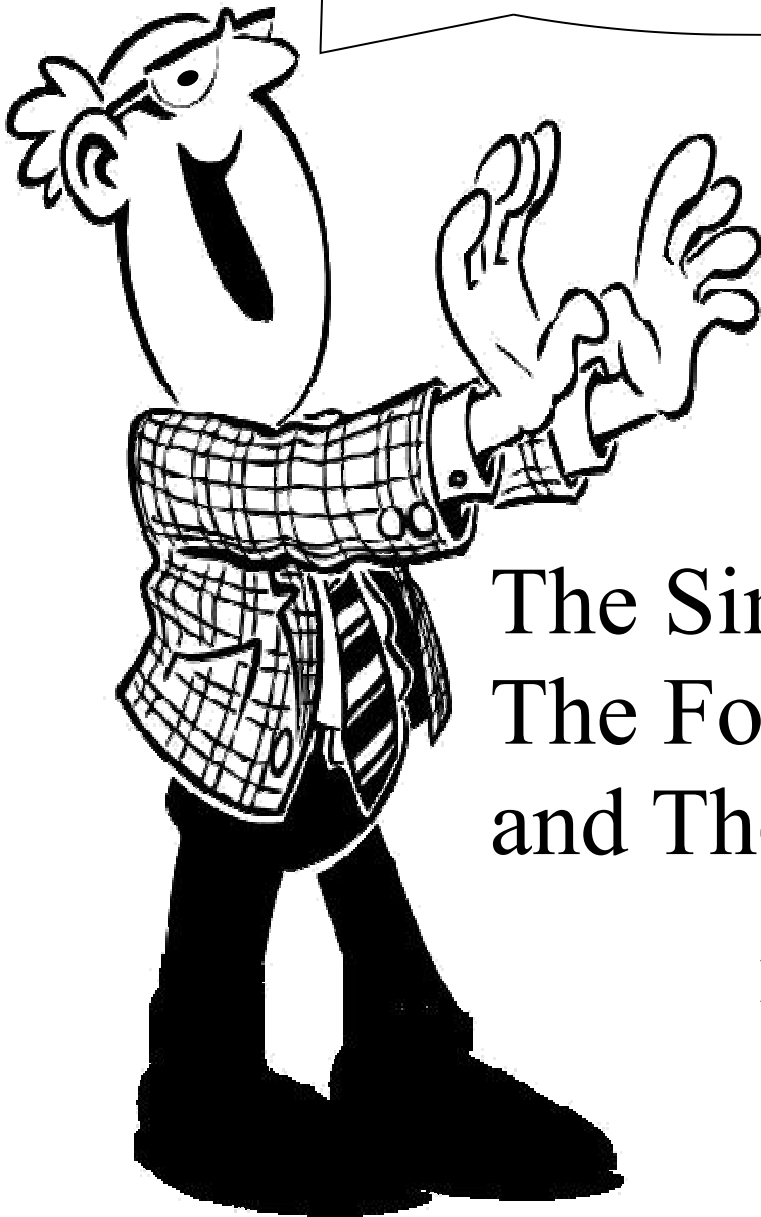


Proverbially speaking, there are really only four types of people. There are the wise...of course, that would be all of you. Then there are the simple, the foolish, and the mockers...which, uh, ahem, ah, apply to none of you.



The Simple The Foolish and The Mockers

personal insight for both
leadership and friendship

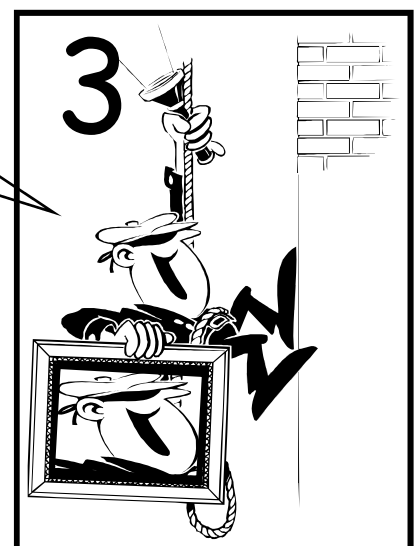
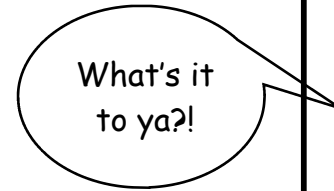
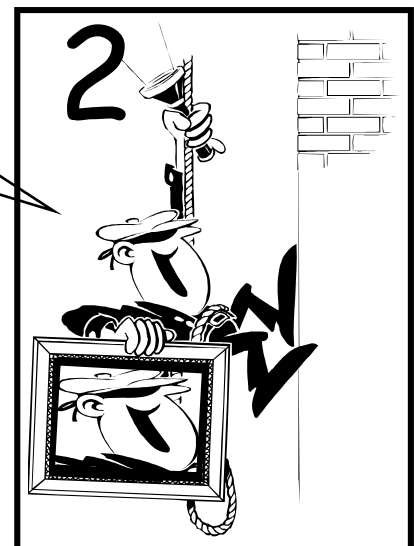
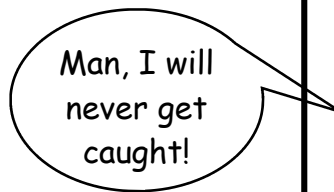
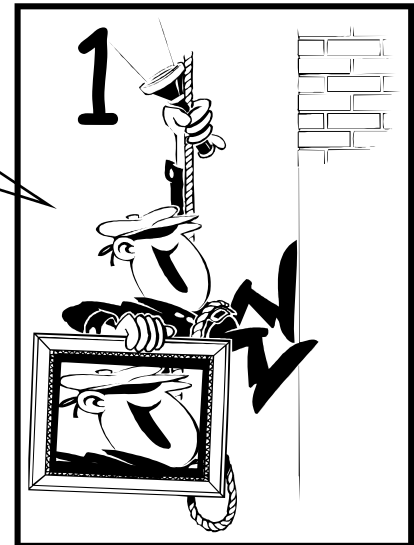
Ricki Lee Brooks

Stealing your own stuff, of course, is ridiculous. A wise person just wouldn't do it.

Okay, yeah, maybe if it was worth lots of money, it was insured, and your morals were hovering just above the scum line, you might steal your own stuff, but that's another workshop. Ethics 101.

So, let's not miss the point of this ridiculous cartoon. All three, the simple, the foolish, and the mocker do things wise people would not. However, why they engage in these attitudes and behaviors differs greatly between the three...

1. The Simple do not know better.
2. The Foolish cannot know better.
3. The Mocker does not care to know better.



The Simple



Proverbs

How do you deal with the simple?

1. In a supervisory role:

A. Remember what they are like.

1:32a

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them...

14:15a

A simple man believes anything...

22:3

A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

B. Give careful verbal instruction.

9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars. She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city. "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment. "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding."

C. Let them know how mockers are disciplined.

21:11a

When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom

D. Follow policy and procedure for any and every phase of A and B.

E. If policy and procedure do not require a paper trail... maintain one anyway.

2. In a lateral role:

A. Be patient...simple people need to learn. If you do not help them learn, they will continue to reap the negative consequences of their ignorance.

1:32a

For the waywardness of the simple will kill them...

14:15a

A simple man believes anything...

22:3

A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

B. Give careful verbal instruction so that the simple can become wise.

2:1-11

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

C. Help them to understand the fate of the mocker.

21:11a

When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom

The Foolish

Heh, heh, heh!



Proverbs

How do you deal with the foolish?

1. In a supervisory role:
 - A. Question: Is this problem persistent? Yes or No
 - B. If yes, follow policies and procedures regarding evaluation, discipline, etc.
 - C. Do not extend the process any further than demanded by policies and procedures. Keep records. Dismiss at earliest opportunity.

Why A., B., and C.

The foolish have no desire to gain wisdom...

17:16

Of what use is money in the hand of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom?

The foolish find no pleasure in understanding. Instead, they like to proclaim uninformed opinions...

18:2

A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

The foolish may, in fact, be incapable of gaining the wisdom they need.

26:6-9

Like cutting off one's feet or drinking violence is the sending of a message by the hand of a fool. Like a lame man's legs that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of a fool. Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool. Like a thornbush in a drunkard's hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

D. If answer to A. above is no...

- i. Ask simple questions to discern the person's level of understanding.

ii. Instruct without discussion...

do not entertain argument

12:15

The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

do not entertain procrastination or stubbornness

14:16

A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

Use your best judgment on how far to extend this process.

iii. If necessary, go back to B. and C.

2. In a lateral role:

A. Consider the level of involvement you have with the foolish person. Depending on your responsibility...

attempt to minimize his or her damage

13:16

Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly.

avoid, at all cost, any debate or negotiation

29:9

If a wise man goes to court with a fool, the fool rages and scoffs, and there is no peace.

B. Consider if you are able to help this foolish person.

23:9

Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

The Mocker



I
Don't
Give
A
Rip!

Read my lips, and if
you can't read my
lips, read my sign,
"I don't give a rip!"

Proverbs

How do you deal with a mocker?

1. In a supervisory role:

A. Refrain from giving verbal instruction.

9:7

Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.

9:8

Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

B. Refrain from teaching or instructing.

13:1

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

15:12

A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise.

If you attempt A or B, the mocker will simply build up contempt for you.

As this contempt grows, you will either see or hear about the mocker casting insults at you.

C. Discipline

State the consequences.

Implement the consequences

Record the consequences

21:11

When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom.

22:10	<p>D. Dismiss</p> <p><i>Drive out the mocker, and out goes the strife; quarrels and insults are ended.</i></p>
	<p>E. Follow policy and procedure for any and every phase of C and D.</p>
	<p>F. If policy and procedure do not require a paper trail... maintain one anyway.</p>
	<p>2. In a lateral role:</p>
	<p>A. Determine how far you are willing to extend yourself on behalf of someone who will not listen to sound counsel or advice.</p>
21:24	<p><i>The proud and arrogant man — "Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.</i></p>
	<p>B. If and when you choose to dismiss the mocker, do not browbeat yourself with guilt or pity. Your continued enablement of the mocker would not be healthy for you, others, or the mocker.</p>
9:7	<p><i>Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.</i></p>
21:11	<p><i>When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom.</i></p>
22:10	<p><i>Drive out the mocker, and out goes the strife; quarrels and insults are ended.</i></p>

- C. Let him or her know that you have nothing to offer self-centered, over-bearing, proud, and conceited individuals. However, you will always be ready and able to listen and/or help if and when he or she discovers some personal humility.

Final Application

When it's time to be firm we must refrain from being stern

- 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- 15:18 *A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.*
- 15:23 *A man finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word.*
- 15:28 *The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.*
- 16:23 *A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.*
- 16:24 *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*
- 16:28 *A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.*
- 17:14 *Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.*
- 17:27 *A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.*

Appendix

A Quick Overview of
The Simple, The Foolish,
and The Mockers

**A Quick Overview of
The Simple, The Foolish, and The Mockers
(through the lenses of four questions)**

	The Simple	The Foolish	The Mockers
How are each of these characterized?	1:32 they are wayward, aimless 14:15 they are gullible, inexperienced	13:16 they act w/ folly 15:2 they speak rashly 29:9 they stir up trouble	9:7 they resist correction with insults 9:8 they hate those who offer advice 13:1 they will not listen to counsel 15:12 they resent correction; won't ask for help 21:24 they create division 22:10 they are proud and arrogant
How does each respond regarding wisdom?	1:22 they enjoy their simple ways 9:1-6 but they will respond to wisdom	17:16 they have no desire to gain wisdom 18:2 they find no pleasure in understanding, but like to proclaim uninformed opinions anyway 23:9 they reject wise counsel	1:22 they actually take delight in mocking truth 14:6 they ask about wisdom, but never find it (talks a good line) 15:12 they actually resent advice and, therefore, do not really listen
How does each respond when asked to grow?	19:25 they will learn how to be careful when mockers are dealt with 21:11 they gain wisdom when mockers are punished	15:5 they do not heed advice easily 17:10 they require the same instruction over and over and over 26:3-9 it is extremely difficult for them to learn	9:7 they will insult any who offer them sound counsel 9:8 they will even hate the person who offers them sound counsel 13:1 they simply refuse to listen to sound counsel
How does each respond regarding goals, planning, and choices?	22:3 they plow straight ahead creating trouble for themselves 27:12 same	12:15 they truly think they have the right answers; it never occurs to them that they may be misguided 14:16 they are hotheaded and reckless with their choices and actions	21:24 they have no consideration for any other input since they are filled with pride (my way or the high-way regardless of consequences)