

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Oct 27, 2024 | “Stupid is as Stupid does” | **Proverbs 26:1–28**

1) The foolishness of a _____ (26:1–12)

2) The foolishness of a _____ (26:13–16)

3) The foolishness of a _____ (26:17–22)

4) The foolishness of a _____ (26:23–28)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

In Proverbs 26, how many times is the “fool” referenced? How about the sluggard? How many times does Solomon speak about someone who is wise in his own eyes? Is this the most concentrated section on foolishness in the book of Proverbs? What’s the overarching message of this chapter?

Consider the statements about a fool (26:1–12), a sluggard (26:13–16), a busybody (26:17–22), and a liar (26:23–28). How are these characteristics similar? How are they different? How are these four defiant towards the God of the universe and towards the fear of the Lord that brings wisdom?

GET PERSONAL

Solomon writes in 26:17, “Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.” Why is meddling in the affairs of others obnoxious and dangerous? How might a person engage in this kind of behavior in our day? Take a look at the NT passages that speak of meddling and busybodying (e.g. 1 Tim 5:13; 1 Thess 4:11–12; 2 Thess 3:10–12; 1 Pet 4:13–15).

Read the section on “The foolishness of a busybody” (26:17–22). What role does whispering (gossiping) and quarreling play in dysfunctional interpersonal relationships? What consequences does it bring to those relationships?

Give a brief definition of gossip. How do we guard against this vice in the church community? How is gossip typically spread in a community? Why is it so destructive? For help with this, see the following articles:

1) “What is Gossip?” with John Piper:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-gossip>

2) “How the Gossip Machine Turns Desire into Sin” by Joe Carter:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-the-gossip-machine-turns-desire-into-sin/>

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider Proverbs 26 in light of your own human failings. Are you guilty of foolish behavior in your life? Have you sinned against others and against God in this regard? How does God save sinners, fools, sluggards, liars, etc.? Where applicable, repent and ask God for help in rejecting foolish behavior. Praise God that he saves foolish sinners like us.

ADVANCED QUESTION

Proverbs 26:10 is one of the most difficult verses to translate in the entire Hebrew Bible. Consult a technical commentary to discern the different possibilities for translation. Which option(s) makes sense in context? What do we do with passages like this that are difficult to translate and understand? Should this cause us to cast doubt or uncertainty on the Bible as a whole and its overarching message?