

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
March 17, 2024 | "Walking in Wisdom" | **Proverbs 14:1–35**

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## *Those who walk in wisdom...*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and enjoy his benefits  
(14:1–7)
  
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ are not always what they seem  
(14:8–15)
  
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ with all of its trappings  
(14:16–35)

## Questions for further application of God's Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 14:1–35. How many times does the author refer to “folly” or a “fool” in this chapter? What other words/concepts are associated with foolishness? What about wisdom?

How is the “fear of the Lord” strategically woven through this passage and the book of Proverbs? Why is the fear of the Lord essential to wisdom? How is foolishness contrasted with the fear of the Lord?

Read Proverbs 14:1 and 14:26. How does a father bless his children? How about a mother? Why is it important for parents to teach the fear of the Lord to their children? Why is it important for children to heed their parents (see Eph 6:1–4)?

### GET PERSONAL

Solomon says several things in this chapter about the dangers of naivete and gullibility (e.g. 14:12, 15). How does a Christian balance shrewdness with hopefulness? How do we discern between a man's ways (14:12) and God's ways? Are you naturally a trusting person? Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Are you naturally an optimist or pessimist? Should we be one or the other as Christians?

Read Proverbs 14:27. How does the fear of the Lord help someone turn away from the snares of death? Is this talking about physical death in this world or eternal death in the afterlife? Have you escaped eternal death in the afterlife? If so, how?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God granted it to him (1 Kgs 3:1–28). We also have a statement in the NT that says, “if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him” (Jas 1:5). Where are you lacking wisdom in your life? Where do you need it? Take some time right now to ask God for wisdom in the specific areas of your life where you need it.

### ADVANCED QUESTION

Read Proverbs 14:34. How does righteousness exalt a nation? Should we, as Christians, work to establish a righteous nation? Will nations continue into eternity? Should we just focus on the work of the church (i.e. evangelism, discipleship, etc.)?