

Proverbs 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

Analysis

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you perceive not in him the lips of knowledge. Upon recognizing someone lacks knowledge and wisdom, separate from them. The imperatives 'go' and 'when you perceive' demand active departure once folly is identified. This verse advocates selective association - avoid fools because their company corrupts. Association with foolish persons provides no benefit and poses spiritual danger.

Historical Context

Reflects wisdom tradition's emphasis on choosing companions carefully. Ancient Israelite community life made constant interaction unavoidable, but wisdom required limiting exposure to fools.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Whose company do you need to limit because they lack knowledge?

2. How can you discern when someone's foolishness requires distancing yourself?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	יְשַׁבֵּךְ	מִבְּנָדָה	לֹא	יְשַׁבֵּךְ	כִּסְלָל	וּבְלָל	לֹא	יְשַׁבֵּךְ
H1980	from the presence	H5048		man	H376	of a foolish	H1077	when thou perceivest
						H3684		H3045
שְׁפָתִי		לְדִעָתִךְ						
not in him the lips		of knowledge						
H8193		H1847						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Ephesians 5:11 (Parallel theme): And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

1 Corinthians 5:11 (Parallel theme): But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

Proverbs 19:27 (Parallel theme): Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.