

## FOOL, FRIEND, or FILOS?

Which one are you? Are you a good one? Do you have any?

**FOOL** – Casol = “Fathead.” No matter how much you try, the info does not enter.  
Nabal, Ail = Wicked/vile. Emphasizes inappropriate/immoral behavior.  
Afron = “No mind.” One who lacks reason and common sense.  
Moron = One who does not grasp reality.

**Characteristics:** **Never** learns from mistakes. “Hasn’t worked yet. I’ll try again.”  
Won’t control his **mouth**. “I probably shouldn’t say this but ...”  
Blames God for consequences. **Pr 19:3**  
Continue in ignorance. **Pr 27:22**

**Interaction:** Need a lot of **discernment**. **Pr 26:4-5**

1 person worse off: Self-reliant. **Pr 26:12** “I know what God says but...”

**FRIEND** – Rayah, Shaken  
Etaireos } neighbor, co-worker, fellow citizen

**Characteristics:** Motivated by personal **benefit**. **Pr 19:4, 6-7**  
Can be helpful in times of need. **Pr 27:10**  
Can be a source of cheer. **Pr 27:17**

**Interaction:** Enjoy their company but don’t **overstay** your welcome. **Pr 25:17**  
It **pleases** God to treat friends/neighbors with **integrity**. **Psalm 15:1-3**

**FILOS/BROTHER:** Ah, Ahav = beloved, kindred.  
Filos } beloved, kindred. The term God uses for Abraham.

**Characteristics:** **Dependable** even in difficult times. **Pr 18:24b**  
Motivated by **love**. **Pr 17:17**  
Love = **Doing** what is best for someone even when it **hurts**.

**Interaction:** **Value** their input. **Pr 27:6**

### Application:

Don’t **honor** a fool. Don’t **depend** on a fool. **Pr 26:1, 6**  
Be a good friend and have friends but don’t seek **popularity**. **Pr 18:24a**  
We all need filoses. We **should be** someone’s filos. **Col 3:16, Rm 15:14**

## Life Group Discussion Questions – May 28, 2023

**Psalm 15:1-3** O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, and speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

### DISCOVER

1. What are some definitions of a “fool” according to worldly understanding? Compare and contrast this to what defines a “fool” in the Bible.
2. What qualities do you value most in a friend? Have you ever had a trusted friend let you down or even betray you? What was your role that helped to facilitate the letdown? What is your relationship with that person today?
3. In Christian community, we are apt to call each other “brother” or “sister.” What are we implying about our relationships with our church family? Are there other “brothers” or “sisters” in your life that are even more highly esteemed and trusted in your eyes? How and why did they achieve this standing in your life?

### EXPLORE

1. Read Proverb 13:20, 1 Corinthians 15:33 and 2 Corinthians 6:14. How should we manage the tension between “walking with the wise” and yet still have relationships with people that need Christ in their lives? Isn’t there power in the company of someone who is wise and walks in integrity and righteousness? Doesn’t light always overcome darkness?
2. Read Titus 3:8-11. Why do people want to argue about things that are clearly “unprofitable and worthless”? What are some examples of discussions which fall into these categories in v. 9? If we are to avoid these things, what should we then pursue?
3. When someone is a “filos” to you, they are beloved in the sense that God loved Abraham. They are of a kindred heart and dependable even in difficult times. Does this mean you will always see things “eye to eye” with them? Explain. Do you have a “filos” in your life? Who are you a “filos” to?
4. We might say that a “filos” is someone who you routinely have Christ-centered fellowship with. You are anticipating spending some time with them soon. How might you prepare for your meeting so that it does not slip into a time that is dominated by empty chit-chat? (see Deuteronomy 6:4-10 and Colossians 3:16)

### EXPERIENCE

1. Have you ever experienced one of the following warning signs in your life:
  - You catch yourself pretending to be someone other than you really are
  - You feel pressure to compromise
  - You hear yourself saying, “I know what God says, but...”
2. Have you ever defended an unhealthy relationship? What happened? What are some personal guardrails you have set-up for your friendships?

### PRAY

*Pray... Our Father and our God, we pray that You would help us to walk with the wise; help us to be wise in our spheres of influence; that we would be encouragers and that we would avoid foolishness in Your eyes. Guard us, O Lord, from companionship with fools that leads to harm. Help us to cultivate and nurture meaningful relationships where we can point others to the love You have for them. In Jesus’ holy Name we pray. Amen.*