

March 13, 2022

## I Am That Fool

### I Don't Like Discipline

Last week we started this series: I'm that fool who TOO often ASSUMES I'm one of the good guys... in all OF the COMPARATIVE CONTRASTS found in proverbs. My pride deceives me, I make wrong comparisons. I slip into comparing myself with OTHER FOOLS, rather than GOD's PLUMBLINE. Another example today:

*Proverbs 1:7 (CSB) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

I am a disciplined person. Compared to what? Compared with SOME others maybe. But compared to God's plumbline? **I'm That Fool: I don't like discipline**

1. I'm wise in my own eyes
2. I don't like discipline
3. I'm defensive when corrected
4. I trust myself
5. I vent my anger

#### How many of you can relate:

- I've raised my discipline bar **BUT I don't like** missing out on all the desserts I miss out on.
- I have pride of ownership, and want to care well for my home and property: **But I don't like** taking care of the weeds.
- **AND I don't like house chores:** I can always think of other things I'd rather do.

#### Can you relate?

- You KNOW THINGS NEED TO BE DONE...
- If you don't, You won't be happy in the long run...
- YOU know this BUT that does that mean YOU WANT TO DO THEM.

#### Can you relate?

How is it that we do value discipline but we don't like to do the discipline we value?

**Great Question: Here we go.**

**like AND be THAT fool that does not like discipline?"** How is that even possible?

#### I. I have DISORDERED desires

Let's create a short list of my desires in **random order** this way.

- I like drawing
- I like hiking
- I like dark chocolate
- I like my dog
- I like hiking with my dog
- I like my children
- I like my grandchildren
- I like my wife
- I like my God

How healthy would it be if my life under careful scrutiny revealed that my desires are really ranked **in this order**?

- I live for dark chocolate
- I like hiking with my dog while eating chocolate
- I like to eat chocolate when I draw
- I like to eat chocolate with my grandchildren
- I like to eat chocolate while watching TV with my wife
- I like my God because he gave us all the ingredients for chocolate.

What's the disordered desire here? **Chocolate!** That particular desire climbed too high up the list of prioritized desires. Actually, chocolate didn't do any climbing; the fool who let chocolate become a disordered desire did it.

**DISCLAIMER:** This list is exaggerated fiction...to protect the innocent. Actually, I'm not innocent. Ok, so, this list is NOT exaggerated fiction, it is exaggerated TRUTH. Anyway... moving on.

*Hebrews 12:11 (CSB) No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

So, apparently, it is not all that strange to say, "I don't like discipline." It is a little like saying, "I don't like pain." We need to be reminded that continuing in faith will involve struggle. Having faith does not mean, everything comes like a quick answer to prayer. We can all probably relate to how our faith is not always easy.

**DISCIPLINE:**

1. One use of the word discipline, is the use of a training practice, to improve your life, or skill set. Examples: Exercise is a discipline. Applying a strategy to regulate your diet is a discipline. Practicing an instrument is a discipline.
2. Another use of the word discipline, is the use of disciplinary correction, chastisement, instruction, nurture, reproach, warning, or instruction.

The aim of either kind of discipline is to bring positive change to my thoughts, attitudes, behaviors, lifestyle, or skill set.

So, which kind are we talking about today? Both kinds.

We don't like either kind of discipline because not only do we have disordered desires, these have caused our desires to be **out of order!**

I. I have DISORDERED desires

## II. **Because my desires are often OUT OF ORDER**

When something is out of order. It's broken. You have seen the sign: "Out of order". It means it's broken. I want to attempt to explain how our desires can be disordered and broken.

*1 Corinthians 6:12–13 (NIV) "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. <sup>13</sup> You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

The Corinthians, like we Americans, had a distorted view of freedom.

**Corinthians:** *"I have a right to do anything".*

**Americans:** *"I am free to do whatever I want."*

**Paul:** *God gives you freedom to choose, but not every choice is beneficial!*

BE WARNED: Distorted views of freedom will enslave you!

*Yes, food is for the body. And yes the body is designed to eat food.* However, there is a **deeper sacred truth.**

*The body is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.* This supercedes a superficial view of bodily desires.

This argument goes not only for food but for sexual desires as well.

Your sexuality has been designed by God, and you are made to function best and under God's blessing as you honor God with your sexuality according to his design, not whatever you want.

Once a desire becomes a disordered desire it begins to twist itself into something harmful rather than helpful. And your appetite and sexually can be broken, and out of order. You will feel this brokenness as you continue to live outside of his order and design.

*but I will not be mastered by anything.*

Disordered desire leads to desires that are out of order, and broken desires will master you.

A desire that masters you will soon be your tyrant.

Does that make sense? Can you identify with that?

### III. My disordered desires resist CORRECTION

WARNING: Your disordered desires probably do also.

*Proverbs 15:5 (CSB) A fool despises his father's discipline, but a person who accepts correction is sensible.*

The Bible just lays it out there and tells it like it is.

*Proverbs 12:1 (CSB) Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but one who hates correction is stupid.*

This is clear and blunt, telling us like it is.

- I. I have DISORDERED desires
- II. Because my desires are often OUT OF ORDER
- III. My disordered desires resist CORRECTION

### IV. But REPENTING restores GOOD NEWS.

*Revelation 3:19 (NIV) Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.*

What does this repenting look like?

- Admitting your way was wrong, God's way is right, and asking for help
- Putting a stop to rationalizing, and making excuses
- Deciding on a strategy for change
- Taking a step starting today.
- Applying yourself to the discipline(s)
- Inviting accountability

When Jesus invited us to be his disciples, he was asking us to follow him by learning and living his habits and disciplines.

The word discipline has the root word "Disciple" in it.

Grace is opposed to EARNING, but grace is NOT opposed to EFFORT.

Our wholehearted effort is the appropriate response to God's grace. In fact the disciplines are given to us as a means of life shaping grace, where Jesus helps us. We begin this way: Repent, admit, ask for his help, then take a step.

I'm That Fool  
(Week 2)  
I Don't Like Discipline

### SMALL TALK

1. Do you like discipline? When and why? When and why do you not like discipline?

### VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Proverbs 1:7.** This is in the introduction to the whole book of Proverbs. Why is this an important statement? How does the “fear of the Lord” form a foundation for “wisdom” and “discipline”.
3. **READ Hebrews 12:11.** Is it “normal” to not like discipline? Why is it a struggle? What are two categories of “discipline”? What is good about discipline?
4. **READ 1 Corinthians 6:12-13.** What is going on between these quotes from the disordered desires of the Corinthians, and how did Paul correct them? How does Paul redirect our freedom to do whatever we want?
5. **READ Revelation 3:19.** Where is hope for good news to be found in the middle of any disordered desires?

### GETTING PERSONAL

6. In what area do you struggle with the “permissible” versus the “beneficial” (1 Corinthians 6:12-13)?

7. How can you begin a temple maintenance program? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) Why might this be important to put your desires back into order?

### **PRACTICE!**

Through this series read the chapter of proverbs that corresponds to the date of the month. For example: On March 8, read Proverbs 8. Make a note or two on which wise saying you found most helpful. **(Anyone care to share something from their notes on this practice?)**