

Ecclesiastes 7:5: “It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools”

Solomon has already taught us about things that are BETTER; a good name is better than precious ointment. The day of one’s death is BETTER than the day of one’s birth, (no doubt, Solomon here speaks of the death a believer). It is BETTER to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting.

Once again, (7:5), Solomon teaches us about something that is BETTER or as it means excellent or good for our souls. How so, in this matter of being rebuked by someone wise?

Because a rebuke or a reproof that comes from one who is “godly” wise is probably going to be accompanied by scriptural reasoning and Godward counsel or direction. In short, the rebuke of the wise will point us away from our sins and to God!

The truth is, there will be times in ALL of our Christian lives when we are in need of being rebuked or reproof for our sin or because we have strayed or are straying from our walk with the Lord:

There will ALSO be times when we are rebuked, but it’s not from someone who is wise, and yet, their rebuke or reproof of us is correct. And of course, there will be times and seasons when someone wise reproves us.

There are two persons to consider in (V5): There is the person being reproofed who must “hear or heed” the rebuke if they would be made BETTER, and there is the person who is doing the reproving who MUST be a wise reprove toward the person who has sinned or strayed from the right path.

If you are the one doing the reproving or rebuking, it is essential that you first make sure that you are going to them in meekness and humility; considering yourself, when you are in the place of being reproofed or rebuked.

You must first ask yourself, am I qualified to do this? You SHOULD NOT enjoy rebuking others; there are some who seem to relish in the fact that they are always reproving or rebuking others. That’s concerning! But back to those who are qualified there is the necessity of humility and meekness in the “reprover”:

1 Samuel 25:32-35, Proverbs 25:11-12, Galatians 6:1, Luke 17:3

Understand that this is part of your calling and responsibility as faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. *Leviticus 19:17.*

NEXT: How do you receive a rebuke or reproof from someone who is wise?

Do you listen and heed their rebuke? Or, do you stop your ears and refuse to listen and hear and even consider what they are telling you?

Consider the ramifications of NOT heeding wise reproof:

Proverbs 29:1, 1:20-31, 1 Samuel 2:23-25

That leads me to persons of whom we are taught from the scriptures to NOT reprove, and it is because of how they react to being reproofed.

Proverbs 9:7-12, 13:13, 15:31-32, Matthew 7:6

Now let us look at the good that comes from being reproofed or rebuked by someone who is wise and in one that seeks our good: The benefit for us after we’ve been rightly reproofed:

Let me first say that no one likes to be rebuked, reproofed, or admonished, but we all need it at times don’t we? SO when that time comes, remember James 1:19:

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”

But once again, all the better when it comes from someone who is wise and who cares for our souls! THINK about it, for them to NOT reprove us is to leave us in our error and to NOT care for our souls!

The difficult part of rebuking or reproofing someone is that it is going to wound the person being corrected. Nevertheless, understand that it is a good wound; it is for their good and designed to correct and strengthen them.

Proverbs 27:5-6, 28:23, 6:23, 15:31-33, Psalm 141:5, Proverbs 1:5

And so BETTER to hear, heed, and learn from the rebuke of the wise than to hear, heed, and learn from the song of fools.

What is the song of fools? It's the world's godless philosophy and reasoning! Remember that the fool hath said in his heart, "there is no God". The fool will not be corrected, the fool will not listen to godly wisdom, therefore, the song of fools is what they sing and say among themselves and in each other's' company as they encourage one another to continue in their sins and to hate all such wise persons who would turn them from their sins to Christ.

Fools will "laugh" and "mock" at wise counsel and reproof!

Just read Proverbs 1. They laugh because they refuse to stop and consider the wisdom of the wise.

(V6): "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity"

Thorns burning under a pot burn for a very short time, so the laughter of a fool is short lived.

Luke 6:25: "Woe unto you that laugh now! For ye shall mourn and weep".

Ecclesiastes 7:3: CONNECTION to Sorrow is BETTER than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made BETTER"