

Message #45**Proverbs 14:7-12**

If a person is going to walk in the wise ways of God, there is going to have to be an abandonment from foolish ways and foolish people.

A WISE WAY OF LIFE AND A FOOLISH WAY OF LIFE ARE OPPOSITES AND A PERSON IS EITHER ON THE PATH OF WISDOM OR THE PATH OF FOLLY.

The beauty of this section in Proverbs is that God intends to pay rich dividends to one who walks on the path of the wise.

DIFFERENCE #1 – A wise person avoids close contact with foolish people. **14:7**

The basic point brought out here is that God does not intend to keep company with fools and He does not want His people keeping company with them either. Our wisdom is partially determined by our associations.

DIFFERENCE #2 – A wise person wants to know what is right before he does anything. **14:8**

This proverb presents two distinct methods of living—one carefully analyzes what is right, and one never carefully analyzes anything.

DIFFERENCE #3 – A wise person has a repentant attitude toward sin. **14:9**

The word “sin” is not the normal Hebrew word. This word is used in connection with a sacrifice that is offered for a transgression, such as a sin offering. It seems that the point of the proverb is a fool is one who mocks or scoffs at the idea of making amends for sin, but the wise, righteous person is quick to admit sin and do what is necessary to take care of it. God’s favor and goodwill is given to one who deals with sin.

DIFFERENCE #4 – A wise person knows his own heart. **14:10**

It is interesting that the word “stranger” is a word that comes from a root which refers to a person who has become an enemy or stranger because he has turned from true, proper paths. A heart can know its own bitterness, but apart from God it will never know full joy.

DIFFERENCE #5 – Wise and foolish people have different destinies. **14:11**

It is interesting to observe the difference between “house” and “tent.” The word “tent” was used of the tabernacle, which refers to a place of sacredness. God views the upright person as something dear and sacred to Him and the outcome will prove it.

DIFFERENCE #6 – Wise people and foolish people have different philosophies. **14:12**

A fool thinks he is doing right but never analyzes his thinking in view of God’s Word!