

Fundamentals Of The Church

Educating Ourselves To Love Correction

(Pr 9:7-10)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
 - i. Gospel meeting
 - ii. Visitors
 - iii. Recording
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. We will be looking this morning at "Educating Ourselves To Love Correction."
3. Loving Correction
 - a. How many people here like to be told they are wrong and thus be corrected.
 - b. I would venture to say no one here does.
 - c. Mankind in general has no desire to be told they are wrong and need to correct their actions, ideas, or knowledge of scriptures.
4. Loving Correction is biblical though
 - a. We may not love correction but we should be maturing to a state of loving it.
 - i. **Pr 9:7-10** "“He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. 10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”¹
 - b. Loving correction is very much a biblical and thus wise characteristic of the child of God.

I. What Does The Bible Say About Correction?

- A. Fools despise wisdom & discipline
 1. **Pr 1:7** "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."
 2. The word instruction here is "mucar" or "מוֹסֵר" which means...
 - i. "chastisement; fig. reproof, warning or instruction; also restraint:—bond, chastening ([-eth]), chastisement, check, correction, discipline, doctrine, instruction, rebuke." (Strong, J., S.T.D., LL.D. (2009). Vol. 2: A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (63). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
 - ii. "Mucar is discipline, but more. As “discipline” it teaches how to live correctly in the fear of the Lord, so that the wise man learns his lesson before temptation and testing" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 1: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (123). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 3. Thus the righteous love wisdom & discipline.

¹ All scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- B. We must hear discipline & be wise
 - 1. **Pr 8:33** "Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it."
 - 2. In other words pay attention to discipline and respect it.
 - i. Example on hearing meaning paying attention "Did you not hear what I said" ie pay attention.
- C. We must love discipline
 - 1. **Pr 12:1** "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." (ESV)
 - 2. Webster defines stupid as "given to unintelligent decisions or acts : acting in an unintelligent or careless manner" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - i. This embodies the person who hates to be reproved.
 - ii. We must show intelligence and strive to love discipline.
- D. We should have learned to love discipline from our parents & thus to love our soul
 - 1. **Pr 15:5, 32** "A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent...32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding."
 - 2. Parents here are giving a great responsibility by inference here (**Pr 22:6**).
 - i. **Ep 6:4** "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
 - 3. We have a personal responsibility though that goes beyond our upbringing.
 - i. We will never be able to justify our sin by blaming how others raised, taught, or anything thing else. We are responsible for our own soul.
 - a. **Ek 18:19-20** "'Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?' Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."
 - b. **Ro 14:12** "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."
- E. Listening to discipline will help us in the future
 - 1. **Pr 19:20** "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days."
 - 2. Wisdom comes from applying the knowledge we have. Thus discipline needs us to know what is right and wrong and thus apply that to the future so we don't make the same mistakes.
 - i. Sometimes this is the hardest for people especially in the church to understand.
 - ii. Why because there is a thought that says we can't be wrong in our "understanding" of scripture.
 - iii. Most Christians today think growing is only building on what you already know but it is more so saying I could be wrong let me always make sure I'm right & change if I see I am wrong.

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- a. Example: How many listen to "Contemporary Christian Music." Yet the Bible is very clear this is sin and sin will keep us out of heaven (**Ro 6:23**).
- b. Example: How many women will let a man in where women are leading the worship such as a ladies Bible class or ladies day and think this is ok. Brethren it is sin (**I Ti 2:8, 12**) & sin will keep us out of heaven (**Mt 7:21-23**).
3. Thus we must never become too arrogant to listen to counsel and discipline.

II. What Are Some Of The Reasons We Reject Correction?

- A. As mentioned above pride is a major one
 1. We don't like being told we are wrong and thus that we could have been wrong for many years.
 2. We don't mind saying other people have been wrong for many years just not us.
 - i. **Pr 16:18** "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."
 3. Let it never be said of us that we are too arrogant to change when sound, logical, and thus biblical arguments are given.
- B. We know everyone else sins
 1. We find it hard to listen to correction many times because it comes from imperfect people that need correction themselves.
 2. This is not a reason to reject correction. We must examine it to see if it be true.
 - i. **Ac 17:11** "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."
 - ii. The Bereans knew Paul was just a man so they compared what He said to the perfect source and found it to be trustworthy.
 3. Thus there is nothing wrong with questioning what someone says when the correct us but let us take those questions to "the source" to see if they are right or wrong.
 - i. I'm sick and tired of hearing brethren say "well I just don't believe that passage says that or means that or I just don't think you are right on this or that."
 - ii. We need to say "I don't believe that is right because the scripture says...such and such"...in other words we prove it to be wrong and don't rely on "our own thoughts" as these can lead us astray. We need God's thoughts not ours alone.

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- C. The correction is not 100% accurate
 - 1. As one person put it "get the details right or we'll dismiss the instruction."
("Learning To Love Correction" sermon outline by Higginbotham, Steve)
 - 2. We cannot dismiss a valid correction because every detail is not accurate.
 - i. Example: Let's say I have lied to Tom & Riley about something and some later comes and says I hear you lied to Linda and Carol you need to repent. Do I need to repent yes, does it matter the details were wrong? Only in the since that I need to go not to Linda & Carol but to Tom & Riley to and repent.
- D. We don't like the way we were corrected
 - 1. We will seek out excuses too often.
 - i. I didn't like their tone so I'm not listening to what they have to say.
 - ii. I didn't like their demeanor when they talked to me.
 - 2. Being corrected isn't fun.
 - i. **He 12:11** "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
 - 3. When we make excuses for not listening and adhering to correction we miss out on the blessings it will bring us.

III. How Are We To Receive Correction?

- A. We must develop a respect for...
 - 1. God
 - i. **Ro 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - ii. We give God the highest value of anything we know or can think of thus putting Him first in our lives.
 - 2. God's Will
 - i. **Lk 22:42** "saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.""
 - ii. We value God's understanding in such a way that we put His will first.
 - 3. God's Word
 - i. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
 - ii. We value the Word of God ie the Mind of God so much that we make it our goal in life to allow it to transform us into it.
- B. We must understand the cross
 - 1. There is no time where we are more thoroughly corrected, rebuked, and exposed then we were by the cross.
 - i. Remember the cross shows us that we are sinners (**Ro 3:23**), that we are helpless (**Ro 5:6**), and that our best efforts are worthless (**Is 64:6**) in trying to justify ourselves.
 - 2. If we have or are willing to accept the correction of the cross it should be easy to accept the correction of others.

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CONCLUSION

1. So here is the question we must all ask ourselves...am I in need of correction?
 - a. For those that have obeyed God's Plan of Salvation, have you been putting God first in every decision (**Mt 6:33**)?
 - b. For those that have not obeyed God's Plan of Salvation, are you willing to put God first above your own desires and wants?
2. Invitation²
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**

² Brother Higginbotham's sermon "Learning To Love Correction" was very instrumental in this outline.