

**Do not speak in the hearing of a fool**  
**AM Service Proverbs 23:9 Sept. 24, 2017**

**Introduction**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Saying**

*Prov. 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,  
For he will despise the wisdom of your words.*

**Word Study**

“speak”  
“hearing”  
“fool”  
“despise”  
“wisdom”  
“words”

**What is this proverb saying?**

1. Trying to teach a fool is useless.
2. A fool does not welcome what is said by a teacher who speaks prudently (wisdom).
3. Your wisdom is wasted on the fool.
4. A fool hates wisdom. (1:22)

Summary - Don't bother to explain things to a fool.  
Even if he understands what you're saying,  
he won't recognize your insights as wisdom.

**Am I allowed to determine that someone is a fool?**

**Christ's Principles of Judgment**

**1. Our Judgment of Ourselves (Matt. 7:1–5)**

- a. We shall be judged (v. 1).

- b. We are being judged (v. 2).
- c. We must see clearly to help others (vv. 3–5).
- d. Caution – We must not pass judgment on the motives of others.
- e. Two extremes must be avoided...

1. A shallow examination
2. A “perpetual autopsy”

“After we have judged ourselves honestly before God, and have removed those things that blind us, then we can help others and properly judge their works. But if we know there are sins in our lives, and we try to help others, we are hypocrites. In fact, it is possible for ministry to be a device to cover up sin! The Pharisees were guilty of this, and Jesus denounced them for it.”  
The Bible Exposition Commentary

**2. Our Judgment of Others (Matt. 7:6–20)**

(But we will only look at v. 6)

*Matt 7:6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

- a. Overview
- b. The reason we must judge (v. 6)

**What have we learned, and what should we do?**

- 1. A person who is disrespectful to God's Word is a fool.**
- 2. Don't waste your time sharing God's wisdom with him.**
- 3. Many times the fool is a religious person.**

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery