

How To Receive Criticism

(Proverbs 9:7-10)

- Introduction:
1. Since we are prone to mistakes, we sometimes need to learn how to both offer and receive criticism.
 2. Last week, we discussed several biblical principles that will help us offer correction in a positive way.
 - a. Criticize the action, not the person (Psalm 25:7; Romans 7:13-25).
 - b. Correct a person in private (John 21:15-20; Acts 18:26).
 - c. Don't exaggerate (Titus 2:8, 15).
 - d. Consider your motives (Galatians 6:1).
 - e. Realize criticism isn't a spiritual gift (Acts 14:19).
 3. However, in this lesson, we will discuss some biblical principles that will allow us to receive criticism in a profitable way.

I. What The Bible Says About Correction

- A. The book of Proverbs is a book containing wisdom, so let's look at what the wise man had to say about correction.
- B. (Proverbs 1:7; 8:33; 12:1; 15:5,32; 19:20; 9:7-10).

II. Reasons We Find To Reject Instruction & Correction

- A. The Imperfections of the People Who Correct Us.
 1. We find it hard to take correction from someone who has their own set of problems.
 2. Don't divert from your problem (Jn 21:22).
 3. If we wait for perfect people to show us our faults, we'll die fools.
- B. The Correction Is Not 100% Accurate.
 1. Get the details right or we'll dismiss the instruction.
 2. Don't demand that every detail be perfectly accurate before listening.
- C. The Correction Process Wasn't Handled Right.
 1. Either we won't like their tone, the way they carried themselves, when and where they came to us, etc., so we dismiss their instruction.
 2. Being corrected isn't fun (Hebrews 12:11).

III. How To Receive Correction & Instruction

- A. The heart of a foolish person can always find an excuse for ignoring instruction.
- B. (Proverbs 9:10).
 1. Develop a respect for God, His will, His word, and His purpose then it becomes easy to humble yourself (James 4:10).
- C. Receive the Correction of the Cross.
 1. You've never been more thoroughly corrected, rebuked, and exposed, than you were by the cross of Jesus.
 2. If you can receive the correction and instruction of the cross, then it will be easy to accept the correction from others.

- Conclusion:
1. If we are unwilling to listen to the correction and instruction from God, we're not going to listen to the correction of others.
 2. Do you stand in need of correction today?
 3. If so, be wise and listen to and obey the voice of wisdom.