

Message #29**Proverbs 10:8-14**

There are major differences between being a believer and being a wise believer. There are major differences between living life our foolish way and living life God's wise way.

THERE ARE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEING WISE AND BEING FOOLISH, AND WE ARE TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCES SO THAT WE MAY EVALUATE OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

DIFFERENCE #1 – There is a major difference in attitude toward instruction. **10:8, 14**

A wise man receives instruction (**10:8**) and stores up knowledge (**10:14**). In other words, a wise person loves to take in the Word of God. He loves to listen to good Biblical exposition, and as Professor Toy states, he has a teachable disposition. The fool is heading for destruction. He does not enjoy being taught, but he enjoys shooting off his mouth to others. The word “babbling” (**10:8, 10**) refers to one who is constantly opening up his lips. William Arnot makes an interesting observation regarding the fool when he says that people would have never known that his head was so hollow if he wouldn't have constantly been ringing his mouth. Then he goes on to say that the real key to being a good teacher is being a good student first. A wise man is forever a student.

DIFFERENCE #2 – There is a major difference in integrity of life. **10:9-10**

The main emphasis of these two verses is that a wise person is a straight-shooter, but the fool is deceitful. The wise person backs up what he says with how he lives (**10:9**) and he is not deceitful toward those around him (**10:10**).

DIFFERENCE #3 – There is a major difference in communication to others. **10:11-12**

There is a major difference between the way a wise person talks and the way a fool talks. However, **verse 11** makes it clear that the effect of the wicked is not the same. The fool uses his mouth to dig up past failures; the wise person does not use his mouth in repeating wrongs of others. Charles Bridges said that true, wise love will not uncover a brother's fault unless it is needful for his ultimate good.

DIFFERENCE #4 – There is a major difference in future treatment. **10:13**

A wise man and a foolish man are treated entirely different. The wise man is one you listen to and learn from. You can find wisdom in his words and you will learn how to live a skillful life. The particular discipline described here—rod—was a corporal punishment which was a legal form of punishment under the O.T. economy. This theme occurs many times in Proverbs 13:24; 18:6; 19:29; 22:15; 23:13-14; 26:3; 29:15). Solomon's point is a person wise is one worth listening to, but a fool is one who needs to be disciplined.

There are major differences between being wise and being foolish—wise people understand this.