

# The Wisdom of Giving & Receiving Correction

**Text:** Ex 18, 2 Sam 12:1-15, Matt 18:15-18, 1 Tim 5:1-2, Misc Proverbs

**Main Idea/Theological Assumption:** Every believer is in the process of being conformed into the image of Jesus (Rom 8:29). Because sin still resides in us, **we all** need correction & **MUST** guard our hearts from pride that will hinder our spiritual growth. Those who correct must use the wisdom of "Scripture... [which] is profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction** & for **training** in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17)

## 1. **Case Study # 1:** An Illustration from the life of Moses & Jethro. (Ex 18)

**Note:** Even though Moses was one of the greatest men who ever lived, he needed correction concerning \_\_\_\_\_ . (Ex 33:11, Num 12:3-9, Ps 106:23, Heb 3:5)



- **The corrector:** Out of \_\_\_\_\_, Jethro wisely & graciously *corrected* Moses.

Proverbs 27:5-6 – "Better is open rebuke, than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a **friend**; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."

The "ministry of correction" is most effective when it comes from a reliable source. Scripture is **always reliable & authoritative** in our lives. We should always receive its perfect correction. Other sources of correction are only as authoritative as they agree with Scripture. Our influence in the lives of others becomes less as we move away from our sphere of influence. **We are not called to correct everyone that we come into contact. Jethro had influence because he was a family member. His wisdom was authoritative because it lined up with Scripture** (Ecc 4:9, 1 Cor 12, Titus 1-2, 1 Tim 3, Acts 6).

↑ Sphere of Authority & Influence
Scripture/God
Spouse & Family
Accountability/Discipleship Partner
Pastor & Elders
Church family & friends
Non-Church friends
Co-workers
Acquaintances

- 1) A **wise corrector** will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to clarify the situation before jumping to conclusions. (v. 13-16)
- 2) A **wise corrector** will be graciously truthful & often times \_\_\_\_\_ (Don't "beat around the bush"). (v. 17-18)
- 3) A **wise corrector** will be a \_\_\_\_\_, not an attacker: Don't be a destructive counselor but a constructive counselor. (v. 18)
- 4) A **wise corrector** will provide \_\_\_\_\_ support to back up his correction & lead a friend in God's way & will. (v. 19, Matt 18:15)

- **The corrected:** With \_\_\_\_\_, Moses *received* wise counsel from Jethro.

Prov 10:17 – “Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.”

Prov 12:1 – “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

Prov 12:15 – “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.”

Prov 15:32 – “Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.”

1) The **humble** will avoid prideful \_\_\_\_\_ & will listen & make a change of course (obey the Word). (v. 24)

2) The **humble** will \_\_\_\_\_ themselves & others with their spiritual growth. (v. 25-26, Prov 1:29-33, 10:17, Heb 12:11)

Prov 1:29-33 – “Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

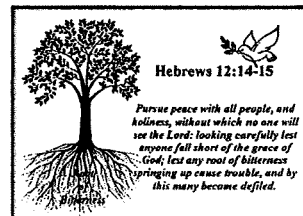
Prov 10:17 – “Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.”

Hebrews 12:11 – “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

### Ways We Benefit by Listening to Reproof:

1. We discover our blind spots or failings. (Matt 15:14)
2. We gain wisdom and understanding from the righteous who love Truth. (Eph 4:15)
3. We awaken from our apathy and carelessness. (Eph 5:15-17)
4. We are encouraged to look at our circumstances in life from a different and more righteous perspective.
5. We see and change those faults that we so often overlook.
6. We are encouraged to greater love and good works. (Heb 10:24)
7. We are encouraged to examine our hearts more carefully. (Ps 139:23-24)
8. We are encouraged to be more Christ-like.
9. We are encouraged not to be deceived and hardened by sin (Heb. 3:12-14).

3) The **humble** will not harbor \_\_\_\_\_ toward those who correct him. (v. 27)



## 2. **Case Study # 2:** An Illustration from the life of David & Nathan. (2 Sam 12:1-15)

**Note:** Even though David was one of the greatest men who ever lived, he needed correction concerning his \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam 18:14, Ps 1:2, Acts 13:22, 1 Sam 24, 26, 2 Sam 19)



- **The corrector:** Out of love, Nathan was sent by God to \_\_\_\_\_ David about His sin. (v. 1-12)

- 1) Realize that while God always sees our sin, sometimes believers are \_\_\_\_\_ or **refuse** to look deeply at their own sin. (v. 1a)
- 2) Be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and go to confront, encourage, exhort others who are in sin. (v. 1b)

### **Scripture that Commands us to Confront, Rebuke, Encourage**

1. **Gal 6:1-2** - "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
2. **Matt 18:15-17** - ""If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."
3. **Lk 17:3** - "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him."
4. **James 5:19-20** - "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."
5. **Eph 4:15** - "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ."
6. **1 Cor 5:12** - "For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?"
7. **Prov 27:17** - "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."
8. **2 Tim 4:2** - "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."
9. **Titus 3:10** - "As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him."

3) Use wisdom, \_\_\_\_\_ & directness to confront sin. (v. 1c-6)

**The Attitude We Must Take as We Confront Others:**

- With Spirituality and Gentleness (Gal 6:1)
- With Kindness, Patience, and Gentleness (2 Tim 2:24-25)
- With Sincerity and Without Hypocrisy (Matthew 7:5)
- With Love (Prov 27:5)
- With Spirit of Love and Gentleness (1 Cor 4:21)
- With Brotherliness (2 Thess 3:15)
- With Righteousness (Ps 141:5)

• **The corrected:** Out of humility, David had a heart to \_\_\_\_\_ the rebuke from Nathan & truly repented. (v. 13, Ps 51)

1) The humble heart realizes that others may \_\_\_\_\_ our sin when we don't.

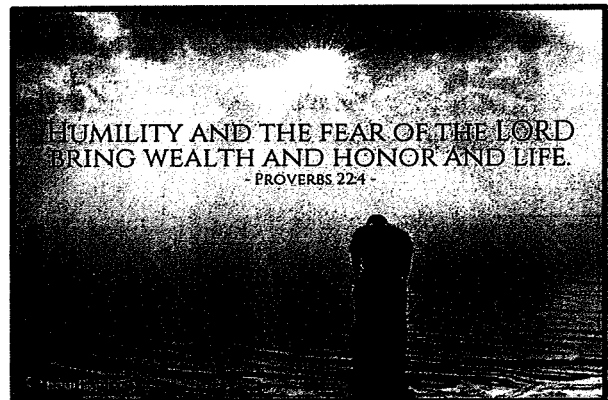
2) The humble heart realizes that their sin is against \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 13)

3) The humble heart accepts the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. (v. 10-14)

4) The humble heart believes in God's grace & \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 22)

5) The humble heart \_\_\_\_\_ in God's complete forgiveness. (Ps 32:1-7)

6) The humble heart commits himself to real \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps 51)



**Discussion/Application Questions:**

1. How do you respond when people correct you? Do you *care* enough about others to give them correction when it's needed?
2. Can you share a time you or someone else responded well to correction? Perhaps a time you or someone responded poorly?
3. What steps can we take to make sure we receive correction well?
4. Can you share about a time you were judged/corrected? How did you respond?
5. Can you think of examples of judging harshly or incorrectly?