

GROW

Responding To Correction

I. Your response to correction will determine the magnitude of your growth

- A. If we resist what we grow by we will not grow-Hebrews 12:10-11
- B. The response to correction can completely stunt your spiritual growth
- C. God spends significant time in His Word teaching how to respond to correction

II. How to respond to correction (1): Don't be weary of correction – Proverbs 3:11 – Don't get sad, don't get mad

- A. Our attitude toward correction can't become like theirs was of the manna-Numbers 21:5
 - 1. Weary (Hebrew word *koots*) means to be grieved, loathe, feel a loathing or abhorrence, vex, distressed
 - a. Grieved-Distressing, Uneasiness, Offensive, irritate, make sorrowful, displease
 - 1) *Exodus 1:12-The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel*
 - b. Abhor-To detest, to set up bristles, great aversion
 - 1) *1 Kings 11:25-He was an adversary to Israel...and he abhorred Israel;*
 - c. Distressed-To make miserable
 - 1) *Numbers 22:3-Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel*
 - d. Weary is often followed by "of," - Weary of marching, weary of reaping, weary of study, weary of correction – You're just tired of it, done with it
 - 1) *Gen27:46-"I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth." (ERV-Very upset; TLB-Sick and tired; VOICE-Miserable)- She's done with her life*
 - 2. There are people who feel the same way about correction that they felt about manna
 - a. Exodus 16:35-They couldn't get enough manna; but it was manna for 40 years; Numbers 11:4-6,20-They were tired of the manna and God said I'm going to give you so much meat it becomes loathsome to you; Numbers 21-They said their souls loathed this light bread-Loathe (Same Hebrew Word *weary of correction*)-Nauseate, aversion, disliking, unwilling, feel disgust at food or drink
 - b. Weary is the picture of something you're tired of, you're disgusted by, you don't like it, you have an aversion to it, you're tired of it, it makes you miserable and upset and sorrowful, it displeases you, you detest it and reject it and bristle at it
 - 3. When you loathe something an encounter with it will ignite emotion – You can loath correction so much that an encounter with it ignites emotion

- a. They got to the place that the very sight of it ignited an emotional response; If you ate the same thing for 40 years, at the very sight of it, you'd be tempted to cry, scream, bristle, be irritated, be sorrowful, be miserable, be offended
- B. When correction comes you're going to be tempted to respond emotionally – Either to be sad or to get mad?
1. SAD-Heb12:5-Nor faint when you are rebuked of Him-(Faint-Despond, fainthearted, depressed, dejection of spirit/mind, sad, dispirited, melancholy)
 - a. *Hebrews 12:5-ERV-Don't stop trying when he corrects you; TLB-Don't be discouraged when he has to show you were you are wrong; MSG-Don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either; GW-Don't give up when he corrects you; CJB-Or become despondent*
 - b. *Proverbs 3:11-MSG-Don't sulk under his loving correction; NLT-Don't be upset; GNV-Neither be grieved with is correction;*
 2. MAD-You'll be tempted to resent it, become bitter and get mad when God corrects you
 - a. *Prov3:11-TLB-Do not resent it; CEV-Don't turn away or become bitter; ICB-Don't become angry when he corrects you*
 - b. **Acts 5:33 (AMP)**-*When they heard this, they were cut to the heart and infuriated and wanted to kill the disciples*
 - c. **Acts 7:54**-*When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed their teeth*
 - d. **Numbers 14:9**-*Only rebel not against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the Land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not. But all the congregation bade to stone them*
 3. 2 Corinthians 7:8-12-The correction comes to get you to turn, to change, not to make you sad or mad
 - a. *Proverbs1:23-Turn you at my reproof-It doesn't say cry at my reproof, it doesn't say get mad at my reproof, it says turn*
 - b. *Acts 7:54,5:33-They gnashed their teeth, but should've bowed their neck; Instead of getting mad they need to repent*
- C. When correction comes keep your emotions in check and deal in truth
1. Here's the big question you have to ask when correction comes: Is it true? (Don't focus on how it was said or who said it or how it made you feel when they said it but rather ask the question IS IT TRUE?)
 2. Some people are such babies they can't handle any kind of correction; How you handle correction is one way your level of maturity is measured

- a. If you're are going to tank it every time correction comes or if you need every piece of correction couched in soft tones and sandwiched between two compliments it is going to hinder the growth process in your life
- 3. **Keith Moore** - *"Some of the things that would upset you the most, might make you the angriest, if you had faith and humility to receive it, could be the very thing that would cause you to get free the quickest and develop the most in the shortest amount of time – If you would receive it."*
 - a. Acts 2:37-They were pricked in their heart and it hurt, but rather than getting made they repented and got free

III. How to respond to correction: (2) Don't reject God's correction – Humble yourself and receive it

- A. You're going to be tempted to hear correction not receive it –Correction can come and you can resist it and say no to it and you'll be tempted to
 - 1. God's telling you to not to reject it and refuse it because you're going to be tempted to reject it and refuse it
 - a. *Proverbs 3:11-Despise (refuse, reject) not the chastening of the Lord; ERV-Don't reject the Lord's discipline*
 - b. *Proverbs 8:33-Hear instruction and be wise, and refuse it not*
 - c. *Job 5:17-Happy (blessed, advance, make progress) is the man the lord corrects: therefore despise (refuse reject) not the chastening (correction) of the Almighty*
 - d. *Proverbs 15:31-32-He that refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he that hears reproof gets understanding*
 - 2. They would not receive correction
 - a. *Jeremiah 7:28-This is a nation that obeys not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receive correction: truth is perished, and truth is cut off from their mouth*
 - b. *Jeremiah 17:23-But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction*
 - c. *Zephaniah 3:2-She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.*
- B. Why do people refuse it correction? Pride and deception – How do you receive correction? Humility and honesty
 - 1. It is human nature to resist correction and not receive it; Think about it: *How does your flesh do with correction?* And it's because your flesh is rebellious and proud and doesn't like to be told it's wrong or that it needs to change to the point that it'll even want to reject correction when it's true
 - 2. When you are corrected you can harden yourself and resist it or humble yourself and receive it
- C. Pride and humility

1. What is pride? Pride-To be lifted up, to be high, exalt oneself; Pride is untrue loftiness, an untrue overestimation of yourself; An pompous and a swollen estimate of his own powers or merits-
Proverbs 6:17 AMP-The spirit that makes one overestimate himself; Isaiah 16:6-AMP-We have heard the pride of Moab, that he is very proud – even of his arrogance, his conceit, his wrath, his untruthful boasting
 - a. Pride is a pretender and only likes reality if it is flattering; If reality makes pride look bad it will pretend it's not reality and create a false reality
 - b. Pride always deals in fantasy, lies, untruths, non-reality; Pride and deception go together because pride is believing lies about yourself-Obdiah³
 2. What is humility? Rather than high, humility is low; Low, not rising far from the ground, low as opposed to high and lofty
 - a. Latin *Humus*-Ground, earth, soil, land; rather than living in the clouds in some fantasy world you come to earth, lowering yourself to reality
 - b. Humility is not degrading yourself, it's simply dealing in reality – Humility goes with honesty-2 Corinthians 12:6
 3. To grow we have to change and to change we have to acknowledge the truth and to acknowledge the truth you have to humble yourself-2Tim2:25
 - a. You have to acknowledge reality, NOT pretend like it doesn't exist
- D. Lying and pride and covering and not repenting and not growing all go together-1 Samuel 15 – Confess or cover
1. 3-We know he likes parades and parties and being lauded-1 Samuel 18:7-8, but this time he want get that b/c there will be no spoils
 2. 13-He's operating in lies and deception
 3. 14,15-It's time to repent right now and instead he's pretending like he had nothing to do with this
 4. 15-He's lying and pretending and getting angry and saying that it's a sacrifice for the Lord
 5. 17-He's in pride-Apparently he's not little in his own site anymore
 6. 20-21-He's lying and covering when he should be humbling himself and repenting – He won't receive correction
 7. 23-He was only repenting because he didn't want to lose his position and title
 8. 30-He's still concerned about looking good in front of the people
- E. It takes humility to deal in honesty and reality because sometimes reality is flattering and sometimes the truth doesn't make you look good
1. 1 Kings 21:25-29-He's repenting, but God calls it humbling himself; this truth is making him look bad, but he's acknowledging it and that takes humility; To acknowledge the truth that you're wrong you're not being lifted up and magnifying yourself you're doing the opposite

2. If the truth makes pride look bad, pride doesn't want to acknowledge it/confess it, but it will try to cover it and not acknowledge it; Humility confesses sin (reality), Pride covers it (reality)

F. You have to acknowledge the truth and repent to grow

1. James 5:16-Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that you may be healed; Healed-Make whole, to free from errors and sins; Confess-Acknowledge openly, not deny
2. Proverbs 28:13-He that covers his sins will not prosper: but who so confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy; Cover-Hide, conceal; Prosper-Advance, make progress
3. How quickly you receive correction and repent determines how quickly you'll grow – Peter John 13:9-Pride doesn't like to admit it's wrong and being slow to repent is a sign of pride and immaturity

G. Ephesians 4:15-To grow up you have to deal in truth and be honest with yourself (Speaking the truth-Profess the truth, truthing it, being true)

1. Humility and honesty is a big part of growing up; If you're going hem-haw around and pretend in pride and lie about where you are and try to play around with your faults and immaturity and make excuses and not repent you won't grow
2. Pride and lying and pretending will keep you from growing up
3. Speaking truth in love has to do with being honest with yourself without condemning yourself

IV. How to respond to correction (3): Don't take it lightly – Value it and take it seriously

A. Hebrews 12:5-Don't despise his correction (Despise-to care little for, regard lightly, make small account; treat it like it's not that big of deal)

1. Hebrews 12:5-MSG-My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline; ERV-Don't think the Lord's discipline is worth nothing,

B. Correction and the path of life

1. Proverbs 6:23-For the commandment is a lamp: and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction the way of life
 - a. **CEV**-Corrective teaching is the path of life; **TLB**-To give you a good life; **NET**-Rebukes of discipline are like the road leading to life
2. Proverbs 4:13-Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life
 - a. **Hold**-To have, take, keep hold, retain, take strong hold of; **Instruction**-Correction, chastening; **Let go**-Let drop, abandon, relax, forsake; **Keep**-Kept close; **Life**-Live prosperously
 - b. Take strong hold of correction and don't let it go – Is that most people's attitude towards correction?
 - c. **AMP**-Take hold of instruction; [actively seek it, grip it firmly and] do not let it go; **ERV**-it is the key to life; **TLB**-They will lead you to real living; **MSG**-Your life is at stake
3. Proverbs 5:21-23-He will die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray
 - a. **Instruction**-Correction, discipline, chastening; **Folly**-Foolishness; **Astray**-Error

- b. **CEB**-Those without instruction will die, misled by their own stupidity; **ERV**-Evil people will die because they refused to be disciplined; **TLB**-He shall die because he will not listen to the truth; **NIRV**-They will die because they refused to be corrected; **NLV**-He will die for want of teaching
4. Proverbs 10:17-He is in the way of life that keeps instruction: but he that refuses reproof errors
- a. **Refuses**-Leave, forsake, depart, let go, neglect; Reproof-**Correction**, rebuke, chastisement
- b. **CEV**-Accept correction and you will find life; reject correction and you will miss the road; **GNT**-People who listen when they are corrected will live, but those who will not admit that they are wrong are in danger; **ICB**-The person who accepts correction is on the way to life. But the person who ignores correction will be ruined; **MSG**-Ignore correction and you're lost for good; **VOICE**-Those who accept instruction are travelers on the road to a meaningful life, but those who refuse correction wander off and pave a path to ruin
5. Proverbs 13:18-Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction: but he that regards reproof shall be honored
- a. **Poverty**-Lack; **Shame**-Disgrace, dishonor; **Refuses**-Avoid, ignore; **Instruction**-Correction; **Regards**-Give heed, retain, treasure up; **Reproof**-Rebuke, correction, chastisement
- b. **CEV**-All who refuse correction will be poor and disgraced; **MSG**-Refuse discipline and end up homeless; embrace correction and live an honored life
6. Proverbs 15:10-Correction is grievous unto him that forsake the way: and he that hates reproof shall die
- a. **Correction**-Discipline, chastening, correction; **Grievous**-Bad, sad, unhappy, hurtful, displeasing; **Reproof**-Correction
- b. **GNV**-Instruction is evil to him that forsakes the way; **GW**-Discipline is a terrible burden to anyone who leaves the right path; **NABRE**-Discipline seems bad to those going astray