



# Proverbs 9: Wisdom vs. Folly

# Proverbs 9:1-6

- Wisdom is personified as a strong, capable woman.
- Proverbs 9 is the last chapter of the introduction.
- Wisdom literature often draws contrasts between wisdom and folly. We see it in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Psalms.
- It is the main theme of this chapter, but it's also a theme scattered throughout the book.

# Wisdom and Folly

- “Wise people think before they act; fools don’t – and even brag about their foolishness” (13:16).
- “The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!” (3:35).
- “Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others” (12:15).
- “Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions” (18:2).

# Wisdom and Folly

- Proverbs personifies wisdom and folly as two different women.
- This isn't marriage advice. It's a metaphor, a literary tool.
- Living a life of wisdom is like settling down with a godly, loving spouse.
- Living a life of folly is like chasing after a seductive temptress who will cheat on you and treat you poorly (2:16–19).

# Wisdom and Folly

- It makes no logical sense to chase after a temptress.
- In the same way, godly wisdom is clearly the better choice for living a happy life, yet many people are wooed away by the empty promises of foolishness, which never turn out well.
- If you want to live a happy life, ignore the wooing cries of foolishness and pursue true godly wisdom with all your heart, soul and strength.

# Wisdom and Folly

- Proverbs 9 describes wisdom as a woman who has built a large, beautiful house.
- There have been many theories about what the seven pillars represent: grandeur, beauty, and strength. The number seven in Hebrew is also the number of completeness and perfection.
- This house is safe, strong and solid. It's complete and perfect.

# Wisdom and Folly

- This woman has done everything herself. Whoever responded to her invitation would have to do nothing but come and enjoy the feast.
- This doesn't mean that walking in God's wisdom leads to a life of ease and feasting.
- But wisdom is strong, and her house is a safe and good place to be. Not necessarily physically safe, but spiritually.

# Wisdom and Folly

- Dr. Kent Brantley, a missionary doctor with Samaritan's Purse, almost died of Ebola in 2014. He said, "Faith doesn't make you safe. It was my faith that put me on the front lines. It was faith that put me in the Ebola Treatment Unit."
- If you're in the will of God, there is no better place to be.
- This attitude is contrary to man's wisdom but consistent with the wisdom of God.

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- Wisdom comes from knowing God.
- The phrase “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” is here at the end of the introduction so we won’t forget that this is the thesis statement of the whole book.
- Wisdom comes from a right relationship with God, admitting that He is God and we are not.

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- This section focuses on what we see about wisdom vs. folly .
- For example, fools hate correction, but the wise welcome it.
- Wise people realize that they don't know everything. They appreciate someone showing them the error of their ways.
- An athlete appreciates a coach correcting his/her swing or stance or strategy.

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- Paul told Timothy that Scripture is useful “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- Correction isn’t a bad thing; it trains us for a life of righteousness.
- We learn more about what it means to live as Jesus did, and we grow to be more like Him. This is the process of sanctification.

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- Recognizing that you need correction is part of “the fear of the Lord.” Understanding that you need to grow in wisdom is one of the things that makes you wise (verse 9).
- Paul said that everyone who is “mature” should think “this way.”
- That they have not already arrived at perfection, but that they have to continue to press on toward the finish line of the upward call of God in Christ (Philippians 3:12–16).

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- In the New Testament, we see that Peter received correction from Paul, which may have been difficult for Peter because he was one of Jesus' inner circle of disciples and one of the earliest leaders of the church. And he was not a meek person.
- But he had the humility to recognize when Paul was right about his not eating with the Gentiles out of fear of Judaizers (Galatians 2:11–14).

# Proverbs 9:7-12

- None of us will ever be finished growing in wisdom in this life.
- Only the fool thinks he already knows everything.
- This is why the book of Proverbs is necessary for our daily lives, today and every day, for the rest of our lives.
- We will keep reading it and keep learning and keep growing.
- We will never be done.

# Proverbs 9:13-18

- Folly is personified as an unruly woman.
- The way of wisdom leads to a feast, while folly leads to death.
- Folly tries to trick you, while wisdom offers you what is real, true and good.
- The woman of folly is loud; the NLT even says “brash” (verse 13). The Hebrew is “growl/roar” or “cause an uproar.”

# Proverbs 9:13-18

- Instead of sending out proper invitations, she sits in the doorway and yells out to those who pass by (verse 15).
- She tempts them with lies: that stolen water is sweet and bread eaten in secret is pleasant (verse 17).
- But accepting her invitation leads to death (verse 18).
- Wisdom asks them to “leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight” (verse 6).

# Proverbs 9:13-18

- Adam and Eve chose not to listen to God's voice in the garden because the fruit "was a delight to the eyes" and "was to be desired to make one wise" (Genesis 3:6).
- Abraham used human wisdom to try to conceive an heir instead of trusting in God's promises, which led to a conflict with Hagar and Sarah and Ishmael (Genesis 16).
- Judges 21:25 - "everyone did what was right in his own eyes"

# Proverbs 9:13-18

- Ten of the spies believed human wisdom, but Caleb and Joshua trusted God's promise that He could (Numbers 13).
- Saul followed his own wisdom in battle, but David trusted that the Lord could defeat Goliath through him (1 Samuel 17).
- Paul said, "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise ... so that no one may boast before Him" but only boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).

# Proverbs 9:13-18

- This chapter ends the introduction to the book of Proverbs (chapters 1–9).
- From this point, Solomon will share hundreds of specific proverbs about aspects of life: family, work, friendship, sex, marriage, money, anger, forgiveness, alcohol, and debt.
- He wants us to listen to his instruction, to trust in the Lord over the tempting calls of the wisdom of the world.

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# Sample Ballot

## SAMPLE BALLOT (BOLETA DE MUESTRA)

Official Ballot *Boleta Oficial*  
Republican Party Primary Election *Eleccion Primaria del Partido Republicano*  
Collin County, TX *Condado de Collin, TX*  
March 1, 2022 *1 de Marzo, 2022*

"I am a Republican and understand that I am ineligible to vote or participate in another political party's primary election or convention during this voting year." ("Yo soy Republicano y comprendo soy inelegible para votar o participar en la eleccion primaria o la convencion de algun otro partido politico durante este año electoral.")

To vote, completely fill in the oval ● TO THE LEFT OF YOUR CHOICE(S). Use pen or pencil. DO NOT ERASE. If you make a mistake you may request a new ballot. If your vote for a candidate or question is marked in such a manner that your intent is not clearly demonstrated, your vote for that office may not be counted. To protect the secrecy of your vote, do not put your name, initials, or any identifying mark on your official ballot.

*Para votar rellene completamente el óvalo ● a la izquierda de su(s) elección(es). Marque solamente utilizando la pluma o lápiz provisto. NO BORRE. Si comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva boleta electoral. Si su voto por un candidato o pregunta está marcado de tal manera que su intención no es claramente demostrable, su voto por ese cargo podra no ser contado. Para proteger el secreto del voto, no escriba su nombre, sus iniciales o cualquier marca distintiva en la boleta electoral oficial.*

FEDERAL (Federal)	STATE (Estado)	STATE (Estado)
<b>United States Representative, District 3</b> (Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 3) <b>Vote for none or one</b> (Vote por ninguno o uno)	<b>Comptroller of Public Accounts</b> (Contralor de Cuentas Públicas) <b>Vote for none or one</b> (Vote por ninguno o uno)	<b>Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9</b> (Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm 9) <b>Vote for none or one</b> (Vote por ninguno o uno)
<input type="radio"/> Keith Self	<input type="radio"/> Glenn Hegar	<input type="radio"/> Evan Young
<input type="radio"/> Jeremy D. Ivanovskis	<input type="radio"/> Mark V. Goloby	<input type="radio"/> David J. Schenck
<input type="radio"/> Van Taylor	<b>Commissioner of the General Land Office</b> (Comisionado de la Oficina General de Tierras)	<b>Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2</b> (Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 2)
<input type="radio"/> Rickey Williams		

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# Election Information

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# Inflation

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- Most countries and empires have had to address the problem of inflation.
- This includes the nation of Israel. God (speaking through the prophet Isaiah) pronounced judgment on the land because the country that once was full of justice had debased the currency and its products.
- “Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water” (Isaiah 1:22).
- People were cheating each other by adding cheaper metals to their silver and by adding water to their wine.

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# Inflation

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- British economist John Maynard Keynes noted how inflation affects a nation and its citizens.
- He said: “By a continuing process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens.”
- He also added, “There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of society than to debauch the currency. The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law that come down on the side of destruction and does so in a manner that not one man in a million is able to diagnose.”

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# Inflation

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- The Bible has quite a bit to say about money, and a significant part of these financial warnings concern debt.
- Proverbs 22:7 says: “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a servant to the lender.”
- When you borrow money and put yourself in debt, you put yourself in a situation where the lender has significant influence over you.
- The government is spending more than it is bringing in through revenue. The national debt is increasing every day.

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# Inflation

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- The Bible also teaches that it is wrong to borrow and not repay.
- Psalm 37:21 says: “The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives.”
- The printing of more money has no end in sight. The federal government has been borrowing money from US citizens, foreign governments, and the Federal Reserve.
- Will we ever repay our debt? Even if we do so, it will be with devalued dollars.

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# Inflation

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- The Bible teaches that individuals (and governments) should have honest weights and measures.
- Deuteronomy 25:13 says, “You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small.”
- Proverbs 20:10 warns that “Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the Lord.”
- Ezekiel 45:10 says, “You shall have just balances, a just ephah, and a just bath.”

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# Application

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- How should Christians respond to rising inflation?
- We should begin by paying our debts. We cannot honestly call for the government to live within its means if we won't set the example and live within our means.
- We should, "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your harvest; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

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# Application

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- Solomon gives this advice: “Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth” (Ecclesiastes 11:2).
- It makes sense to diversify your portfolio since no human being can accurately and consistently predict the future (James 4:13-15).
- We are heading for economic uncertainty.
- That is why we need to trust the Lord with our wealth (Proverbs 3:9) and be good stewards of the resources God has provided to us (1 Corinthians 4:2).