | Eccl. 7:4; 2:14   |
| E. He is morally deficient                    | Prov. 10:23       |
| F. He is disloyal and unreliable              | Prov. 15:20; 26:6 |

**3. The Stubborn, or Morally Insolent Fool**

I. His Character

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|--------------------------------|------------|
| A. He is insolent against God  | Hosea 9:7  |
| B. He is morally insolent      | Prov. 14:9 |
| C. He is without understanding | Prov. 7:23 |
| D. He is a schemer             | Prov. 24:9 |

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| E. He is deceitful              | Prov. 14:8      |
| F. He is rebellious             | Psalms 107:7    |
| G. He hotheadedly abuses speech | Prov. 14:17, 29 |
| H. He is unteachable            | Prov. 1:7       |

\*This character quality is usually associated with youth

Prov. 22:15

#### **4. The Stupid Fool**

##### I. His Character

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|---|-------------------------------|
| A. He speaks nonsense   | Isa. 32:6                     |
| B. He lies  | Ezek. 13:2-3, 6; Job 42:8     |
| C. He speaks without understanding                                    | Job 2:10                      |
| D. He cannot speak with excellence                                    | Prov. 17:7                    |
| E. He ignores God   | Psalms 14:1; 53:1             |
| F. He refuses to worship God  | Psalms 14:4                   |
| G. He denies God  | Psalms 74:18                  |
| H. He curses God  | Job 2:9-10                    |
| I. He speaks error against the Lord                                   | Isa 32:6; Job 42:8            |
| J. He practices idolatry  | Deut. 32:5-6                  |
| K. He claims God's leading  | Ezek. 13:2-3,6                |
| L. He transgresses Torah  | 2 Sam. 13:12-13; Judges 20:10 |
| M. He doesn't trust God   | Job 2:9-10                    |
| N. He inclines toward wickedness & ungodliness                        | Isa. 32:6                     |
| O. He withholds help from the needy                                   | Isa. 32:6                     |
| P. He does not practice what is good                                  | Psalms 14:1                   |
| Q. He is corrupt  | Psalms 14:1-3                 |
| R. He breaks covenant   | Josh. 7:15; 2 Sam. 13:12-13   |
| S. He seeks only his own pleasure                                     | 2 Sam. 13:12-13               |
| T. He cannot subordinate his pleasure to the demands of righteousness | 2 Sam. 13:12-13               |
| U. He seeks luxury  | 1 Sam. 25:36                  |

#### **5. The Scornor**

##### I. His Character

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|---|-------------------------|
| A. Scoffing is his most basic personal trait                      | Isa. 28:14,22           |
| B. He loves scoffing  | Prov. 1:22              |
| C. He is classed with the ruthless and the wicked                 | Isa. 29:20; Prov. 9:7,8 |
| D. Scoffing is the opposite of humility. It is proud and haughty. | Prov. 3:34; Hab.2:5     |
| E. He is filled with overweening pride                            | Prov. 20:1              |
| F. He does not listen to rebuke                                   | Prov. 13:1              |
| G. He hates reproof   | Prov. 15:12             |
| H. He curses anyone who would discipline him                      | Prov. 9:7,8             |
| I. He is contentious and full of shamefulness                     | Prov. 22:10             |
| J. He despises God's Word through the prophets                    | Isa. 28:7-14            |
| K. He inflames others with his unrestrained wrath                 | Prov. 29:8              |
| L. He can't find wisdom.  | Prov. 14:6              |

