

## Weird Flex But Okay Part 1

I May Be A Fool But Wisdom Is Dumb

*Proverbs 1:7*

*Memory Verses: Proverbs 1:7*

### MANUSCRIPT

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

I remember when I was a kid, most likely around fourth grade when I was pretty chubby, I saw a shirt on an elderly woman at church which I thought was kind of funny. It said, "I'm not fat, I'm just fluffy." Because it stood out to me as creative, I logged it away in my mind for later use. Some time, maybe a few days or weeks later, a kid was being mean to me and called me fat. So now was my time. I looked him square in the eyes and said, "I'm not fat, I'm just fluffy!" And as you can imagine all of the kids around gave me that, "what did you just say," kind of look and then burst out into laughter.

In today's time, the kids would say, "weird flex but okay." If you aren't up on today's lingo, and let me assure you, it changes every single day, then you may not know that flex means like a brag. If I say, I'm better than you, then I am flexing on you. A flex is a way of showing off. So if someone says something in a braggadocios way but it's kind of like, why would you brag about that, then it's a weird flex. Calling yourself fluffy... that's a weird flex, but okay... you do you!

Kind of like fools in the book of Proverbs. Time and time again Proverbs reveals how fools brag about the most ridiculous things imaginable. Just look with me at our key verse for this entire series; **Proverbs 30:32** which says, "if you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth." In laymen's terms, only fools brag about how evil they are. Weird flex; just put your hand over your mouth and shut up.

It is interesting that the things that people would never dare brag about only years ago are now shouted in triumph. But, in a world where good is now evil an evil is now good we shouldn't be caught off guard by it. To us it sounds like foolishness, to us it sounds like a weird flex. That's why in this series we will be looking into the book of Proverbs to see exactly what God calls foolish and how we can once again return to wisdom.

And I couldn't think of a better place to start than with **Proverbs 1:7** which says, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." That's a really weird flex, but okay. "I may be a fool but wisdom is dumb." No, you're dumb. Just look at this [real life tweet where Meeguel](#) outs himself as a fool with this weird flex.

Why would anyone despise wisdom? Why would anyone say that

they would rather be a fool and ignore in instruction? Why would anyone be known among others as unteachable? That's not okay, that's foolish. That's not just a weird flex, that's a dumb flex. Wisdom is power. The ability to learn is invaluable. **Proverbs 8:11** says that "wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her." **Proverbs 16:16** says that it is better than gold and silver. Why would you not want wisdom when this is what wisdom can give you? And so, this morning we want to show you why rejecting wisdom is perhaps the most foolish thing you could ever do and hopefully lead you back to wisdom. The main point this morning is simple; **When wisdom is found in God, when wisdom affords you gold, when wisdom finds you growing, don't be a fool, embrace it!**

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

The first thing we need to see today is that... **True Wisdom Can Only Be Found By Knowing God**. Going back to our main verse this morning **Proverbs 1:7** we see that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Wisdom begins with God. True knowledge and wisdom can only be found in God. **Proverbs 2:6** tells us that it is the Lord who gives wisdom. **Job 12:13** adds that with God there is wisdom and might. Also, **1 Corinthians 1:25** tells us that even the foolishness of God is wiser than men.

So we must seek the wisdom found in God. I think there are two avenues here that we should explore. The first way wisdom is found in God is through a fear of God. **Proverbs 2:5** tells us that when we understand the fear of God we receive the knowledge of God. **Proverbs 15:33** tells us that the fear of the Lord gives us instruction in wisdom. **Job 28:28** says that the fear of the Lord is wisdom. And, **Proverbs 3:7** reminds us to not be wise in our own eyes but fear the Lord. It's pretty clear that the fear of God leads to wisdom, but what does it mean to fear the Lord? **To fear God means to have a correct understanding of who he is. Yes, he is loving, caring, and good, but he is also just, which means that he must punish sin and discipline those he loves as to correct their mistakes and set them back on the right path. When we live according to his ways, we walk the line knowing that any deviation could mean consequences. I don't mock God because I know he has the power to show me that he shouldn't be mocked. In the same way my kids fear that they may be punished if they step out of line, we should have a healthy reverent fear of God's discipline.**

So we find wisdom in God through a healthy fear of God... and secondly through a faith in God. **Psalms 14:1** says that "a fool says in his heart there is no God." Listen, I don't really believe in atheists. I believe everyone knows that God exists; that there is a higher power. You must willingly pursue a godless worldview in order to embrace it and delude yourself. It is foolish to say there is no God. Wisdom knows there is a God and seeks him through faith. I can't prove to you God is real but there is enough evidence to suggest he is real, the rest is up to faith. **Ephesians**

5:17 tells us to not be foolish but understand the will of the Lord. When you pursue the one true God you are taking a leap of faith to pursue his will. 1 Peter 1:7 tells us that the road of faith is hard but in the end it will result in the revelation of Christ. If you want true wisdom... seek Christ until you find him!

So what do we do? James 1:5 tells us that if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously. Ask God to show you true wisdom and he will reveal it to you in his son Jesus Christ! Right now you can pray, God, please show me the true wisdom found in Jesus and see him work. In John 14:6 Jesus makes it clear when he says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Only by putting your faith in Jesus Christ can you truly know true wisdom. When wisdom is found in God, when wisdom affords you gold, when wisdom finds you growing, don't be a fool, embrace it!

The Second thing we need to see today is that True Wisdom Affords You Eternal Prosperity. When people think of prosperity they often think of riches, big houses, nice cars, fancy clothes, and the finest of restaurants. Prosperity means success and success comes in many shapes and sizes; the most common being physical prosperity, financial prosperity, and social prosperity. You can have good health, much wealth, and prestige and popularity that gives you great social standing. Deuteronomy 8:18 tells us that God gives us power to get wealth.

But I would add that there is one type of prosperity that extends beyond them all, spiritual prosperity; that is joy, peace, contentment, and enlightenment. Only true wisdom can be found through spiritual means and only true wisdom can grant spiritual prosperity in this life and eternal prosperity in the spiritual realms beyond this world. Just look at Proverbs 10:23 which tells us that wisdom brings us true satisfaction. The word pleasure here means, peace of mind, contentment, and the satisfaction of accomplishment. Wisdom can bring you every form of prosperity; physical, financial, social, and spiritual. 2 Corinthians 9:8 says that God is able to make grace and good works abound in your life. Proverbs 28:25 reminds us that if we trust in the Lord our lives will be enriched and Proverbs 16:22 tells us that wisdom is a fountain of life. Wisdom brings prosperity. But more than that, the phrase fountain of life reminds us of the living waters found in Christ. Wisdom can most definitely give the knowledge and skills we need to build a good life here, but ultimately abundant life can only be found in Jesus.

But, if wisdom brings prosperity, the lack of wisdom obviously brings the opposite. Proverbs 10:14 says that when a fool opens his mouth he brings ruin. His ideas and opinions are folly and lead to physical and spiritual poverty. Proverbs 17:12 tells us that a fool will have you mauled like a bear. 1 year ago me and Lisa went to Gatlinburg

for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We were told that if we wanted to see a bear we could go to Cades Cove and travel the 8 mile loop in our car. We were on the trail for about 7 miles with no bear in site, and then as the sun was going down we spotted two bear cubs on one side of the road crying for their mother. I got out to inspect and take some pics. With no mother in site we started to get nervous. And then out of no where the mom ran to her cubs so fast it was crazy. When I got back in the car I realized I had just come within inches of dying. You don't ever want to get between a mother bear and her cubs. The Bible says it's just as dangerous to be around a fool. He will wreck his own life and he will wreck yours just as fast.

Proverbs 17:16 also tells us that fools don't usually have money, but if they do they would squander it on things that don't matter. You say, but I know many people who haven't put their trust in God and still have plenty. Sometimes fools prosper and the wise suffer poverty but in the end the wisdom of God only gives prosperity to those who seek Him. Just because some fools prosper doesn't mean it's the rule of law. They may have riches here on this earth, but do they have inner peace and joy? Do they have a purpose and meaning beyond making money? Do they have assurance of eternal life and forever riches? If not then they don't really have anything then, do they? Proverbs 28:6 says that better is a poor man with integrity than a rich man without. We may be poor but with the wisdom of God we are rich. When wisdom is found in God, when wisdom affords you gold, when wisdom finds you growing, don't be a fool, embrace it!

The last thing we need to see today is that True Wisdom Finds You Growing In Instruction. Proverbs 1:7 again reminds us that fools despise wisdom and instruction. Fools are unteachable. They won't listen to instruction or counsel. Fools think that they have all of the answers and that no one can really teach them anything of value. Proverbs 1:22 tells us that they scoff at knowledge; they hate it. They'd rather remain ignorant (simple) than take instruction. Proverbs 15:14 says that the fool only listens to folly. He doesn't seek true knowledge because to do so would be to depend on the knowledge of others. You know people like this don't you; people who only take the advice of people or only like to listen to the commentary of people who already think like they do and believe what they believe. They are not open to learning anything new or anything they might disagree with. Proverbs 17:24 tells us that the wise have discernment but the fool cannot find wisdom though he would search the whole earth. For the most part, wisdom is right here in front of our faces. It's in the Word, it's found when we allow the spirit to reveal things to us, and it's in the counsel of our friends, but the fool says, nah... i'll figure it out. He never does. If you speak to him Proverbs 23:9 says that he will despise your good words. Proverbs 24:7 says wisdom goes over a fool's head because in the presence of wise

counsel he doesn't participate in the conversation. He thinks the counsel of the wise has nothing for him. He is utterly unteachable.

The wisdom of God means nothing to the foolish. **Proverbs 26:7** says it's like a lame man's legs. **Proverbs 26:9** says it is like a thorn in the hand of a drunkard. The lame man cannot use his legs, the drunk man cannot feel a thorn in his hand. The point is simple. **The wise are growing in instruction because they know the wisdom found in wise counsel.** The word has something to teach us, the spirit has something to teach us, and the church has something to teach us... these are wells that don't run dry if only we would be found drinking from them we will never stop growing in wisdom. **When wisdom is found in God, when wisdom affords you gold, when wisdom finds you growing, don't be a fool, embrace it.**

### Application

So let's bring it all together. **Proverbs 1:7** says that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction." The fool flexes in his folly! The fool boasts over his foolishness. The fool says I hate learning, I despise counsel; no one knows what I know... not even God! And just like **Proverbs 30:32** says, when the fool boasts of his foolishness and evil his mouth needs to be shut. **Proverbs 27:22** makes the plight of the foolish seem inevitable. Even if you were to crush him you couldn't depart him from his foolishness. But I still believe there is hope.

What shuts the mouth of fools? What separates them from their folly? The fear of God! Recognizing God's power and character lets us have a reverent fear of his discipline. We then come to him for instruction, build our foundation on him, and follow him in faith. What shuts the mouth of fools? The hope of eternal prosperity! When we realize that the wisdom that comes from God will help us prosper physically, financially, socially, and spiritually in this world we embrace it. When we recognize that the wisdom of God gives us eternal life we cling to it more than gold. What shuts the mouth of fools? The instructions of the Word, the spirit, and the church. Wise counsel leads to wise people. Stop being a lone ranger trying to figure it out on your own. You won't. Become teachable and find wisdom!

### Conclusion

Our prayer this morning is that you would embrace the wisdom that comes only from God in Jesus Christ. And as we saw at the start of this message there is really only one way to do that. Fear God, make him your foundation, and place your faith in him today. **When wisdom is found in God, when wisdom affords you gold, when wisdom finds you growing, don't be a fool, embrace it!**