

*A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,  
but a fool's heart to the left.  
(Ecclesiastes 10:2 ESV)*

**BUG FREE ZONE**



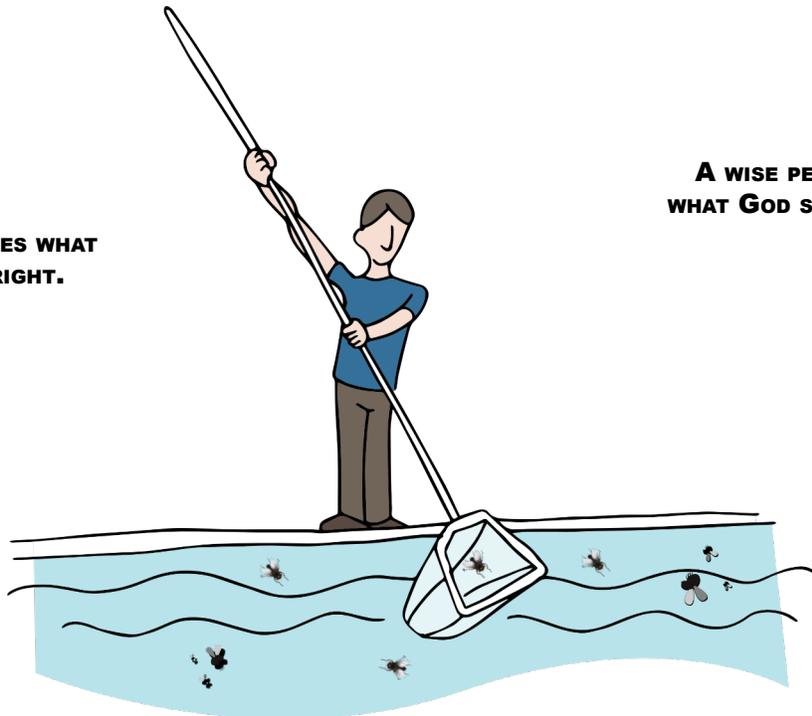
---

# DEAD FLY REMOVAL

—CLEANSING OUR LIVES OF THE PERVASIVE FOOLISHNESS OF THIS WORLD—

---

**A FOOL DOES WHAT  
SEEMS RIGHT.**



**A WISE PERSON DOES  
WHAT GOD SAYS IS RIGHT.**

## THE SINFUL CORE OF FOOLISHNESS

### 1. Foolishness at its core is the fool denying the very existence of God [Elohim].

- (Psalm 10:4 ESV) In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; **all his thoughts are**, “There is no **God**.”
- (Psalm 14:1–2 ESV) **The fool says in his heart**, “There is no **God [Elohim]**.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see **if there are any who understand, who seek after **God [Elohim]****.

#### But what does God see?

- (Psalm 14:3 ESV) **They have all turned aside**; together they have become corrupt; **there is none who does good, not even one**.

### 2. Our understanding of foolishness increases dramatically as we begin to understand from the Holy Book of God just who it is the fool denies.

- (Genesis 1:1 ESV) In the beginning, **God [Elohim]** created the heavens and the earth.

#### What is the meaning of the word Elohim?

Source: got questions dot org

Elohim is a Hebrew word that denotes “God” or “god.” It is one of the most common names for God in the Old Testament, starting in the very first verse: “In the beginning [*Elohim*] created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

The basic meaning behind the name Elohim is one of strength or power of effect. Elohim is the infinite, all-powerful God who shows by His works that He is the creator, sustainer, and supreme judge of the world.

#### What Is Elohim? Biblical Meaning of God's Name

Source: christianity.com

Elohim is the Hebrew word for God that appears in the very first sentence of the Bible. ... **This ancient name for God contains the idea of God's creative power as well as his authority and sovereignty.**

- (Genesis 1:3–4 ESV) And **God** said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 And **God** saw that the light was good. And **God** separated the light from the darkness.
- (Genesis 1:31 ESV) And **God** saw everything that he had made, **and behold, it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

- (Genesis 2:4 ESV) **These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created**, in the day that the LORD **God** made the earth and the heavens.

### 3. The many Scriptures referring to Elohim are probably our best help in understanding just who is Elohim.

- (Psalm 7:11 ESV) God is a righteous judge, and a **God** who feels indignation every day.
- (Psalm 42:1–2 ESV) As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O **God**. 2 My soul thirsts for **God**, for the living **God**. When shall I come and appear before **God**?
- (Psalm 45:6 ESV) Your throne, O **God**, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.
- (Psalm 46:1–2 ESV) **God** is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.
- (Psalm 47:7–8 ESV) For **God** is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! 8 **God** reigns over the nations; **God** sits on his holy throne.
- (Psalm 51:17 ESV) The sacrifices of **God** are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O **God**, you will not despise.
- (Psalm 56:10–11 ESV) In **God**, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, 11 in **God** I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- (Psalm 57:11 ESV) Be exalted, O **God**, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!
- (Psalm 59:17 ESV) O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O **God**, are my fortress, the **God** who shows me steadfast love.
- (Psalm 62:1–2 ESV) For **God** alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.
- (Psalm 62:11 ESV) Once **God** has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to **God**.
- (Psalm 70:4 ESV) May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who

love your salvation say evermore, “**God** is great!”

- (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 ESV) The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear **God** and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For **God** will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
- (Isaiah 37:15–16 ESV) And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: 16 “O LORD of hosts, **God** of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the **God**, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.
- (Malachi 3:18 ESV) Then once more you shall see **the distinction between the righteous and the wicked**, between one who serves **God** and one who does not serve him.

## THE PERVASIVE EXTENT OF FOOLISHNESS

### 1. A little foolishness goes a long way and pervades every aspect of life, 10:1.

- (Ecclesiastes 10:1 ESV) **Dead flies make the perfumer’s ointment give off a stench; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.**

A. Foolishness pervades every aspect of a person’s life and every aspect of life in general.

**Pervade** means to spread through and be perceived in every part of; to be present or noticeable in every part of a thing or place; existing in or spreading through every part of something.

B. The pervasive nature of foolishness means that no one is good, not even one.

It seems that many people wonder, “*But what about the goodness I see in the world around me. The good neighbors I have ... the nice people in the community ... What about them?*”

Your good neighbors, along with everyone else on the planet, have been created in the image of God which gives them great potential for good but from an earthly perspective

- (Genesis 1:26–27 ESV) **Then God said, “Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

The Bible teaches us that sin and foolishness have pervaded every aspect of the lives of all the good people in your neighborhood and community. This is the depravity of humanity.

- (Romans 3:10–12 ESV) As it is written: **“None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”**

C. This pervasion of foolishness/sin has corrupted the entire earth and all the humans living on the earth.

- (Genesis 6:11–12 ESV) **Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight**, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, **for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.**

Corrupt ... [shachath /shaw-**khath**] to decay, ruin; to destroy, corrupt; to be marred, spoiled, rotted.

D. Foolishness produces a foul odor to our lives as dead flies produce a stench to the perfumer’s ointment.

E. But the life of foolishness and its accompanying stench is more highly valued “under the sun” than the fragrant offering of a life pleasing to God.

- (Ephesians 5:1–2 ESV) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, **a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**
- (Hebrews 13:15–16 ESV) Through him then **let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, **the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.** 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, **for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

### 2. Foolishness directs a person’s heart away from God and toward the ways of humans, 10:2-3.

- (Ecclesiastes 10:2–3 ESV) **A wise man’s heart inclines him to the right, but a fool’s heart to the left.** 3 Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

A. The wise person sets his mind and heart to seek the LORD.

- (1 Chronicles 22:19a ESV) **Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God.**
- (Colossians 3:2 ESV) **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.

B. The fool gives himself to foolishness in presenting himself to live in a way that seems right to humans.



- (Romans 6:13 ESV) **Do not present your members to sin [foolishness] as instruments for unrighteousness**, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, **and your members to God as instruments for righteousness**.

Foolishness is sin. When a person acts foolishly, he gives himself to a life of foolishness and becomes its slave. For instance, if you insult, criticize, lie or gossip, then you have presented your “tongue member” as an instrument of unrighteousness in your speech, and so become a slave to unrighteousness.



- (Romans 6:16 ESV) Do you not know that **if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey**, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

What many don't accept/realize is the pervasive nature of foolishness. It takes only a little foolishness to corrupt our entire thought process and hold us back from following the truth and not following truth leads inevitably to the acceptance of false teaching.



- (Galatians 5:7–10 NLT) You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? 8 It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. 9 **This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!** 10 **I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings.** God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.

### 3. Foolishness pervades politics and business, 10:4-11.

- (Ecclesiastes 10:4–11 ESV) If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great offenses to rest. 5 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler: 6 **folly is set in many high places**, and the rich sit in a low place. 7 I have seen slaves on horses, and

princes walking on the ground like slaves. 8 He who digs a pit will fall into it, and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall. 9 He who quarries stones is hurt by them, and he who splits logs is endangered by them. 10 If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed. 11 If the serpent bites before it is charmed, there is no advantage to the charmer.

- A. Not even those in the highest government positions escape foolishness.
- B. Foolishness in the workplace may cause carelessness and injury.

### 4. Foolishness leads to evil madness and exhaustion, 10:12-15.

- (Ecclesiastes 10:12–15 ESV) The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor, **but the lips of a fool consume him**. 13 **The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness**. 14 A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him? 15 The toil of a fool wearies him, for he does not know the way to the city.

### 5. Woe to the land where foolishness reigns on the throne and in their daily lives, 10:16-20.

- (Ecclesiastes 10:16–20 ESV) **Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child**, and your princes feast in the morning! 17 Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of the nobility, and your princes feast at the proper time, for strength, and not for drunkenness! 18 Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks. 19 Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything. 20 **Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter.**