

## What Kind Of Fool?

Joe Slater

I was seven years old when Perry Como wistfully sang, "What kind of fool am I?" It seems romantic love escaped him (according to the song, anyway). I can't solve his problem, but I'll borrow his question!

Scripture speaks of several kinds of fools. For now, let's consider three. First is the fool who denies God's very existence. David wrote, "*The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'*" (Psalm 14:1). That absurd remark fits both facets of the Biblical word "fool." First, it shows a total lack of understanding of the abundant evidence for God's existence. "*Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Deity, so that they are without excuse*" (Romans 1:20). But the Bible also uses fool to describe one who behaves immorally. In candid moments, some have admitted that they reject God's existence because they want complete sexual freedom.

A materialistic fool may "believe" in God, but his behavior doesn't show it. The rich fool (Luke 12:16-21) stored up wealth for himself but was "*not rich toward God.*" He lived with this earthly life as his only concern. Another rich man in Luke 16 behaved similarly and ended up in torment when he died. A fool indeed!

Rather than being a materialist fool or a fool who denies God, let me encourage you to be "*fools for Christ's sake*" (1 Corinthians 4:10). Unbelievers, and even marginal believers, look upon dedicated Christians as fools. "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing*" (1 Corinthians 1:18). But take heart! "*Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*" (v. 20). Trust Christ! Obey Christ! Be a "fool" for the sake of Christ!

## Childish Faith And Childlike Faith

Childish faith says, "Good Christians don't have pain and disappointments."

Childlike faith says, "God uses our pain and disappointments to make us better Christians."

Childish faith says, "God helps those who help themselves."

Childlike faith says, "God can only begin to help those who admit their own helplessness."

Childish faith says, "God wants to make us happy."

Childlike faith says, "God wants to make us holy."

Childish faith says, "God will answer our prayers the way we want."

Childlike faith says, "God sometimes answers our prayer with 'No' or 'I have something else in mind.'"

Childish faith says, "Faith will help us understand what God is doing."

Childlike faith says, "Faith will help us understand God's sovereignty even when we have no idea what God is doing."

Childish faith says, "Mature Christians have all the answers."

Childlike faith says, "Mature Christians can wrestle honestly with tough questions because they trust that God has the answers."

Author unknown (via Campellsville KY)

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Assembling with the Lord's people ought to be your excuse for missing everything else - not the other way around!

--Kevin Patterson (via Facebook)

## Built Together

Cusco, Peru is a place of rich history and great beauty. One of the city's attractions showcases the area's Inca history: Hatunrumiyoc. Here tourists marvel at the precision of carefully cut stones built into a wall. Perhaps most famous is a twelve-sided, twelve-angle stone. The irregularly shaped stones making up this wall are so perfectly fitted together that "it is not possible to push a pin or a piece of paper between the stones" (theonlyperuguide.com).

When you consider the ancient craftsmanship it took to build such an amazing wall, you will be reminded of the even more amazing skill in which God, over the intervening centuries, places the living stones into Christ's church (1 Corinthians 12:18). In Paul's letter to the Ephesians you can see this great spiritual wall from this perspective (Ephesians 2:19-22). Peter also appreciated Jesus as a "chief cornerstone" and individual believers "as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5, 6). Here we join countless others from a wide array of backgrounds, races, nationalities, and socioeconomic levels. Despite all these differences, we are "built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22).

--David Bragg (via *Bulletin Gold*)

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*Please teach your boys to be men before the world teaches them to be women. And not just men, but gentlemen. And not just gentlemen, but godly gentlemen.*