

**I. Folly Is Corrupting (v 1).****A. Warnings from the Text**

- 1) It is easier to tear down and destroy.
- 2) Folly ruins the purpose of our work.
- 3) Folly ruins the the enjoyment of life.

**B. Answering the Objection: *But isn't there grace?***

- 1) *Response 1:* Yes, but there are also consequences to our sins.
- 2) *Response 2:* One of the motivations to flee from temptation is the fear of its consequences.

**C. Remedies to Counter the Corruption of Folly**

- 1) The Ninth Commandment (*Larger Catechism 145*)
- 2) Be on guard (Rev 16:15)
- 3) Be quick to confess and repent.
- 4) Be quick to forgive and move on.

**II. Folly Is Clear (vv 2-3).****A. Warnings from the Text**

- 1) The fool is weak of heart (Psa 112:7-8)
- 2) The weak of heart are loose with their words, venting their innermost sorrows before all (Jonah 4:9).

**B. Answering the Objections**

- 1) *Objection 1:* But this is my personality!
- 2) *Objection 2:* But I am suffering so much!
  - a) *Response 1:* Look at the sufferings of Christ.
  - b) *Response 2:* Consider the faithful examples of godlier saints (Hab 3:17-19)
  - c) *Response 3:* Take your sorrows to the Lord (Psa 64:1a)
  - d) *Response 4:* Drink from the still waters of God's promises.
  - e) *Response 5:* Consider well what is shared and with whom (Pr 13:16)

**C. Remedies to Counter the Glaring Fruits of Folly**

- 1) There is clearly a need to strengthen the guard of both the heart and the tongue.
- 2) Pray for the working of the Holy Spirit as you pursue sanctification, which is a free grace of God!

**3) Do become discouraged.****III. Folly Is Inconstant (v 4).****A. Warning from the Text**

- 1) The fool, particularly when he has more liberty in abuse of power, such as the foolish ruler (which is a thing not unique to our own day) is often inconstant in passion, inconsistent in loyalty, and intemperate in speech. *The spirit of the ruler rises against you.* (Pr 16:32)
- 2) The assumption is that, in particular, the fool hates the wise and the student of wisdom.

**B. Answering the Objection: *But shouldn't we be quick to calm down?***

- 1) *Response 1:* Yes.
- 2) *Response 2:* No.

**C. Remedies to Counter the Inconstancy of Folly**

- 1) Do not just leave at every offense
- 2) Make peace as much as you can (Pr 15:1; Rom 12:17-18)
- 3) Enjoy the blessing of peace (Psa 29:10-11)
- 4) Rest in the constancy of the Lord and the conciliation of Christ's blood. (Col 3:20; Rom 5:1, 8:38-39; Song of Songs 8:6-7a)

**IV. Folly Is Common (vv 5-7).****A. Warnings from the Text**

- 1) Foolishness is not only common in low places, but in high places as well.
- 2) Foolishness is not just infirmity and ignorance, it is immorality.

**B. Remedies to Counter the Commonness of Folly**

- 1) Our King never errs.
- 2) Yet, Christ became as a servant.
- 3) Do not be proud, but rather rejoice in salvation which is given freely by God and accomplished by Christ and applied effectually by the Holy Spirit (Psa 113)
- 4) Let us, then, walk in wisdom, knowing this too is a gift from God, shown forth to us in the written Word, as well as in the Person of the Incarnate Word.