

# What's the Difference Between Foolishness and Sin? (John Piper)

Foolishness in the Bible is always sinful. Check it out for yourself in the Bible:

- Jesus lists foolishness with a whole list of other sins (Mark 7:21-23)
- Foolishness and sin are often linked—sometimes being spoken of as the same things, sometimes one leading to the other (Psalm 107:17; 1 Chron 21:8; Numbers 12:11)
- Jesus links disobedience with folly (Matthew 7:26)
- The severity of folly equals that of sin, resulting in exclusion from the kingdom (Matthew 25:1-13)
- The rejection of knowledge and God are described as foolish (Proverbs 1:22; 14:1,8; Psalm 74:22)

To act foolishly is to sin. I think we can say it the other way around. To sin is to act foolishly. To act foolishly is sin, and to sin is to act foolishly. Sin is an attitude or a thought or an action that dishonours God or is the fruit of a heart that does not treasure God above all things. So, sin dishonours God like that, and folly dishonours God like that.

Here's the catch. You have to think carefully now. This does not mean sin and folly, or foolishness, are identical or that calling someone a sinner and calling him a fool are saying the same thing about the person. The opposite of foolishness is wisdom. This shows, I think, that something different is being said when we call something sin and when we call it foolishness. Calling it sin puts the emphasis on God-belittling badness. Calling it foolishness puts the emphasis on God-belittling stupidity.

In the Bible, the word "foolishness" exists mainly to bring to light how stupid sin is. The full-blown sinner is not just evil. He's an idiot. He's irrational or, to put it positively, foolishness and wisdom, those words are in the Bible in application to people.

Foolishness and wisdom are words in the Bible in application to people to show that goodness and holiness and righteousness are smart, rational, shrewd, wise. You might say calling something sin means it displeases God and calling it foolish means it's going to displease you in the end. Sin shoots God. Folly shoots yourself. Sin opposes God. Folly opposes yourself. Since opposing God is suicide, all sin is foolish.

(From <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/whats-the-difference-between-foolish-and-sinful> with modifications)



## Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at [www.slechurch.org.au](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### This Week: Proverbs #1— The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs is written so that we would know, understand, and grow in discerning how to live rightly in this world. Those who fear Yahweh should be seeking to grow in wisdom.

**Next Week:** Proverbs 9

#### PROVERBS

Practical  
wisdom for  
everyday  
living.

## Today's Service

### Welcome and Singing

Behold Our God  
So I Will Trust You  
Speak O Lord

### Holy Communion

### Offering

### Community News

### Bible Reading

Proverbs 1:1-7

### Sermon

By Pastor Steven Tran

### Song of Response

Show Us Christ

## Stay Connected



[facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)



[slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au)



+61 7 3371 7589



[info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au)



83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [slechurch.org.au/groups](http://slechurch.org.au/groups) to find a group that you can join.

# Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.  
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

## Our Pastors

**PASTOR BEN HO**

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**PASTOR STEVEN TRAN**

**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159

**Email:** steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

## Financial Update

Last Week	\$5,678.80
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

**Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer**

<b>A/C Name:</b>	SLE Church
<b>Bank:</b>	National Australia Bank
<b>BSB:</b>	084-424
<b>A/C No:</b>	396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

## Prayer Points

**GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD** for His Word to us in Isaiah. Praise God for revealing His absolute power and amazing grace in both judgment and salvation.

**PRAISE GOD FOR PREPARING US FOR** the gospel of Jesus Christ through the prophecy of Isaiah, preparing us for the true King we need and need to be aligned to, for the suffering servant who dies in our place, and for the all-conquering one who will bring about our full experience of salvation and bring us home to the new creation.

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET** come to know and receive Jesus Christ as the King, Servant and Conqueror. Pray for those who are opposed that they would come to be humbled and find life. Pray for those who are not exposed to be able to hear the good news. Pray for those who are close, that they would put their trust in Jesus and be saved.

**PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE CHURCH** and the family ministries. Pray especially for the new SOS group starting next Saturday. Pray for a clear vision for this group. Pray that it will be a source of blessing for those who attend and be a place where those who come would bless others.

## Community News

**SAVE THE DATE: 11 NOVEMBER | YEAR 6'S AND PARENTS' CHAT WITH PS STEVEN**

Year 6's and parents, please come along for a chat with Pastor Steve to find out more about SaLT next year. You are welcome to bring all your questions and concerns during this chat.

Date & Time: 11 Nov 10:40am-11am

Location: North Hall

**PURPOSE DRIVEN BIBLE STUDIES WORKSHOP | 18 NOV 1:10PM-3:30PM | NORTH HALL**

As Christians, we all know understanding the Bible is important, but if we're honest, it can be tricky! The Bible is a big book, with big ideas and can be hard to understand at times. What are some of the tools that we can use to equip ourselves to better read, understand, apply and teach the Bible to ourselves, our families and those around us?

This workshop aims to clarify what we're trying to do when we study the Bible—to understand and apply the purpose of the Biblical author. The Author's Purpose should drive how we understand and apply the Bible. Come equip yourself to engage with God's Word.

**IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 | 14-18 JANUARY**

Head to <https://ignitetrainingconference.com/> for registration and conference details.

## Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Mervin	Joshua
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Boon Cheng <i>Jessica</i>	Matthew <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	YF Fri/Sat  YF Fri/Sat	Winnie Tao  Boon
Wash Up	YF Fri/Sat	SaLT
Welcome	Esther  Richard  Georgie  <i>Bryan</i> <i>Jabez</i> <i>Sean</i> <i>Mildred</i>	Philip  Mee-Lan  Meng Yin  <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Joy</i>
Stewards	Philip  Graham  <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>	Jeffrey  Jordan  <i>Stanley</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i>
Piano	Joanna	Sylvia
Guitar	Jabez	Shao Peng
Bass	Chuan	
Drums	Sharne	Marcus
Vocal	Alisha/Hui	Sharne/Shawn
PA	William  <i>Daniel</i>	Li Wei  <i>Jowin</i>

# The Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:1-7)

Intro:

1. Title (1:1)

2. Goal (1:2-6)

3. Key (1:7)

So what?