

Proverbs 1:20-33 (NIV)

- ²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud in the street,
she raises her voice in the public squares;
²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out,
in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:
²² "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways?
How long will mockers delight in mockery
and fools hate knowledge?
²³ If you had responded to my rebuke,
I would have poured out my heart to you
and made my thoughts known to you.
²⁴ But since you rejected me when I called
and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand,
²⁵ since you ignored all my
advice and would not accept my rebuke,
²⁶ I in turn will laugh at your disaster;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you--
²⁷ when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind,
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.
²⁸ "Then they will call to me but I will not answer;
they will look for me but will not find me.
²⁹ Since they hated knowledge
and did not choose to fear the LORD,
³⁰ since they would not accept my advice
and spurned my rebuke,
³¹ they will eat the fruit of their ways
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.
³² For the waywardness of the simple will kill them,
and the complacency of fools will destroy them;
³³ but whoever listens to me will live in safety
and be at ease, without fear of harm."

Listening to Wisdom

Which One Are You?

Wise – The one who “fears the Lord.” This person invests time and energy in knowing God, his word, will and ways. He seeks to obey God and thinks through how to apply the Scriptures to life. He thinks about life and the things he sees, considering them through the lens of God’s word. The wise have a growing understanding of how to live by faith in this world for the glory of God.

Simple – In a good sense, the simple person is teachable and thus able to learn wisdom. This person is open minded, willing to believe, be shaped and grow. But, the simple is also viewed as one who is gullible, easily misled, seduced, and tempted. Both Wisdom and Folly are competing for the simple to come and learn from them (chapter 9). Unless the simple commit themselves to learn wisdom, they will and are led astray (1:32). The simple are not neutral, they are seen as inclined and moving toward foolishness.

Mocker – The mocker is hardened in sin. He is proud (21:24), and will not listen to a rebuke (13:1). In fact, the mocker is offended by anyone who would reprove him (9:7-8). Mockers are involved in strife, quarrels and insults (22:10).

Fool – The fool is opposite of the wise. He does not fear the Lord or spend any time or energy seeking to know God or God’s ways. The fool thinks he is right and his ways are right. He does not consider his ways or thinking in light of God’s word. The fool is associated with the wicked. The “fool is hotheaded and reckless.” (14:16) “A fool gives full vent to his anger” (29:11). He rejects wisdom and understanding (1:7).

1. Wisdom calls:

Wisdom defined:

- a. Skill in living in a moral universe and a fallen world
- b. Knowing well what the Bible teaches and understanding how to apply it to everyday life
- c. Knowing how to think, speak, and act in light of reality as God defines it

Wisdom is needed in _____ of _____.

Wisdom comes as a rebuke because we live in a

_____.

2. When wisdom is rejected

The _____ of rejected wisdom

The _____ of rejecting wisdom

3. Receiving wisdom requires an active pursuit

The _____ with wisdom

The _____ of seeking wisdom

The _____ of pursuing wisdom