

**“A Little Folly, Part 1”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Mound Free Church, there’s no such thing as a little folly**

1. Folly is a massive personal liability (vv.1-3)
2. Societies are imperiled when folly’s in authority (vv.4-7)
3. Do not be deceived...our folly finds us out eventually (vv.8-11)

## Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of March 21st-28th

### Getting Started

1. What's one of the most foolish things you've ever done?

### Digging Deeper

2. While Proverbs 22:15 is clear that "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child...", it's also true that even as adults we exhibit evidence of folly in our lives. Take a look at the following examples: Proverbs 10:18; 12:15; 14:29; 18:2; and Proverbs 18:13. Are any of these temptations for you? If so, how often do you find yourself praying something like this prayer of King David (Psalm 69:5)? If you're familiar with folly in your life, but unfamiliar with this prayer, do you think it could be one you might add to your arsenal?

### Open Your Bible to Ecclesiastes 10:1...

3. Verse 1 contains an incredible truth. Compare the Preacher's claim here with the follies you confessed in questions #1&2. What sort of a motive does this provide you for putting folly to death in your life (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5)?
4. Knowing that in Holy Scripture the right hand is the side of power and favor (Isaiah 41:10; Acts 7:55-56; Genesis 48:1-22) while the left hand is associated with weakness and awkwardness, how does that help us to understand the point of Ecclesiastes 10:2? Can you think of any biblical examples of individuals whose wisdom inclined them to the right, or their folly to the left? If so, please share with the group.
5. Ecclesiastes 10:3 is devastating, isn't it? Have you ever been this person? Taking care not to gossip or slander, can you think of any recent examples where you've observed this in the lives of others?
6. Verses 4-7 all relate to how folly functions in the lives of those in authority (governmental leaders, employers, husbands, fathers and mothers, pastors, etc). What's the Preacher's sage advice for those subject to the foolish anger of an authority figure (v.4)? Compare this with the Apostle Peter's counsel for the church in 1 Peter 2:13-25. How does the gospel emerge in the context of Peter's instructions? Verses 5-7 specifically deal with the fall-out that ensues under the influence of foolish leaders in government. Looking around our current cultural climate, does any of this sound familiar (Isaiah 5:20)? What illustrations do you see?
7. The last portion of our text relates to the inescapable consequences of folly (vv.8-11). Which metaphors are particularly arresting or compelling to you? It's not the easiest section of Ecclesiastes to interpret. Are there any images that are unclear to you? Since there's no folly in the New Heaven and Earth (Revelation 22:8), what sort of people ought we to be as we seek to follow Jesus now? In question #3, we considered the importance of putting our own folly to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5), but how might we be of better help to one another as we observe foolishness in the church? How does Proverbs 26:4-5 help us to navigate this matter? Or Matthew

18:15-20?

8. Close your time as group in prayer, praying especially over the fact that if we belong to Christ, he has definitively rescued us from the path of the world's foolishness, causing us to be born again and indwelt with his Holy Spirit who is able to fill us with wisdom that wells up to eternal life (Titus 3:3-8).