

## Weird Flex But Okay Part 3

I Don't Listen To Anyone I Should

*Proverbs 12:15*

*Memory Verses: Proverbs 12:15*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

**Proverbs 30:32** says, "if you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth." If you brag about being a fool that's a weird flex, but okay! Fools have all kinds of weird flexes. They brag about all the wrong things. Over the past two weeks we've seen them brag about being evil and brag about shunning wisdom. In essence they are bragging about ignoring God and rebelling against him like it's some kind of joke. Unfortunately, these fools will find out in the end that the joke's on them.

Proverbs has a lot to say about fools and their weird flexes. Today we will see another one in **Proverbs 12:15** which says, "the way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." Fools brag about the fact that they don't listen to anyone that they should. That's a weird flex, but okay. Why? Because wise people listen to wise counsel. For example; when I was 17 me and all of my best friends, Chuck, Timmy, Forest, Steven, were all on our church's youth softball team. And we had a game that night and I really wanted to go, but the problem was I had to work. I worked for Lifeway Christian Bookstore and it was a good job that I really enjoyed. I had worked there for almost two years and hadn't taken many sick days. I remember it like it was yesterday. Timmy and Forest were like little devils on one shoulder telling me to call in sick and come play the softball game. On the other shoulder was my manager telling me that you shouldn't do that that cause it might come back to bite you. In the end, I listened to the two little devils, I listened to foolish advice from my not so wise friends and it did not go well. I called in sick and went to the softball game. When I got to the game my youth pastor, who got me the job because he was friends with my manager, told me that he just so happened to talk with my manager over the phone for something completely unrelated and she happened to mention that I called in sick. My youth pastor responded with, "well that's funny, I'm expecting him at our softball game in a couple hours." So when I showed up at the softball game, my youth pastor told me what happened, benched me for the game, and the next day I got fired from my job. I learned that day to be careful who's advice I took.

Now, over the years I have been blessed to have some very wise counsel over my life, much of it coming from the leadership of our church and other Christians. Perhaps the best advice I receive comes from Lisa.

In all honesty she is the wisest person I know and never steers me in the wrong direction. When I take her counsel, things turn out good. When I ignore it... not so much.

As a pastor, over the years, I have given what I think is very wise counsel to many people. Some take it, some ignore it. But you know what frustrates me the most. Those who reject good advice because it's not the advice they want and so they go and find others who will tell them what they want to hear. I don't think that ever turns out for the best. The Bible calls those people foolish. Today, it is our hope that if you are struggling to listen to wise counsel, if you are listening to your own heart or the counsel of non-believers, you would find wisdom here and change course. The point this morning is simple, **when you ignore those who listen to God and listen to those who ignore God you can't blame God for the mess you make.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to recognize today is that **When You Listen To Your Heart You Will Be Deceived**. One of the worst places you could ever look to find good advice is your feelings. **Jeremiah 17:9** tells us that if we listen to our own hearts we will be deceived. Why is this the case? Why can't we trust our own hearts? Because we are all born into sin and we all struggle with the pull of sin towards fleshly desires. Our hearts are flesh and the flesh cannot be trusted. **Galatians 5:17** tells us that the desires of the flesh are against the desires of the Spirit. Our flesh wars against the good counsel of God. Paul tells us in **Romans 7:18** that nothing good dwells in us because of our flesh. We may desire to do what is right but we don't have the ability to carry it out. Proverbs makes this point crystal clear. Just look at **Proverbs 12:15** which tells us that the way of the fool always seems right in his own eyes. **Proverbs 28:26** agrees; whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool. **Whatever your feelings say to do, wherever your own thoughts take you, it's probably wrong**. If you don't feel that you are in a spiritually good place; in the word, in prayer, in fellowship with the church, growing in spiritual maturity, then you should never trust your own advice because the consequences will be devastating.

What exactly are the consequences of following your sinful and wicked heart? **Proverbs 26:12** tells us that anyone leaning on their own wisdom has very little hope. You have a fools hope, which is no hope at all. Perhaps, by the grace of God you will be spared, but on your own you will fall. How far might you fall? Well, according to **Proverbs 14:12** you might fall all the way. One who looks to his own wisdom ends in disaster even death. Do not, under any circumstance lean on your own understanding. Do not follow your heart without seeking other, godly counsel, and even then you should be very hesitant. Don't ignore what God may be calling you to and instead listen to a heart that wars with God. **When you ignore those who listen to God and listen to those who ignore God you can't blame**

## God for the mess you make.

The second thing we need to recognize this morning is that **When You Listen To Foolish People You Will Be Led Astray**. The only advice that could be worse than listening to your own fleshly feelings would be listening to the advice from foolish people. **Proverbs 12:26** makes it clear that the way of the wicked will lead others astray. **Proverbs 13:20b** tells us that the companion of fools will suffer harm.

This is where we need to go back to what we learned two weeks ago concerning a fool. What exactly is a fool? **A fool says in his heart there is no God. A fool doesn't fear God. A fool is anyone who has decided that following God and obeying his commands is not important. A fool is anyone who by their words or actions has rejected the way of God and the Bible. A fool is a godless person, plain and simple because true wisdom begins with a fear of God. So, when the bible speaks of a fool, it is speaking of someone who is godless; either a non-Christian or someone who claims to be a Christian but is not walking with God in spiritual maturity. Godless people will lead you off the path of godly wisdom. They will lead you toward worldly, fleshly wisdom, which is foolish.** They will lead you astray. Look at these verses. **Proverbs 14:7** says that you cannot get good counsel from a fool. **Proverbs 14:8** tells us that a wise person discerns his way through wise counsel, but the advice of fools deceives. And of course you all know **1 Corinthians 15:33** which reminds us that bad company can ruin your good morals and values.

Now, this doesn't mean that you shouldn't have friendships with non-Christians. We all should have relationships with people who we don't agree with in order to show them the love of Christ. It just means that you shouldn't trust their counsel. **Proverbs 18:24a** reminds us that having a lot of friends doesn't automatically mean that you will receive good counsel from them. Now that doesn't mean that your non-Christian friends can't give good advice. It just means that a good majority of their advice will be tainted with worldly, fleshly desires. It means the vast majority will be worthless for you. So how do you know what advice of theirs is good advice. **Proverbs 14:15** says that a foolish person believes what anyone tells him, but the wise person discerns which counsel is beneficial. Simply put, you have to run the advice of non-Christian friends through the filter of godly counsel. Every time!

Unfortunately if you keep listening to the advice of your non-Christian friends, foolish godless people, you will be led astray to disaster and destruction. In the end you will see as **Proverbs 16:28** says, unrighteous people will spread strife and separate you from your real friends. In the end you will be led astray from God and the church and that's a tragedy in the making. **When you ignore those who listen to God and listen to those who ignore God you can't blame God for the**

## mess you make.

And the last thing we should recognize this morning is that **When You Listen To Wise Counsel You Will Prosper**. So, if you can't listen to the advice of your own heart, or the advice of non-Christians then who can you listen to? Well, I'm sure you've figured it out, but the answer would be your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's look back at **Proverbs 18:24** again. This verse makes it clear that those who should have access to give you advice should only be those who genuinely love you like family. Your brothers and sisters in Christ. This verse also alludes to the one who most certainly loves you more than a brother, and that is Jesus Christ who loved you so much he died for you. When you listen to the counsel of Godly brothers and sisters in Christ you are listening to Jesus.

Proverbs has a lot to say about this. **Proverbs 10:21**; a righteous person feeds the souls of many with good counsel, if only we would receive it. **Proverbs 10:8**; the wise will receive the commandments. **Proverbs 13:20a**; whoever walks with the wise will become wise. It is a pretty simple concept. If you listen to wise godly counsel, even if it isn't the counsel you want to hear, you will be better off for it.

The reason many people **don't want to listen to wise counsel from godly brothers and sisters in Christ** is because it often comes in the form of **rebuke**. A rebuke or reproof is anytime someone tells you that what you did wasn't the best decision. A rebuke is what a father tells his son when his son makes a mistake. Son, this isn't you, you can do better. We all know that rebuke is good for our kids because it helps them become better people, but for some reason, probably pride, as adults we hate it when others adults rebuke us or try to correct us. It's interesting but one of the biggest reasons God gave us his word is to show us how to rebuke and correct each other as Christians. Look at **2 Timothy 3:16**. We all profit when we correct and rebuke one another according to the Word of God.

Proverbs again speaks to this a great deal. **Proverbs 15:5**; a fool won't listen to even his father's instruction, but if he would allow him to reprove him he would benefit. **Proverbs 17:10**; a rebuke benefits a wise man but not a fool who refuses to accept it. **Proverbs 27:6**; rebuke is painful but from a friend it is beneficial. In the end, if you refuse to listen to godly advice and the rebuke of people who love you in Christ, you will make a mess of your life. **Proverbs 23:9** says a fool won't listen to the wisdom of your good words. **Proverbs 11:14** tells us that without good counsel people fail. And last of all, **Proverbs 10:17** tells us that if we are willing to listen to good counsel we will find a prosperous life, but if we reject godly rebuke we will indeed be led astray. **When you ignore those who listen to God and listen to those who ignore God you can't blame God for the mess you make.**

## Application

Isn't it interesting that we often like to blame God for the mess that we find our lives in. God, how could you allow me to live like this? God, how could you allow me to be in this situation? We are like perpetual victims always blaming God or others for the mess that we've made.

## Conclusion

Here's the solution this morning! Listen to godly counsel! Surround yourself with Christian brothers and sisters who love you and care for you and want the best for you. And accept their rebuke. If they come to you with a genuine concern, and in love try to move you from danger back onto the path of Christ, please hear their words and heed them. I promise you, your life will be way less messy! **When you ignore those who listen to God and listen to those who ignore God you can't blame God for the mess you make.**