**What Kind of Fool Are You?**

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| **Type** |  | |  | |  | |  |  |
| **Simple**  "opened up"  **pethiy**  {peth-ee'} | **Description**: **Open minded to all kinds of enticements & deceptions because they have no discernment**. Easily persuaded by flattery, delusion, deception, and enticement. He is ready to believe almost anything and he exhibits great gullibility. Believes every word: believes gossip, slander, and false teaching, and he hates academic discipline. Looks for a leader, Ignorant of cause and effect, Is corrupted by scorning fools | | | | | | | |
|  | **Problem**: Believes every word • Looks for a leader • Ignorant of cause and effect • Is corrupted by scorning fools • Immature, gullible, and curious. • Fails to see cause & effect sequences. | | **Special Danger**:  • Can quickly digress into greater foolishness. • Especially vulnerable to seductive women. • Easy prey for scorning fools, who become heroes for them | | **Treatment**:  • Consistent discipline, • instruction in wisdom from the Proverbs. • Needs to see swift & decisive correction for scorning fools • Have father lead and praise • Teach principles of life | | **References**: Pr 1:1-4  Pr 7:6-7  Pr 22:3  Pr 19:25 |
| **Silly**  "morally missed the mark"  **eviyl**  {ev-eel'} | **Description**: **Thick-headed, stupid. Insolent. Believes his own way is right**. to be perverse, or to be one who is without aim or council. The **eviyl** fool despises wisdom and instruction. He is full of arrogance and self-justification when confronted with truth. He is easy to spot because his brain has stopped thinking but his tongue is in high gear. In fact, the only way he can appear wise is to keep his mouth shut. As soon as it is opened, his foolishness is revealed. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Problem**: • Curious. • Has rejected parental authority. • Reacts to instruction. • His mouth gets him in trouble. • Seeks “a good time” • Has fun breaking rules • Is committed to wrong friends • Has guilt for wrongdoing | | **Special Danger**:  • When things go wrong for him, he becomes angry, more damage is done. | | **Treatment**:  • Useless to argue. • Will learn only by punishment. • If this fool would simply close his mouth, he would improve people's opinion of him. • Train to be a “giver” vs. “taker • Inform parents of misdeeds • Separate from wrong friends • Help to gain a clear conscience | | **References**: Pr 7:22; 10:21  Pr 1:7  Pr 27:3  Pr 20:3, 10:14  Pr 17:28[[1]](#footnote-1) |

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| **Type** |  | | **Problem** | | **Special Danger** | | **Treatment** | **References** |
| **Sensual**  **Slandering**  "fat, sluggish, thick, obstinate"  **keciyl**  {kes-eel'} | **Description**: **Arrogantly set on doing what brings him immediate pleasure. His god is his belly, he glories in what he should be ashamed of**. Has a bent for making the wrong choices. This Hebrew word literally means that the loins and flanks of a person are so crowded by fat that they are dull, inactive, and passive. The stubborn fool cannot cope affectively with authority in business or in a local church for any great length of time. In fact, he thinks he should be in authority himself, even though he has absolutely no capacity for it. His stupidity leads him to take on more than he can handle. The **keciyl** type fool hides their hatred with hypocritical lies, and then utter slander in the next breath. They are two-faced. If you keep company with them, you will suffer harm. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Problem**:  • Rejects the wisdom of God. • Fails to receive (or reacts to) the correction of parents or public authorities. • Sneaks out with wrong friends • Is involved in drugs, wrong habits • Engages in immorality • Skilled in deception | | **Special Danger**:  • Appears to be prosperous & becomes an object of envy to simple & silly fools. • Will easily lead them astray. • His methods are very subtle. • A bitter grief to his parents. | | **Treatment**:  • Instead of counsel, God calls for *severe* punishment for the sensual fool. • Public punishment. • Turn over to court system • Conquer three root problems • Break wrong “soul ties” • Learn to understand vs. trust | | **References**:  Pr 10:23;13:19-20  Pr 1:32  Pr 23:9; 26:3; 19:29  Pr 17:25;18:6-7  Pr 13:20 |
| **Scorning Scoffing**  "make mouths at"  **luwts**  {loots} | **Description**: **This is the scorning or mocking fool. The mocking fool seeks for wisdom in vain because his motivation is wrong and he is blind and deaf to spiritual matters**. The scorning fool is flirting with a reprobate mind. He expresses his scorn through derisive attitudes, behavior, & speech. Uses facial expressions to communicate the disdain & contempt he has in his heart for parents, civil authorities, and God's ways. This is the fool that uses his mouth to scoff, mock, or to ridicule. He will even scoff at the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The mocking fool is obnoxious and is an abomination to others. He delights in mocking spiritual Christians and their standards. In any group of people, if you get rid of the scoffer or the mocking fool, you will solve most of your problems within that group. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Problem**:  • Has rejected truth, embraced that which is an abomination to God. • No capacity to respond to wisdom (though he may say he desires it). • Does not understand wisdom because he rejects completely the instruction of his parents. • Gets simple fools to do evil • Despised rules and authorities • Creates unrest and contention • Is proud of evil exploits | | **Special Danger**:  • An unauthorized person who tries to discipline a scorner will pay for it. • He shows abhorrence, repugnance toward people, ideas which contradict his erroneous conclusion. | | **Treatment**:  • Vital that a scorner receive proper discipline & be separated from others so that the simple fool may learn from it and so strife may cease. • Confine to constant supervision • Publicly punish for crimes • Remove from contact with others • Require hard work, restitution | | **References**:  Pr 1:22, 14:6  Pr 13:1, 9:7-8, 15:12  Pr 19:25, 21:11  Pr 22:10  Pr 20:1 (wine) |

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| **Type** |  | | **Problem** | | **Special Danger** | | **Treatment** | **References** |
| **Steadfast Stubborn**  "stupid, wicked"  **nabal**  {naw-bawl'} | **Description**: **These committed fools have steadfastly regressed to the point where they have entered into apostasy**. They are morally wicked, despise holiness and are a disgrace to his family & all those who have tried to help him. The Hebrew root word **nabal**, means to be stupid, wicked, and vile. It also means to fall away, to fail, to faint, to despise, to dishonor, to lightly esteem, or to abandon. It is the **nabal** fool who says in his heart that there is no God. He can even teach about God, yet deny Him in his thinking. This fool gives deep sorrow to his father. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Problem**:  • Self-confident, closed-minded. Completely committed to being his own god, gratifying his lower nature. • Has seared conscience • Believes it is right to do wrong • Is skilled in argumentation • Seeks followers for self-gain | | **Special Danger**:  • Dedicated his life to drawing as many others as he can into his evil ways. • Will creep into families, churches to lead captive the simple & weak. | | **Treatment**:  • Futile, frustrating to counsel this type fool. • Instead, God must be the one to deal with him. • Place in solitary confinement • Refuse to argue, expose his folly • Warn others of his errors | | **References**:  Pr 17:21,  Ps 14:1  Jude 4,12  1Sam 25:17 |

1. The quote: “*Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and to remove all doubt*” has been attributed to both Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain. It was most probably first used by Maurice Switzer in his book “*Mrs. Goose, Her Book*”. The publication date was 1907 and the copyright notice was 1906.  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)