

## Overview:

A growing disciple of Jesus Christ lives a life that makes use of the advice and input of other mature believers. He has also accepted a supernatural standard for unity and commitment to the believers around him and understands the importance of seeking and granting forgiveness to restore unity of the spirit with others. Finally, the mature believer faithfully corrects and reproves his fellow believers when it can help them in their spiritual growth. Reproof and correction is not just a good idea, it's required.

## Outline

### I. Let's get our terms straight

#### A. **Reproof** defined:

1. *"To call attention to remises [carelessness or inattention] with a kindly intention to correct or assist."*

#### B. **Correction** defined:

1. *"To alter or adjust or adjust so as to bring to some standard or required condition."*

#### C. **Rebuke** defined

1. *"To criticize sharply; to reprimand."*

### II. Inevitable part of Christian growth

#### A. It happens to the "best" of us!

1. Ex. Daws & Prov 9:9

#### B. Produces a harvest of righteousness

1. Heb 12:11 "No discipline seems..."

#### C. Smooths our rough edges

1. Prov. 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron..."

### III. Biblical mandate for Reproof & Correction

#### A. It's not an option

1. Lev. 19:17 "Do not hate your..."
2. Luke 17:3 "If your brother sins..."
3. Rom 12:18 "If it is possible..."
4. Titus 2:15 "Encourage and rebuke..."

#### B. Wise men love it; fools hate it

1. Prov. 9:8 "Do not rebuke..."
2. Prov. 15:31 "He who listens..."
3. Prov. 15:32 "He who ignores..."

### IV. Nuts & Bolts of Rproof & Correcton

#### A. When should you go to someone?

1. When you can't forget an offense
  - a) *1 Pet 4:8- "Love covers over..."*
2. When they have significantly fallen short of God's expectations or standards.
3. When they have consistently fallen short of God's expectations or standards.

#### B. When **not** to go to someone

1. When you are **not** a part of the problem or a part of the solution
2. Don't reprove for personal offenses
  - a) *Might need to communicate, though*
  - b) *Prov. 13:15 "Good understanding..."*

#### C. How to give Reproof & Correction

1. Get your heart right first
  - a) *Luke 6:41-42*
2. Speak the truth in love
  - a) *share your own faults-relate to them*
  - b) *Eph. 4:15 "Instead, speaking the truth..."*
  - c) *Prov 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds..."*
3. Use the word
  - a) *2 Tim 3:16-17 "All Scripture is... useful..."*
4. Communicate clearly
  - a) *Give specific examples*
  - b) *Don't dig back to far :-)*
  - c) *Make sure they understand*
5. Remember the goal: Reconciliation
  - a) *Matt. 18:15-17*

#### D. How to receive Reproof & Correction

1. Be humble & positive (smile, if possible)
  - a) *Prov. 9:9 "Instruct a wise man..."*
2. Don't react negatively (even if...)
3. Take it from God
4. Repent, if needed
5. Thank them
  - a) *Ps 141:15 "Let a righteous man strike me..."*
6. Pray about it!
7. Take action!
  - a) *2 Cor 7:11 - Godly sorrow*

## Conclusion:

Understanding the reasons for, and benefits of, reproof and correction should spur all believers to practice this procedure whenever it could help another believer. Knowing that God commands us to do it should motivate us into action. Understanding some practical "nuts and bolts" of reproof and correction will help us "share the truth in love."

## Supporting Material:

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### Verses:

**Hebrews 12:11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

**Prov. 27:17** As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

**Leviticus 19:17** "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.

**Lev. 19:17** So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

**Romans 12:18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

**Titus 2:15** These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

#### **Proverbs 9:8**

Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

#### **Proverbs 15:31**

He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. 32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding

#### **1 Peter 4:8**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**Proverbs 13:15** Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

**Luke 6:41** "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**Ephesians 4:15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

**Proverbs 27:6** Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

**Proverbs 9:9** Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

**Psalms 141:5** Let a righteous man strike me-- it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it. Yet my prayer is ever against the deeds of evildoers;

**2 Corinthians 7:11** See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

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### Quotes:

The diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials.

*Chinese Proverb*

I bear my willing witness that I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop. I sometimes question whether I have ever learned anything except through the rod. When my schoolroom is darkened, I see the most

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

A church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.

*L.L. Nash*

Church goers are like coals in a fire. When they cling together, they keep the flame aglow, when they separate they die out.

*Billy Graham*

Our business is not to do something for the church, but to do something with it.

*Joseph Fort Newton*

The church does not lead the world nor echo it; she confronts it. Her note is the supernatural note.

*Oswald Chambers*

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### References:

*Proverbs, The Bible., God*