

*We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid-* Benjamin Franklin

I know a guy who had a drug problem. Unfortunately for him, he worked at Canada Post. He was working in the mail processing plant. That meant he had access to mailed credit cards. The trouble with drugs is debt. He owed his dealer bigtime. They made an agreement (not with) but for him to steal credit cards. This went on for several months. Eventually, Canada Post set up cameras to catch the thief. All the employees knew about the cameras. Yet, stupid is what stupid does.

Of course, drugs make you think irrationally. This guy believed that he could avoid the cameras. The most amazing part is two-fold. One is that his mother was high up the chain of command. She noticed her son stealing the letters in the video footage. Of course, he was fired. Story over, right? In the mean time there had been a gutsy restaurant robbery several months before. A truck crashed through a wall of the place and stole the safe. The police were baffled. It seemed like the perfect crime.

As it is, drugs have a way of finding stupidity and mistakes. The police wanted to know who the credit cards were going to. The drug guy was also in hot water with his drug dealer. That combo caused him to give up the dealer and the card scam. In the bust they discovered that the dealer had the safe from the restaurant heist. You can guess the rest.

They say that most crimes leave at least five mistakes. It's up to the investigators to find them. They also say that stupidity is subjective. On mans idiocy might seem rational to another. I read in the Darwin Awards (stupid deaths) of a man who plugged his phone in the bathroom wall and rested the power pack on his chest. He died of burns and a heart attack. Of course, there was water in the bath. People can be brilliant. Sometimes they come across as brilliantly stupid.

I know someone who married the same cheater twice. Ironically on their second divorce she took him to court for child support and won. The most interesting part is that the child was not his kid. She had got pregnant from an affair after their first marriage. People stun me. It's not that I hold the market on brilliance. It's not that everyone else is stupid. Forest Gump's quote is so good because it is what it is "stupid is what stupid does."

For years I have wanted to write about people. I kept coming back to the word stupid. My wife gently told me to forget it. Stupid is a bad choice of words. Nobody is stupid. We all make mistakes. There are those who think nobody is bad. Nobody is good. We are all smart to our own degree. Most of these people equally say nobody can be stupid. It's like calling someone black a racist. Yet, calling people white is not. There are opinions on what's right.

I am 53. Do you really think I have not seen, read about, or have experienced stupid? Stupid in the dictionary ranges from mindless to numb. I worked with a guy who avoided computers. He just wanted to sort mail. The technical part bothered him. He refused to do it. After two years he still refused to do the job. It's an easy job. Just type in numbers. I was stupid for calling him dumb as a bag of hammers in front of everyone. My fault.

Yet, unknown to us was something deeper. He was going through divorce and had money problems. He was refusing to do the computer job because he was stealing foreign letter money. Canada Post noticed too. They set up a blue dye pack in a letter. The rest is history with his blue colored hands. He got fired. People are stupid. I was stupid for embarrassing him. Some people are nervous around technology. That does not make them stupid. Yet, stealing money from the job you asked to do is stupid. Dumb as a bag of hammers? You decide.

There is a vast difference in describing the word “stupid.” People do stupid things. Ninety nine percent of people are probably not stupid. Yet, we look at bad drivers, work mates, and Ex’s and call them stupid. I know we do. My wife is an excellent driver. Is she better than all the stupid drivers out there? She thinks so. We judge people’s actions as brainless, dumb, stupid and many other wonderful adjectives. Don’t tell me you have never thought or called someone stupid.

Maybe we all have a degree of stupid. Do you think that nobody has ever called you that behind your back? Sometimes we get in a rut. I have called myself stupid. We should never do that. If all the people around you fail to love you, the one safe place should be yourself. If you think your stupid, then maybe the love of yourself is waning. You should be a safe place for you.

I get it. We do stupid things some times. I have cut a piece of shingle the wrong way. Cut myself pretty good too. I knew better. It was stupid. The flip side is perception. I can’t stop thinking. It’s my mom’s curse to me. It’s her in a nut shell. She was always thinking. Ideas and thoughts are always bubbling up in me. They may be smart or stupid ideas but I throw everything at the wall. Something will stick. Yet, I am saddened by people. I have had more criticism for thinking too much than anything else. So many people hate thinkers.

I know it’s true. We love to judge words, actions, and ideas. Have you ever told someone “that’s a dumb idea?” Sure, we all have. Was it stupid? I have a friend who was a dating disaster. He was on to the next girl, monthly. All he wanted was a mate. Stupid plan? Anyways, one girl’s father asked me if my friend is a good match. I felt yes, but he needed time to settle down and focus. So, my answer was yes, but not now.

The girl was a social mess too. It was a disaster made to order. This union would not go well. As it was, they got married. They are still married today almost 20 years later with kids. I thought it was stupid at the time. God apparently thought differently about it. Was I wrong? Was it stupid for me to warn of the impending relationship doom? It's yes and no. My point is one person's stupid is not another's. Maybe we look stupid stumbling through life. I wouldn't dare do life your way? That's why social media is so interesting and hard. We are all on a level of stupid. In social media, it's now on display.

That couple have been on display for twenty years. They probably have the best marriage directly because they wanted each other so bad. Most of those Darwin award winners wanted something so bad too. I read countless stories of people finding interesting ways to die. The stupid part is their death was avoidable. In relationships, we are drawn in by people. Stupid or not, we are willing to risk it all and display that stupidity to the world.

Unfortunately, People are people. Do each of us really have some level of idiocy? There is an unwritten rule in writing that "we," "us" and words like that are too general. The word "society" is too vague. You can't lump all people in one place. I understand that thought. Yet, "us" works in this case. All of "us" have said a stupid thing in a relationship. "We" all have make stupid choices. Those words and choices sometimes ruin relationships.

Further to that, we are the reason some relationships work. We're probably the reason a relationship is awkward too. That mom who killed her kids to have a new lover made a choice. Stupid mistake? To the children, yes it was. I know certain company presidents that have hurt the image of the company by the things they have said or believe. Sometimes honesty is good.

Sometimes honesty is stupid. People need to know that the inward voice should stay inward most of the time to avoid looking outwardly stupid.

*“Assume” Makes an ass of u and me*

I love that. We assume our opinion should be heard. We assume that our actions help. We assume that others should agree with us. That’s the problem with assume. People think they own the right to their opinion. Isn’t it mine? Yes, it is, but you don’t have the right to share it with others. Do you believe that? You don’t have the right. Stupid mistakes happen when we assume too much. Some of those assumptions ruin perfectly good relationships. It might make us look like an ass.

I don’t believe people are stupid. I do believe we do stupid things. That word is so volatile. Yet, the description fits most of us. Is there senseless murder? Are some people annoying? We’ve all used controversial words to describe people. Stupid is harsh like retard is. I get it. Yet, I have had countless people tell me they would like me to be different. Countless people say you can’t, shouldn’t, and you won’t make it. Isn’t that foolish, annoying, and senseless to hinder me from trying to be great? I happen to call them stupid people.

I know stupid people that clearly went the wrong way in life. Just a few hockey players are really tough. They have chosen to play a rough game. A fraction of those have repeatedly hit guys too hard, high, and in the head too much. Most of these guys never learn. They have had multiple infractions and games lost to suspension. A few of them are really good players. Maybe they just play stupid some of the time.

In my heart, I made stupid decisions in my first marriage that cost my kids. I thought it was right at the time. In hindsight it was stupid. I know someone who recklessly bought a

property they shouldn't have. It's an albatross of debt now. They knew it was stupid but they had to try. I can't blame people for trying, but risking it all on a whim just might be stupid. Patience is a virtue for a reason. Wisdom leads to understanding. We think that smart people came up with these fancy sayings. Oh no, it was ordinary people like me and you who made stupid mistakes. Stupid also learns from what stupid does.

To have healthy relationships we need to keep the word stupid in its place. That means if it looks stupid then take your time. If a person looks, acts, or talks stupid, then be weary of them. That does not mean we should avoid people and ideas that look stupid. That's the flip side. Maybe we are looking at an idea all wrong. It might not be that stupid. Let it breathe for a time. Maybe it needs a different light or eyes to see it clearly. Is that person stupid? Check yourself in the mirror? Are you 100% certain your right? Do you have all the facts?

I made a stupid remark in a university class about homeless people being bums. The professor enlightened me to the reality of homelessness. She was bang on. I was sure I was right. Reality stated it was a stupid, uninformed remark. Harsh? It's comes back to wisdom. Re-read the quote at the beginning by Franklin several times. Were not as smart as we can be. Were not as stupid as some people think either. Somewhere in the middle are good relationships built on knowledge, wisdom, patience, and love for others.

We can avoid stupidity. Sometimes that means we're just listening and being quiet. Other times it lends itself to opening your mouth. Bad people tend to open their mouth a lot. These people are beyond stupid. Their smart, calculated, and agenda driven. Who really kills a relationship? Possibly it's stupid people. or, at-least people who made stupid moves. Bad people

blame good people for their mistakes. Far too often good people accept the blame. Why do we let bad people call us stupid?

It's stupid to ignore harsh words. It's stupid to pick someone that others have had bad feelings about. At-least be mindful, or you might look stupid. I will say it again. I was talking with my daughter about reality. Maybe things look a certain way because they are that way. Most of the time, people and things are what they are. I did change when I found God. I changed big time. Yet, 20 years later I can see myself as I was before. I am fairly like I've always been. Yet, I don't think I'm bad. I'm not as stupid as some think I am either.

I am glad God does not have stringent rules for getting into heaven. You don't have to be smart or pretty. It's all about leveling the playing field with God. Just believe in Jesus and you're in. A stupid person can believe in Jesus. Negative people tend to think that certain types of logic are stupid. God does not work that way. Stupid words, decisions, and action can be redeemed. I have been called stupid for believing in Jesus. Possibly, it will be a stupid convention in heaven.

The good part is the God club. All who believe are welcome. Negative nelly's and bad people don't have to join. We don't need them in heaven anyways. The reason heaven looks so attractive is its goodness. God said it will be a place of no more hurt and tears. I'd like to believe that those who claim were stupid will not be there waiting to throw another barb.

Stupid mistakes certainly could cost us. Rick Allen is the drummer for the rock group Def Leppard. He lost his arm in a car crash in 1984. He tried to pass a car at high speed and lost control. It was stupid. Yet, there were two sides. One said he was done as a rocker and most certainly as a drummer. The other side saw potential. Could an amputee as a drummer return to the stage? With the help of a ton of positive people he is still drumming today on an electric kit.

Stupid can become a rose. In the Darwin awards it does not always turn out like the guy in the bathtub. Mistakes are not always fatal. I had a choice myself. Am I really as stupid as some believe? Even my friends who should not have married have changed me. Stupid is not always what stupid does. People make mistakes. People are also mistaken. We can drive towards stupidity or lay a path from it. It's up to us.

On earth, we have to deal with stupid people. There are plenty of bad humans too. There will always be stupid situations that ruin lives. If we took the time to be less stupid in our rush to act, judge, and desire, we might find life a whole lot better. There is always a way through.

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it-* 1 Corinthians 10:13

I am comforted by the set of verses above. I do believe in redemption from stupid mistakes. We can at-least try and find a way. Make peace with an adversary. We don't always know what's really going on. Yet, a nagging feeling lingers. Some people are just bad. Not everyone should be our friend, even within family. I always say love them the best you can. If they respond and love you back: great! If they don't then maybe it's time to let them go.

It's not about how people respond to our love. It's about how much we love. There is a great line in the Wizard of Oz that says "it's not about how much you love, but how much you are loved by others." It means love well. Forgive stupid errors that you did. Forgive stupid remarks of others. However, do not accept bad behavior from chronically bad people. Your worth more than that. People can look past stupid mistakes if you love well.



Still, how do we deal with the bad? The negative? Usually, we link stupid with the word bad. I can think of stupid people and dumb actions. Some stupid actions were mine and some are not. There is another side to stupid. We let bad people ruin our hearts. They are soul killers. It is stupid to let them play ball in the court of our heart. It's not ok or honorable.

Let's look at the bad now. We do know good people. Most of us can describe good humanity. We can equally describe bad people. We know what they look like. Why do we know? Unfortunately, it's because they are in our lives. If we talk about bad people then maybe we can see them more clearly. Let's move on and dive into the bad.