

## GROW

### Love's Correction

**Foundation:** *The enemy has worked to get us to think wrong about correction so that we miss out on all the benefits that come from receiving it. Your perspective determines your response and therefore if you see correction wrong, then you'll respond to it wrong when it comes. Do you see correction like God sees correction?*

#### I. One huge thing that will help us respond right to correction is to renew our minds to this truth: God corrects me because He loves me

- A. Proverbs 3:12, Hebrews 12:6, Revelation 3:19-When God is correcting me, He's loving me
  - 1. Every time we are corrected we need to remind ourselves, "God is correcting me because he loves me."
    - a. Proverbs 3:12-**ERV**-A father corrects a child he cares about; **NIRV**-The Lord trains those He loves; **VOICE**-The eternal proves His love by caring enough to discipline you
    - b. Revelation 3:19-**AMP**-Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I rebuke and discipline [showing them their faults and instructing them]; so be enthusiastic and repent [change your inner self – your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior – seek God's will]; **CEB**-I correct and discipline those whom I love; **MSG**-The people I love, I call to account – prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best; **NLV**-I speak strong words to those I love
  - 2. God's correction is inseparable of His love, however, when we think of God loving us we rarely think about him correcting us
    - a. We are inundated with how much God loves us, but one of the main ways God demonstrates His love for us is by correcting us
    - b. People have tendency in their minds to create a Jesus that they like and one who is comfortable to live with – Jesus corrected people- Matt14:31-O ye of little faith why did you doubt; Mark4:40-How is that you have not faith; Mark11:14-Turning tables over; John13:9-Peter got corrected about getting his feet washed; Matt17-You couldn't cast him out because of your unbelief; Mark 10:13-16-Jesus corrected them about allowing children to come to him; Luke 9:51-56-Jesus corrected them when they wanted to call fire down from heaven; Luke 10:38-42- Jesus corrected Martha; Mark 16:14-He rebuked the 11 apostles for their hardness of heart and unbelief
- B. Real love does not withhold correction – Because God is love and he doesn't withhold correction
  - 1. Proverbs 13:24-There's a belief that has seeped into people's minds, "*If someone is correcting me, they are being mean to me.*"

- a. **CEV**-If you love your children, you will correct them; If you don't love them, you won't correct them; **ERV**-If you love them, you will be quick to discipline them; **ISV**-Whoever loves him is diligent to correct him; **MSG**-A refusal to correct is a refusal to love
- b. When God's correcting you he's not being mean to you, he's not being hard on you, He's loving you
2. God has a great plan for your life, great things he wants you to accomplish, great blessings he wants you to walk in and anything that is going to keep you out of the fullness of God's plan and from His best for your life God's going to correct you about because He loves you and wants the best for you
  - a. *Proverbs 3:12-MSG-The people I love, I call to account – prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best*
3. 2Cor7:8-12-He loved them enough to correct them; Withholding the correction would have revealed that he loved himself more than them
  - a. 8-Sorry with a letter; The word sorry is the same word in Hebrews 12:11, "No chastening seems joys, but **grievous**." – This letter made them sorry (grieve, offend, uneasy, annoyance, heaviness, grudging) because it was a letter of correction
  - b. 8-I do not repent, though I did repent-Correcting someone can be taxing on your flesh, because your flesh wants to be liked
    - 1) Prov23:13-Withholding correction makes you feel better but it actually hurts the one who needs it (*ERV-Always correct your children when they need it*)
    - 2) To correct someone (in the right heart and spirit) you have to love them more than you do yourself
  - c. 9-The purpose of godly correction is not to leave you down but to get you to acknowledge that what you did was wrong and repent
  - d. 9-Had he not corrected them then damage (injury, loss, lose) would have come in their life and it would have been by him – Obvious they were on a path that if they continued on they would have been hurt and lost out and love stepped in and said I don't want you to be hurt and lose out
  - e. 10-Repentance lead to better life and that's correction's purpose-Salvation-Deliverance, preservation, make well, rescue from danger/destruction
  - f. 12-We wrote this to you to show you how much we care about you-2 Corinthians 2:4

## II. Growth by repentance-The purpose for correction is repentance and the result of repentance is growth

- A. The currently reality for every believer is that none are just like the master yet and therefore correction needs to come/light needs to shine and constant changes need to be made and when God shows you things if you harden yourself and resist the correction you will not grow

1. 2Cor4:16-We are actually supposed to be changing everyday; If you don't change you stay the same, if you stay the same you don't grow
  2. 2 Corinthians 3:18-**AMPC**-Are constantly being transfigured into His very own image; **AMP**-Progressively being transformed into His image; **ICB**-We are being changed to be like him; **TLB**-We become more and more like Him; **NLV**-All the time we are being changed to look like Him
  3. Romans 12:2-**AMP**-**And** do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind; **KJ**-And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind
- B. There are things that you are doing right now that aren't like the master and you don't see it or know it and God has to show it to you-Psalm 139:23-24
1. Search-Examine thoroughly; Know-To perceive and see and find out; Try-Examine, prove, scrutinize
    - a. There's a lack of awareness that goes with being a child – You can't change something you're unaware of
      - 1) 2 Corinthians 13:5-Examine yourself; Psalm 26:2-Examine me Lord
      - 2) We need to be self-aware (aware of areas of weakness)-Luke 21:34, Acts 5:35, Deut 4:23, 11:16, Joshua 23:11, Jeremiah 17:21
  2. You gain awareness by the light and by the truth; Eph5:13-All things are reprov'd by the light (PHIL-The light is capable of "showing up" everything for what it really is; GW-Light exposes the true character of everything)
    - a. When the light shines and correction comes if you'll repent and change you'll grow
    - b. Truth is light and light enables things to grow and if you run from the light you won't grow – If you can't take the light you can't grow – The same thing that exposes your faults is the same thing that empowers you to grow out of them
    - c. People that really want to grow go in search of the correction they need to grow and love it when it comes
- C. 2 Timothy 3:16-4:3-This is what the Word of God does to the man of God; Grow up you so that you'll be thoroughly equipped for every good work
1. When you are exposed to the word of God you will encounter these things
    - a. Doctrine is teaching, instruction, you are learning
    - b. Reproof is correction (convict, show one his fault, bring to the light, expose, chasten)
    - c. Correction is to restore you a right state and to improve your life or character
    - d. Instruction is training (The whole training and education of children, Cultivating the soul by correcting mistakes and curbing passions, instruction which aims at increasing virtue)

2. When the word is coming forth it's correcting and challenging, but I don't care because I want to grow; I'm not proud, I'm not insecure, I'm not weak, I'm not I wimp. I've made some mistakes, I'm not perfect, I'm not just like Jesus yet and guess what I knew that coming in; I'm not going to let my feathers get ruffled when somebody tells me I need to grow up or somebody preaches something that challenges me because I want to be like Jesus and I recognize for that to happen I'm going to have to be stretched, challenged and corrected and it doesn't bother me because the prize I'm after is well worth whatever I have to do to get there
3. 2 Timothy 4:4-The stuff they are turning away from is the very stuff they need to hear to grow up

**III. Is it correction or condemnation? – The enemy has also worked to get people to see all correction as condemnation and when someone corrects you, you say, “You’re condemning me.” – And that causes people to resist the correction they need because they think it’s condemnation and they know God doesn’t want condemned**

- A. The end purpose of condemnation is to leave you down, feeling pathetic; It doesn't care about you changing and living better it just wants you to feel bad for how pathetic you are and for the wrong you've done; The end purpose of correction is to get you to change and live better; Correction pushes you toward repentance; Correction doesn't want you to miss out on good things your good God has prepared for you
  1. Romans 8:1-Condemnation-Damnatory sentence – That's the end, there's no repentance and getting better and it just leaves you down
  2. 1 Samuel 2:27-29-Correction comes to get you to change because if you continue on that path it's not going to go well with you
  3. Jeremiah 5:3-They refused to receive correction and wouldn't repent and missed the whole point of why correction came; God sees them heading down a path that will be to their destruction and so God in His love for them corrects them, but they wouldn't receive it and repent
- B. One place where people miss it when it comes to correction is that they are so feeling conscious that when something is said that doesn't make them feel good they immediately equate it to being condemnation and not from the Lord
  1. Godly correction can prick your heart, cut you to the core and bring godly sorrow; Just because it hurt or you felt sorrow doesn't mean you were condemned and it doesn't mean that what you heard wasn't from God
    - a. Acts 5:33 (AMP)-Some times the truth will cut you to the heart and when that happens it's time to repent not get mad
    - b. Acts 7:54-When they heard these things they were cut to the heart and gnashed their teeth and they should've repented

- c. Acts 2:37-They were pricked in their heart and it hurt, but they asked Peter what to do and he said repent and they did and got free
- 2. Just because it doesn't make you feel good doesn't mean it's condemnation – Sometimes correction cuts – Hebrews 4:12-It's a two-edged sword
  - a. It is true that God doesn't want you walking around being conscious of your sin and feeling guilty and walking in shame – But also if he has corrected you about something and you're ignoring him and you're not going to change He doesn't want you walking around feeling like everything is alright, because everything is not alright and something should be bothering you on the inside; The Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit and if you're doing wrong outside the Holy Spirit isn't going to be saying it's okay inside
- 3. Titus 1:13-There's a time and a place to rebuke sharply