

Building With Wisdom Part 5  
 People: The Wise and not so Wise

**Five primary kinds of people in Proverbs**

1. Wise
2. Wicked
3. Simple
4. Mockers/Scorners
5. Fools

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**Characteristics of the Simple**

1. Simple people are naïve and easily deceived.

Proverbs 14:15 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

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2. Simple people lack strong convictions.

Proverbs 7:7-8, 21-22 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment. <sup>8</sup> He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house.

<sup>21</sup> With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. <sup>22</sup> All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose.

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**2. Simple people lack strong convictions.**

Charles Bridges said "To believe every word of God is faith to believe every word of man is credulity."

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**3. Simple people have to learn everything the hard way.**

Proverbs 22:3 (NIV)

A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

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**Characteristics of Mockers**

**1. Mockers are prideful people who think they know everything.**

Proverbs 21:24 (NLT)

<sup>24</sup> Mockers are proud and haughty; they act with boundless arrogance.

Proverbs 9:7-8 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse. <sup>8</sup> Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

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2. Mockers are people who stir up trouble.

Proverbs 22:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

James 3:6 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

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Characteristics of Fools

1. Fools are people who lack self control.

Proverbs 15:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

<sup>2</sup> The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

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1. Fools are people who lack self control.

Proverbs 14:29 (MSG)

<sup>29</sup> Slowness to anger makes for deep understanding; a quick-tempered person stockpiles stupidity.

Proverbs 20:3 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

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**2. Fools are people who can't be trusted with resources or responsibilities.**

**Proverbs 17:16 (NIV)**

**<sup>16</sup> Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?**

**Proverbs 26:6-7 (NIV)**

**<sup>6</sup> Like cutting off one's feet or drinking violence is the sending of a message by the hand of a fool. <sup>7</sup> Like a lame man's legs that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.**

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**3. Fools are people who don't learn from their past mistakes.**

**Proverbs 26:11 (NIV)**

**<sup>11</sup> As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.**

**Proverbs 19:3 (NLT)**

**<sup>3</sup> People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.**

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