



2. If you are heading in the wrong direction...(v. 2)
You might be a fool

3. If you are known for your poor choices...(v.3)
You might be a fool

**“Suppose you were an idiot.
And suppose you were a member
of Congress.**

But I repeat myself.”

Mark Twain

**4. If the world is bizarro...(vvs.
4-7)**
**You might have a fool(s) in
leadership**

When the wrong people get into power:

- 10:5 errors in leadership produce evil.
- 10:6 “rich sit in a low place” = people with financial resources don’t have the power to use the for public good.
- 10:7 “slaves riding on horses and princes walking like slaves” = horses associated with power, wealth, royalty. Slaves typically walked behind
- 10:16-17 foolish, inexperienced kings “feast in morning” “for drunkenness not strength”
- 10:18 “rafters sag, house leaks”

You may have fools in government if society:

- denies the authority of God
- can’t define “woman”
- can choose gender based on feelings
- murders babies inside and outside the womb
- celebrates immorality
- legal system doesn’t provide swift and effective punishment

How should we respond:

- 10:4 “If the ruler’s temper rises against you, do not abandon your position, because composure allays great offenses.”
- Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up trouble.”
- What’s worst than one angry person? Two!

Submit to governing authorities:

- 1 Peter 2:13-15 “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. *For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.*”

Submit to masters, even the unjust:

- 1 Peter 2:18-19 “Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. *For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.*”

Submit to husbands:

- 1 Peter 3:1-2 “In the same way, you wives be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.”

Submit as Christ did:

- 1 Peter 2:23 “and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

5. If your acts are self-destructive...(vvs. 8-9)
You might be a fool

Folly can be self-destructive:

- 10:8-9 “He who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite him who breaks through a wall. He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits logs may be endangered by them.”
- Psalm 7:15-16 “He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, and has fallen into the hole he made. His mischief will return upon his own head, and his violence will descend upon his own pate.
- For every folly, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

**6. If you do not prepare...(vvs..10-11)
You might be a fool****7. If you talk too much...(vvs.
12-15, 20)
You might be a fool**

**“Wise men speak because they have something to say;
fools because they have to say something.”**

“Furthermore, in your bedchamber do not curse a king, and in your sleeping rooms do not curse a rich man, for a bird of the heavens will carry the sound and the winged creature will make the matter known.”

Ecclesiastes 10:20



My husband asked me why I spoke so softly in the house.
I said I was afraid NSA was listening!
He laughed.
I laughed.
Alexa laughed.
Siri laughed.

8. You think you know it all...(vvs. 11-6)
You might be a fool

You do not know:

- 11:1-2 “cast your bread....for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.”
- 11:4-5 “watches the wind will not sow...looks at clouds will not reap...just as you do not know...so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.”
- 11:6 “Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.”

9. You don't rejoice in your life...(vvs. 7-9)
You might be a fool

“This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! ”

PSALM 118:24

10. You have vexation in your heart...(v. 10)
You might be a fool

Vexation
any problem that causes us worry and concern, that angers, grieves or irritates

Philippians 4:6-7 “*Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

“Cast all your anxiety on
Him, because He cares for
you.”

1 PETER 5:7

Who among you is wise and understanding?
Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the
gentleness of wisdom.

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in
your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the
truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down
from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For
where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is
disorder and every evil thing.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then
peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and
good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

James 3:13-17