

Prov. 26:4-5

“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”

A contradiction? If the Bible is the Word of God, how can it have such a blatant contradiction?

What are some conclusions people draw from this fact?

The Bible contains a lot of “seeming” contradictions

Contradictions or different angles?

A lot of them are owing to the relationship between the OT and the NT

The Bible is the Word of God

Not just instructions and theological statements

The Bible is ultimately a history

Not just a recording of what happened randomly

But a recording of what God accomplished in history for our redemption

Historically progressive

But also organically united

The pattern of promise/prophecy and fulfillment

Not literal

From types (earthly) to antitypes (heavenly)

The Bible is not *literal*; it is *literary*.

Literal: taking words in their primary sense without metaphor or allegory

Literary: relating to literature, which utilizes

The Bible does not just consist of laws and commandments (usually literal)

It consists also of:

Multi-faceted modes of God’s communication

Proverbs: wisdom literature, not commandments and laws

The difference?

Wisdom

The verses in view

A contradiction?

Different ways of communicating

Didactic

Socratic/dialectic

What can the juxtaposition of these two verses communicate?
Different ways of dealing with a fool, not right and wrong

Depending on what?

Does anything matter?

Jesus the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24)

“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.”

“Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”