

The Characteristics of Folly and the Ways it is Manifested

Ecclesiastes 10

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The Characteristics of Folly (10:1-3)

Folly Mars the Finest of Reputations (10:1)

CHAPTER 10

1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to stink *and* ferment; so a little folly is weightier than wisdom *and* honour.

Folly is as Easy to Fall into as Wisdom (10:2)

2 The heart of a wise *man* is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

Folly Betrays its Own Stupidity by Calling Others Fools (10:3)

3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his sense faileth *him*, and he saith to every one *that* he is a fool.

The Wise Thing to Do When the Spirit of the Ruler Rises against You (10:4)

4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for quietness pacifieth great offences.

Folly is Manifested in Government and Labor (10:5-20)

5 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as an error *that* proceedeth from the ruler: **6** folly is set in great dignities, but the rich sit in a low place. **7** I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. **8** He that diggeth a pit falleth into it; and whoso breaketh down a hedge, a serpent biteth him. **9** Whoso removeth stones is hurt therewith; he that cleaveth wood is endangered thereby. **10** If the iron be blunt, and one do not whet the edge, then must he apply more strength; but wisdom is profitable to give success. **11** If the serpent bite before enchantment, then the charmer hath no advantage. **12** The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool swallow up himself. **13** The beginning of the words of his mouth is folly; and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. **14** And the fool multiplieth words: *yet* man knoweth not what shall be; and what shall be after him, who will tell him? **15** The labour of fools wearieth them, because they know not how to go to the city. **16** Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! **17** Happy art thou, O land, when thy king is a son of nobles, and thy princes eat in *due* season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! **18** By much slothfulness the framework falleth in; and through idleness of the hands the house drippeth. **19** A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh life merry; but money answereth everything. **20** Curse not the king, no, not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for the bird of the air will carry the voice, and that which hath wings will tell the matter.